



May 8, 2026
Statewide Stakeholder Listening Tour Update

Follow along as we tour our great state of Arizona to listen to communities tell us about their transportation challenges and unmet transportation needs.

Read below to hear about our latest listening sessions with Arizona Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) Coalition for Transportation Choices and the Tonto Basin, Young, Page, and Nogales communities, as well as our Statewide Active Transportation Virtual Forum.

**Next Move stakeholder listening session recaps
and summaries available online!**

www.nextmoveaz.com

**Arizona Public Interest Research Group
Coalition for Transportation Choices
April 20, 2026**



We enjoyed meeting with a variety of stakeholders and thank PIRG for helping us convene this session! The group emphasized the need to shift Arizona's transportation system toward moving people—not just vehicles—through expanded multimodal options, context-sensitive design and safer separation of vulnerable users. Participants noted that current ADOT facilities often create barriers to walking, biking, and transit access, particularly for aging populations, rural communities and those without reliable access to cars.

The group also identified a broader leadership role for ADOT in facilitating coordination, strengthening relationships with underserved communities, expanding public engagement and helping communities navigate funding and regulatory challenges. Participants encouraged greater investment in active transportation, Safe Routes to School and Transportation Alternatives programs, and better use of existing infrastructure assets and federal funding opportunities.

Funding and policy challenges were a major theme, including the need for new revenue sources, stronger grant coordination and greater public understanding of transportation costs. Overall, participants envisioned a more connected, multimodal and community-focused transportation system that benefits all Arizonans.

Tonto Basin Area April 21, 2026



The Tonto Basin community described strong collaboration with ADOT, especially in emergency management and technical support, and views the agency as an important convener for complex, cross-jurisdiction projects. However, high staff turnover can disrupt continuity. There is strong interest in a more multimodal transportation system, including expanded use of shoulders for biking, parking, and emergency access, as well as support for passenger rail, intercity bus and vanpool options. Stakeholders also noted the need for clearer

statewide guidance as emerging issues like e-bike classification evolve.

Key challenges include roadway safety, maintenance and connectivity. Concerns focused on potholes, inconsistent maintenance between local and state roads, and congestion in areas such as Payson, Superior and SR 87. Rural infrastructure gaps add to safety concerns including limited pull-offs, unpaved segments like AZ 288 and constrained evacuation routes. Demand is increasing from tourism, retirees and industry, while transit options remain limited, especially for older and transportation-dependent residents.

Wildfire risk and emergency response are closely tied to transportation conditions. Limited safe pull-offs and roadside vegetation increase fire risk, while evacuation is complicated by terrain and lack of alternate routes. Participants recognized ADOT's vegetation management efforts but emphasized the need for stronger prevention, education and coordination. Overall, stakeholders expressed appreciation for ADOT's work and highlighted opportunities to improve rural infrastructure, coordination and multimodal and safety investments.

Young Area April 24, 2026

We loved visiting the beautiful small community of Young, where residents and stakeholders emphasized the need to better prioritize safe and reliable travel through critical corridors, especially given the community's isolation and limited access routes. Unpaved roads present ongoing challenges,

including washboarding, erosion, dust and narrowing at curves. While many residents are comfortable with well-maintained dirt roads, safety, drivability and evacuation reliability are top concerns, particularly in emergencies such as wildfires. SR 260 serves as a vital statewide corridor, yet local connections to it remain vulnerable. Limited funding, small maintenance crews, and complex jurisdictional relationships between ADOT, Gila County and the Forest Service further complicate improvements and prioritization decisions.

The community's economic and social conditions are closely tied to transportation limitations. Once supported by mining and Forest Service jobs, Young has shifted toward a retirement and tourism-based economy, with local businesses dependent on visitor access. Poor road conditions increase travel costs, complicate deliveries, and make commuting or accessing healthcare difficult and uncomfortable. Dust, long travel times, lack of cell service and minimal emergency services add to the challenges. While residents are largely self-sufficient and community-oriented, there are no formal transit options, and those unable to drive must rely on neighbors. Road conditions have even influenced personal decisions such as temporarily relocating closer to medical care.

Improved coordination among agencies, clearer prioritization of critical routes and incremental safety-focused improvements could significantly enhance quality of life, economic resilience and emergency preparedness for this community.



What great time of year it was to visit Page! We appreciate the hospitality that the City showed. This group of stakeholders told us that their key concerns include narrow or nonexistent shoulders, limited lighting, poorly marked intersections and a lack of adequate pullouts, particularly along corridors like SR 98 and US 89. These issues are compounded by high speeds, unfamiliar tourists and increasing freight traffic, including trucks misrouted by navigation apps. Shoulders were repeatedly highlighted as critical for transit, emergency response and overall roadway safety. Participants also noted that reactive, crash-driven funding rather than proactive investment limits the ability to address known risks before incidents happen.

A major theme was the lack of planning funding and coordinated, forward-looking strategies. Rural communities like Page feel overlooked and

disconnected, with outdated or nonexistent transportation studies and limited involvement in decision-making. Participants stressed that planning enables better partnerships, builds confidence for investment and prevents piecemeal improvements. Coordination challenges between agencies including ADOT, Navajo DOT, BIA and local jurisdictions further complicate progress, while cumbersome processes and delayed responses can hinder timely solutions. There is strong interest in a more collaborative approach that incorporates local context, aesthetics, and long-term visioning.

Transit and connectivity are essential to daily life, particularly for accessing healthcare, jobs and basic services in remote areas. While local transit services like Quality Connections are vital, gaps remain in regional connections and many residents and visitors lack reliable options. Participants also highlighted the importance of transportation for economic development, tourism and quality of life, from aviation access to wayfinding signage. Overall, communities are seeking a stronger partnership with ADOT that prioritizes proactive safety, integrated planning and meaningful collaboration to better serve residents and visitors.

Nogales Area April 29, 2026

Stakeholders from the Nogales area generally expressed appreciation for ADOT's responsiveness and partnership, particularly around recent maintenance work, permitting support and coordination in the Nogales region. However,

concerns were raised about ongoing maintenance gaps, funding delays for transit providers and the need for more consistent improvements in lighting, striping, signage and roadway conditions.

A central theme was the importance of the Nogales–Santa Cruz corridor as a major national freight and commerce gateway, with traffic volumes and complexity far exceeding local infrastructure capacity. Participants emphasized the need for stronger port of entry coordination, improved traffic management and long-term planning with federal and Mexican partners, especially given growing freight demand and safety concerns on I-19.

Broader needs included improved safety on high-crash corridors, better multimodal options such as transit and commuter rail and increased redundancy through frontage roads and alternate routes. Overall, participants called for more proactive planning and investment to address rapid growth in freight, population and regional connectivity demands.

Statewide Active Transportation Virtual Forum April 30, 2026

We convened our first virtual listening session for statewide active transportation stakeholders. It wasn't the same as sitting face to face, but we wanted to have as many voices as possible, and nearly 60 stakeholders attended! Participants described active transportation as a safe, connected system for everyday travel: walking, biking, and other non-car modes that are practical, comfortable, and accessible. A major concern was disconnected

infrastructure, with gaps, abrupt endings and construction impacts, especially along state highways that often function as local streets.

There was agreement that ADOT should play a central role in fixing these gaps by fully integrating active transportation into planning, design and funding decisions. Many emphasized the need for stronger partnerships with cities, counties and tribal governments, along with more consistent standards, better data and improved maintenance.

Overall, participants called for a statewide shift toward a fully connected multimodal network that supports safety, equity, tourism and economic development while addressing funding limitations and long-standing infrastructure barriers.

Tribal consultation and community outreach

are integral parts of Next Move Arizona.

Dedicated government-to-government consultation and Tribal outreach are ongoing throughout the tour in coordination with the ADOT Tribal Relations Team. If you represent a Tribal Nation and would like more information, to engage in a formal consultation, or to schedule or attend a regional Listening Session event, please contact:

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Upcoming stops include Globe+Miami, the Copper Corridor hosted by the Town of Kearny, the Sun Cities area and the Wickenburg area, East Valley Partnership, Arizona Forward. Scheduled stops in June and July (so far) include Pinal Partnership, Maricopa, ACEC, Phoenix Community Alliance, Southern Arizona Community and Economic Leadership Network, Sonoita, and San Tan Valley.

We are committed to covering the entire state and working with local communities to shape events that are most appropriate for your area!

Contact our Tour Coordinator:

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