



July 22, 2026
Statewide Stakeholder Listening Tour Update

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

Read below to hear about our nine listening sessions in June 2026: Payson, Pinal Partnership, WESTMARC, City of Maricopa, ACEC, Phoenix Community Alliance, Southern Arizona Arts and Culture Network, Southern Arizona Community and Economic Leadership Network, and Sonoita.

Next Move stakeholder listening session recaps and summaries available online!

www.nextmoveaz.com

Payson Area June 2, 2026

Payson participants shared that safety, roadway maintenance and funding remain their top transportation concerns. They praised ADOT for projects like the SR 260 Lion Springs improvements, better permitting processes and strong

communication during construction, and also pointed to ongoing challenges such as congestion, deteriorating rural roads, narrow shoulders, short passing lanes and the need for additional turn lanes. They emphasized that future improvements should take a corridor-wide approach rather than focusing on isolated projects and highlighted the importance of planning for wildfire evacuations and incorporating wildlife crossings.

Participants also discussed broader operational challenges, including rising project costs, delayed transit reimbursements, staff turnover, and the need for clearer training and more accessible resources. They noted that public communication is working well, especially advance construction notices and informational videos, but said there is still a need to help residents better understand roadway jurisdiction and to support small businesses, freight movement, and transit services as the region continues to grow.

Pinal Partnership June 4, 2026



We enjoyed visiting with Pinal Partnership at the beautiful 1891 Courthouse in Florence. During this listening session, participants expressed a strong sense that transportation infrastructure is struggling to keep pace with rapid growth. Many described a lack of a clear long-term vision, insufficient funding to maintain existing roads or expand the highway network, and concern that key corridors such as I-10, SR 347, SR 24, and US 60 are already strained or will soon reach capacity. Participants emphasized the need to think ahead by expanding roadway connectivity, improving freight movement, incorporating express lanes, extending SR 24, increasing EV charging infrastructure and considering emerging technologies. They also stressed that transportation planning should include all users—from people with limited mobility to cyclists, pedestrians and users of emerging modes such as e-bikes.

A recurring theme was the need for stronger communication, collaboration, and public education.

Participants called for earlier and more consistent coordination between ADOT, local governments and communities throughout project development and construction, noting that local voices are often lost once projects begin. They also highlighted the importance of educating the public about agency roles, roadway ownership, safety and construction impacts, while expanding the use of technology such as dynamic message signs and artificial intelligence to improve traffic management.

WESTMARC June 9, 2026



What an amazing turnout we had at our listening session with WESTMARC. We always appreciate the time that busy people take out of their schedules to meet with us. Here, participants described the state transportation system as the foundation that connects communities, supports freight movement, fuels economic development and impacts nearly every aspect of daily life. Many highlighted Arizona's strong transportation network, particularly in the Phoenix region, noting that freeways and state routes provide critical connectivity for commerce, tourism, schools and workforce access. At the same time, participants acknowledged growing

challenges including congestion, safety concerns, limited funding and the need for stronger coordination between state, county, regional and local agencies. They emphasized that transportation investments must better align with growth and development patterns rather than reacting after growth has already occurred. There was broad agreement that sustainable solutions will require new funding approaches, improved planning and greater stakeholder advocacy.

Looking ahead, participants stressed the importance of preparing for future mobility needs through innovation, technology and expanded transportation choices. Ideas included greater use of rail, autonomous vehicles, electric vehicle infrastructure, alternative travel modes and strategies that reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles. Safety emerged as the top concern with conversation focused on education, enforcement, infrastructure improvements and designing communities that provide more options for people to live, work and travel efficiently. Participants expressed confidence in ADOT's ability to lead and convene these conversations while recognizing the need for continued collaboration among public agencies, private partners, policymakers and communities to address transportation challenges before they become more costly and difficult to solve.

City of Maricopa June 10, 2026



The discussion in Maricopa highlighted that the state transportation system is much more than roads. It is the foundation for our state's economic vitality, safety and quality of life. Participants described transportation as a complex and powerful opportunity for the state, emphasizing the need to address the funding gap, improve planning processes and better align transportation investments with rapid population growth. In Maricopa, transportation challenges are directly impacting economic development, workforce mobility and safety. While the SR 347 project was celebrated as an important step forward, participants stressed that it is only the beginning of addressing broader regional connectivity needs, including future growth south of the area. They noted that transportation planning must better account for growth projections, economic development, public input, updated data and environmental considerations such as air quality.

The group emphasized the need for a stronger partnership between ADOT, local governments, legislators, businesses and communities, acknowledging that ADOT is underfunded and cannot solve transportation challenges alone. The group encouraged ADOT to play a stronger role as a statewide convener, helping communities plan future connections, communicate needs and advocate with a shared voice. Concerns were raised about inconsistent communication, the need for clearer messaging about project costs and funding realities and the importance of providing timely information during incidents and construction. Participants emphasized that proactive planning, improved data, better public engagement, and a revised funding approach are necessary to keep pace with Arizona's growth and avoid continuing to fall behind.

ACEC Arizona June 11, 2026



The ACEC representatives we met with told us the biggest challenge they see for ADOT is funding and resources. Limited budgets and staffing shortages are making it harder to deliver projects, communicate effectively and plan for the future. At the same time, there's a disconnect between the state's multimodal transportation goals and the funding, policies and leadership needed to support them.

These stakeholders also pointed to process challenges, including federal requirements, organizational silos and unclear responsibilities between ADOT and local governments. Changes to procurement and project delivery under Proposition 479 have added uncertainty, especially for municipal projects, and we also heard regarding Prop 479 that the decision to use Federal funding on local projects is an issue.

There is broad agreement that transit and regional connectivity need more attention, while safety (particularly on rural highways and non-interstate roads) continues to be a top priority. As technology evolves, ADOT is also facing questions about how to adapt policies for AI, digital project delivery, and autonomous vehicles.

Phoenix Community Alliance June 12, 2026



The Phoenix Community Alliance representatives that joined our listening session expressed strong enthusiasm for transportation solutions that prepare Arizona for the future, from passenger rail between Phoenix and Tucson to autonomous vehicles and emerging air mobility. They see an opportunity for the state to take a more proactive role in attracting innovation, private investment, and new mobility technologies.

The group also told us that people want a transportation system that gives Arizonans more choices beyond driving. That includes safer multimodal options like protected bike lanes, intercity bike routes and better first- and last-mile connections to make walking, biking, and transit more practical.

Transportation is viewed as a driver of economic growth. Participants highlighted opportunities to partner with private industry, test new technologies and use infrastructure investments to attract businesses, create jobs and strengthen

Arizona's workforce. They also emphasized the importance of working with employers on mobility solutions, such as employer-sponsored shuttles, transportation demand management programs, and better data sharing to connect workers with job centers.

Finally, there's a growing focus on making infrastructure more resilient and improving quality of life. Priorities include addressing extreme heat with solutions like cool pavement, improving flood management, integrating broadband into transportation corridors and designing infrastructure that supports healthier, more connected communities.

**Southern Arizona Arts and Culture Network
June 23, 2026**



We enjoyed holding this listening session in a unique and creative space and appreciated the members of the arts and culture community that joined us. This was one of our largest groups on the tour!

Participants emphasized the need for a safer, more equitable and environmentally responsible transportation system. Key priorities included improved east-west connectivity in southern Arizona, expanded transit options, passenger rail between Tucson and Phoenix, better bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and addressing transportation barriers

that limit access to jobs, services and opportunities. Attendees also highlighted concerns about roadway conditions, construction impacts, truck traffic and the need for better coordination, maintenance and driver safety efforts.

The group strongly supported integrating public art, environmental stewardship and community input into transportation planning. They emphasized that art can enhance safety, identity and quality of life when incorporated early in project development. Additional priorities included wildlife crossings, climate-conscious design, shade equity, rural community needs and stronger collaboration between ADOT, local communities, artists and partner organizations.

Southern Arizona Community and Economic Leadership Network June 25, 2026



Thank you to Southern Arizona Leadership Council and the Chamber of Southern Arizona for convening this listening session! The turnout was

amazing. Participants highlighted the need for a broader, more forward-thinking transportation vision for Southern Arizona that goes beyond traditional highway expansion. Key themes included improving connectivity between Tucson and Phoenix, advancing passenger rail, expanding first- and last-mile solutions and supporting freight and cross-border commerce through investments in I-10, I-19, rail and regional infrastructure. Participants emphasized that rapid growth, increasing trade with Mexico and changing mobility needs require proactive planning, stronger partnerships and creative funding approaches. Many also noted the importance of maintaining existing infrastructure, improving safety, addressing pedestrian and rail crossing concerns and ensuring transportation investments support economic development and quality of life.

The group also discussed challenges with transportation funding, including concerns about funding formulas, the need for new revenue sources and the importance of clearly communicating how decisions are made. They encouraged ADOT to take a more collaborative role by partnering with local agencies, communities and organizations to better understand regional needs and educate the public about transportation benefits. Participants emphasized that developing a compelling statewide transportation vision, building public and legislative support and turning long-term plans into action will be critical to creating a transportation system that meets Arizona's future needs.

Sonoita Area June 26, 2026



We rounded out the month of June by visiting Sonoita, where participants from around the area emphasized the need for improved safety along the SR 82 and SR 83 corridors including wider shoulders, passing lanes, better signage, speed management and intersection upgrades. They also highlighted the importance of proactive maintenance, safer access for residents and businesses, and enhancements that support tourism and recreation. Additional transportation options such as transit, EV infrastructure and future passenger rail were identified as growing needs. Overall, participants called for stronger collaboration with ADOT, including better communication, coordinated planning and clearer project priorities. They also emphasized the importance of Nogales and border infrastructure to the Arizona economy and emphasis on creating public, private, and community partnerships to fund

and implement transportation projects and programs. It was suggested that ADOT work with “employment hub” employers to develop workforce transportation such as Micromobility for employees and customers.

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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In July we are visiting San Tan Valley, Willcox, Wickenburg, and Lucid Motors. So far in August we have sessions scheduled with the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce and in Prescott Valley, Prescott, Buckeye, and in Tucson for the Southern Area Community Transportation Network.

This first round of Stakeholder Listening Sessions is wrapping up in mid-September to prepare for the roll-out of "What We Have Heard" at the

Arizona Transportation Policy Summit in Flagstaff
October 14-16. Round 2 of stakeholder listening
sessions to present the draft vision and ask "Did
We Get It Right?" will start in early 2027.

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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