



**Next Move Arizona
Statewide Listening Tour**

**Southern Arizona Community and Economic Leadership Network Listening
Session
Meeting Notes**

June 25, 2026

Attendees

ADOT and Consultant Team

- Teresa Welborn, ADOT Strategic Advisor
- Jeremy Moore, ADOT District Administrator
- Shannon Scutari, Consultant Central Metropolitan Liaison
- Daksha Masurkar, Consultant Support/Transportation Planner
- Elaine Mariolle, ADOT MPD Active Transportation Planner

Agency and Public Participants

- Steve Farley, former Arizona State Senator
- Jessica Hummell, Arizona Transportation Builders Association
- Tom Cashman, private citizen
- Kim Briggs, Pima County Board of Supervisors District 1
- John Moffatt, SALC
- Lisa Hagins, ATB
- Jesse Lugo, private citizen
- William Carroll, Civil and Environmental Consultants
- Troy Kimball, South32
- Greg Mohl, Sunbelt Holdings
- Adrianna Castro, The Chamber of Southern Arizona
- Tom Baca, Gordley Group
- Kim Bourn, Bourn Companies
- Amanda Wiggins, Marana Chamber
- Steven Cole, Southwest Appraisal Associates
- Cheryl Spatz, Psomas
- Bruce Wright, The Wright Associates LLC
- Paki Rico, City of Tucson
- Jim Olson, KE&G Construction, Inc.



- Catherine Campbell, Pima County Attractions and Tourism
- Kathy Prather, Pima JTED
- Sophia Gonzalez, private citizen
- James DeGrood, City of Tucson Department of Transportation and Mobility
- Melanie Lawson, Pima Association of Governments/Regional Transportation Authority
- Gene Caywood, City of Tucson Transit Advisory Authority
- Garry Brav, Brav Holdings LLC
- Grey Major, Psomas
- Thomas Robertson, PAG RTA
- Michael Guymon, The Chamber of Southern Arizona
- Erica Frazelle, Horrocks LLC
- Nico Nasse, SALC
- Trevor Ledbetter, University of Arizona
- John Pedicone, SALC

Welcome

- Teresa opened the meeting with a welcome and a round of introductions.

Discussion

- Participants discussed transportation challenges and opportunities facing Southern Arizona, emphasizing the need for a transportation system that supports mobility, economic development, trade, and quality of life throughout the region.
- Concerns were raised regarding transportation funding distribution and whether current methodologies adequately address the needs of Southern Arizona and rural communities.
- Participants noted that many local agencies and stakeholders would benefit from greater clarity regarding funding programs, eligibility requirements, and project prioritization processes. It was discussed that RTANext funding could help Southern Arizona secure a larger share of transportation investments.
- There was discussion regarding the region's long-term transportation vision. Participants expressed strong interest in expanding transportation options beyond highways, including passenger rail, public transit, first-mile/last-mile connections, and other multimodal solutions.
- Public transit was identified as important for retirees across the southern region, as people may become increasingly dependent on it as they age.
- Passenger rail connections between Tucson, Phoenix, and Nogales were identified as important opportunities that could improve mobility, support economic development, and strengthen regional connectivity.



- Participants also noted the importance of planning for future transportation technologies such as electric vehicles and changing travel patterns.
- Transportation's role in supporting economic competitiveness was a recurring theme. Participants emphasized the importance of maintaining strong connections between Tucson, Phoenix, Nogales, and major freight corridors.
- It was noted that many communities depend heavily on ADOT's investments to support economic development. Marana's limited roadway access was given as an example.
- The Nogales Port of Entry was identified as a critical economic asset, and participants noted opportunities to capitalize on future growth in international trade, logistics, and supply-chain activity.
- Concerns were raised that transportation investments often lag behind growth trends, creating challenges for communities attempting to accommodate increasing demand.
- Safety, reliability, and system preservation were also identified as major priorities. Participants discussed the impacts of freeway congestion, crashes, rail crossing safety concerns, pedestrian fatalities, and gaps in cellular service along transportation corridors.
- Maintaining existing infrastructure before pursuing major expansion projects was emphasized as an important strategy for preserving system performance and preventing infrastructure deterioration.
- The need for continued investment in key corridors, including I-10, I-19, State Route 210, and other regional facilities, was also highlighted.
- Participants acknowledged that available transportation funding is limited and stressed the importance of establishing clear priorities and pursuing innovative funding strategies.
- Public-private partnerships, freight and rail investments, federal funding opportunities, and alternative revenue mechanisms were identified as potential tools for advancing transportation improvements.
- Participants also emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships between ADOT, local governments, economic development organizations, community stakeholders, and neighboring states to improve project delivery and leverage investment opportunities.
- Communication, outreach, and education emerged as additional areas of focus. Participants noted that many residents and stakeholders have limited understanding of transportation funding, agency roles, and project delivery processes.
- There was strong interest in improving public engagement, strengthening communication regarding transportation investments, and developing a compelling statewide transportation vision that can build support among residents, elected officials, and partner organizations.



Key Takeaways

- Participants expressed concerns regarding transportation funding distribution and requested greater transparency regarding funding programs, eligibility requirements, and investment decisions.
- There is strong support for expanding multimodal transportation options, including passenger rail, public transit, and first-mile/last-mile connections.
- Passenger rail connections between Nogales, Tucson, and Phoenix were consistently identified as important long-term transportation priorities.
- Transportation infrastructure is viewed as critical to supporting economic development, supply-chain growth, freight movement, and international trade through the Nogales Port of Entry.
- Participants emphasized the importance of maintaining and improving existing infrastructure while planning proactively for future growth and demand.
- Safety concerns—including freeway reliability, pedestrian fatalities, rail crossing safety, and emergency communications coverage—remain significant regional issues.
- Additional investment is needed in key transportation corridors, including I-10, I-19, State Route 210, and other facilities that support regional mobility and economic activity.
- Innovative funding strategies, including public-private partnerships and alternative revenue sources, should be explored to address growing transportation needs.
- Strengthening partnerships among ADOT, local governments, economic development organizations, community groups, and neighboring states could improve coordination and project delivery.
- Improved communication, public education, and stakeholder engagement are needed to build understanding of transportation priorities and support for future investments.
- Participants emphasized the need for a clear, long-term transportation vision that balances mobility, safety, economic development, and quality-of-life goals across Arizona.