SAFETY

ADOT heard loud and clear that Arizona's #1 priority for the state transportation system is safety. This was by far the most common theme we heard throughout the state, emphasizing the importance of roadway maintenance, roadside vegetation management, safe pull-off areas, and emergency coordination in supporting both transportation safety, evacuation planning, flooding, and wildfire mitigation.

This includes:

- Well-maintained roads and roadsides
- Shoulders
- Safe crossings
- Passing opportunities
- Efficient enforcement and emergency response
- Speed limits that reflect local conditions
- Visible signage, lighting and pavement markings
- Public education focused on safety
- Appropriate routing/detours when weather and incidents occur

"To me, safety should be the most important thing of all."
(Willcox Listening Session)

"Passing lanes are needed on SR 89 to improve safety and support emergency services."
(Ash Fork Listening Session)

"Experience responding to accidents and road debris puts it all into perspective, safety is the #1 priority."
(Westmarc Listening Session)

"On US 70 between Peridot and Fort Thomas, limited shoulders and pull-outs make traffic stops unsafe for officers [conducting enforcement]."

FUNDING

Arizonans want our state to pay for the transportation system we need and believe our transportation system is underfunded, especially in greater Arizona. Arizona's rural communities feel undervalued and ignored by state leadership.

This includes:

- Arizonans want information about transportation system funding
- Funding should prioritize maintenance and preservation before expansion
- Local Governments want more flexibility and control of funds

"We need to talk about what we can do, not what we can't do."
(Willcox Listening Session)

"The funding mechanism is broken and needs to be fixed."
(Sahuarita Listening Session)

"We cannot seem to grasp in the State of Arizona how important transportation is."
(Maricopa Listening Session)

"This has been going on for 50 years and I am skeptical that anything is going to change."
(Lake Havasu City Listening Session)

RELIABLE CONNECTIONS

Arizonans believe that transportation options are an important part of the state transportation system. Transportation options should support access to services, jobs, healthcare, recreation, and community destinations across Arizona. We heard the need to better separate vehicles from pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vulnerable road users to improve safety outcomes.

The state should be a better partner in multimodal transportation beyond funding administration. Participants want the state to embrace a stronger multimodal role by working collaboratively with local governments, tribes, transit agencies, and advocacy groups to advance transportation options on and around the state highway system.

This includes:

- Intercity connections
- Bicycling and walking
- Transit
- Passenger rail
- Support mobility for veterans, older adults, and people with disabilities

"Multimodal needs are increasing faster than infrastructure supports."
(Quartzsite Area Listening Session)

"You have to have a car to live here' is not the narrative we want to live."
(Verde Valley Listening Session)

"We need to come together to care for people when they cannot drive anymore."
(Verde Valley Listening Session)

"Connectivity between cities is crucial. The state transportation system is our lifeblood."
(San Luis, Salome, Bouse and Prescott Listening Sessions)

"Non-motorized transportation is part of the system."
(Greater Phoenix Leadership Listening Session"

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Arizonans recognize transportation as the “unsung hero of our economic vitality” (Arizona Forward Listening Session). This is something that is so important it needs to be treated as a critical priority. Transportation is a foundational component of Arizona’s economy, attracting businesses, workforce mobility, freight movement, and continued population growth. Coordination among ADOT, Tribal and local governments, utilities, developers, and economic development organizations is a significant opportunity to improve project delivery and long-term planning.

This includes:

- Recreation and tourism
- Workforce development
- Attracting business
- Aviation expansion
- Freight mobility
- Supporting growth
- Technology and innovation
- Main Street Arizona
- Showcasing our beautiful state

Arizonans recognize transportation as the “unsung hero of our economic vitality.”
(Arizona Forward Listening Session)

“The state transportation system is our connection to opportunity.”
(Prescott Listening Session)

“Beautification is economic development.”
(Globe Listening Session)

“ADOT should be at the table with major developments from the very beginning.”
(East Valley Partnership, Greater Phoenix Chamber, Lucid Motors and Wickenburg Listening Sessions)

RELATIONSHIP WITH ADOT

Arizonans want a stronger relationship with ADOT. When ADOT owns the road an entire community is dependent on and has not established a lasting relationship in that community, there is an erosion of trust and increased hopelessness than the state cares about anyone's safety and wellbeing in those communities (despite "paying into" the tax base).

This includes:

- Access to the right points of contact
- Responsiveness
- Early and continuous collaboration
- Presence in local communities
- Less bureaucracy
- Transparency on project prioritization
- Flexibility when an ADOT road serves as main street

"ADOT is the architect/master planner that can bring together all pieces of the puzzle."
(Greater Phoenix Leadership listening Session)

"ADOT is a big mysterious bureaucracy."
(Prescott Listening Session)

"We would like to see this Listening Tour continue."
(Douglas and Ajo Listening Sessions)

"We have become so entrenched in the federal process that we are missing the personal touch."
(Safford Area Listening Session)