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For immediate release

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City of Tucson receives 2016 Timothy M. Ahrens Partnering Award

Pima Association of Governments and the Regional Transportation Authority presented the 2016 Timothy M. Ahrens Partnering Award to the City of Tucson today during the monthly meetings of the PAG Regional Council and RTA Board.

The City of Tucson received the award for the \$20.6 million 22nd Street and Kino Parkway intersection/overpass project. The project is a component of the RTA-funded 22nd Street corridor improvement project between Interstate 10 and Tucson Boulevard.

The award was established in 2013 to recognize the spirit of collaboration and partnering as exemplified by the late Timothy M. Ahrens, who died on Oct. 23, 2013, after a brief illness. Mr. Ahrens was the RTA manager during development of the \$2.1 billion, 20-year RTA plan. He managed the RTA's 35-member citizens' advisory committee and gave hundreds of presentations during the public outreach phase before the RTA plan was approved by Pima County voters on May 16, 2006.

Success of the project is demonstrated in the following areas: achieving a common goal, embracing regional stakeholders, resolving conflict, improving communication on the project with all audiences, incorporating team-building activities, delivery of a quality product, finding innovative funding solutions, and perpetuating the spirit of cooperation.

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Primary partners who received recognition today for making substantial contributions to planning, design and construction of the project include:

- AECOM
- The Ashton Co. Inc.
- The Project Citizens Advisory Committee

Other project partners include: Structural Grace Inc., Psomas, GLHN, McGann & Associates, Public Artist Barbara Grygutis and Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations.

In a letter of support for the award, Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres said, "Particularly significant is the work of more than a dozen residents and representatives of Ward 5 businesses who were appointed to the Citizens Advisory Committee and who met 25 times to guide the design of the project. They wanted public art to be integrated into the project itself, and as a result we see our native plants represented throughout."

Some of the partnering successes included the project team working successfully to minimize disruption while reconstructing a major intersection that directly serves six neighborhoods, numerous businesses and property owners and more than 50,000 vehicles per day. Access to and from the area was maintained through creative project design and the use of detours and alternative routes.

A design charrette was used as a team-building exercise during a CAC meeting. A 3D model was developed to gain meaningful feedback on specific issues.

"The success of this project is due to the collaboration between many individuals and organizations," said Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, who also serves on the RTA Board.

"The project is an excellent example of what the RTA plan has achieved and will continue to achieve for our region," he said. "It has supported good-paying jobs, will attract investment and will contribute to the region's economic development and quality of life."

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Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, energy, watershed and air quality. PAG's staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit www.PAGregion.com for more information or www.facebook.com/PAGregion

The Regional Transportation Authority is the fiscal manager of the \$2.1 billion regional transportation plan approved by Pima County voters on May 16, 2006. The RTA Board is comprised of elected representatives from the cities of Tucson and South Tucson, Pima County, the towns of Marana, Oro Valley and Sahuarita, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation. The Pima County representative of the Arizona State Transportation Board also serves on the board. The RTA is managed through Pima Association of Governments, the region's metropolitan planning organization. For more information about the RTA plan, visit www.RTAmobility.com, see www.facebook.com/RTAPimaCounty or call (520) 792-1093.