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**For immediate release**

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## **Technology and Transportation Summit moves region forward in policy discussion to meet future needs**

Across the country, thousands of electric vehicles are in use, driverless vehicles are all the rage and connected technology helps us choose the path to our destinations. When planning for future transportation infrastructure, these new technologies give us more options to consider when deciding what will meet our travel needs.

Discussions today by academic, government and industry experts at Pima Association of Governments' Technology and Transportation Summit will help guide development of policies that will address emerging transportation technologies.

"As a region, we must understand what the technology can do for us, how it can benefit our transportation infrastructure and why it is important for us to align policies to support our overall economic development opportunities," said PAG Regional Council Chair Duane Blumberg. "Getting all these experts, both from within and outside our region, come together for a day is essential for conversation and relationship building to help identify gaps and opportunities in the regional transportation planning process."

Panel discussions at the inaugural summit, which was attended by more than 300 participants, focused on connected and autonomous vehicles relating to safety, air quality and efficiencies; the next steps in the world of electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure; the role of government and industry regulations; trends in shared transportation, and technologies that manage traffic flow.

"It is great to see a forward-thinking region discussing policies that may apply to the development and deployment of automated vehicle technologies," said Division Administrator Karla S. Petty of the Federal Highway Administration's Arizona Division office, and Co-Chair of the Arizona Council for Transportation Innovation. "The technologies associated with automated vehicles are likely to be felt

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across many modes of transportation and even roadway infrastructure. Smarter vehicles will need smarter roads.”

Arizona Sen. Bob Worsley, Chairman of the State Senate Transportation Committee, said technology and transportation are very much at the core of our economy going forward.

“To be prepared for the demands of the 21st century—and to take advantage of its opportunities—it is essential that more of our policies today align with the technological advances of tomorrow, no matter what mode of transportation, we need to be prepared to address the policy implications,” he said.

*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 to enhance our region's mobility, sustainability and livability. Please visit [www.PAGregion.com](http://www.PAGregion.com) or [www.facebook.com/PAGregion](https://www.facebook.com/PAGregion) for more information.*