2040 Regional Transportation Plan

ThinkTank Session Workbook
Thank you for participating in a 2040 RTP ThinkTank session. During the session you may contribute your own individual comments regarding transportation projects and policies. Your input will become part of the official public comment for the RTP. Your ratings and recommendations will be analyzed by the RTP Task Force, and your comments will help form the content of the 2040 RTP. The 2040 RTP is the blueprint for transportation solutions in our region for the next 30 years.

ThinkTank is a brainstorming tool that gives both anonymity and equal weight to the comments of each participant. The session will be led by PAG staff but each individual will enter their answers into a computer program. If you would like assistance (including typing, reading or translation) during the session, please let us know ahead of time and we will make arrangements.

How to Use This Workbook

ThinkTank sessions move quickly and are more successful when participants arrive prepared. This workbook is designed to help prepare you for the session. Each open-ended question that will be asked is in a text box. For example:

- **What challenges do you experience in getting from home to common destinations (e.g., work, school, shopping)? Please be as specific as possible about what matters to you.**

You also will be asked to rate items from 1 to 10; these items will be in blue text. For example:

**Please rate the importance of all the goals on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means not at all important to you and 10 means very important to you.**

**Goals:**
1. Multi-modal choices (buses, carpools, bicycle and pedestrian options)
2. An efficient system that is easy to access and provides mobility
3. Coordination between land use and transportation (the type of land use, i.e. high-density residential or low-density commercial, affects the types of roads and transportation needed to reach it)

There is additional information provided (examples, pictures, maps, etc.) for reference and to help clarify the questions.

Please read through this material ahead of time, think about the responses to your questions, jot down notes and come ready to give us your opinions. Be sure to bring this workbook with you to the Think Tank Session.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments before your session.

For additional information, please see our Web site at www.pagnet.org
THINKTANK SESSION

Let’s get started!

Please log in with the following credentials:

User ID: [to be distributed at meeting]
Session ID: [to be distributed at meeting]
Session Passkey: rtp

1. Challenges

In order to start you thinking about transportation issues, give you a chance to experiment with the ThinkTank program and hear about your experiences with transportation, we begin with the following question.

A • What challenges do you experience in getting from home to common destinations (e.g., work, school, shopping)? Please be as specific as possible about what matters to you.

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2. Vision

The following two questions are intended to reaffirm and build upon the broad vision and 10 more specific goals that were agreed upon, by community consensus, during the 2030 RTP effort which concluded in 2006.

The broad vision for the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan was to develop “an inclusive, people-focused plan to create an efficiently linked variety of transportation choices in a regional system that serves all people.”

B • What else should be included in the broad vision for the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan? What changes would you make to the vision statement?

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Goals

The 2030 Regional Transportation Plan included ten goals.

Please rate the importance of all the goals on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means not at all important to you and 10 means very important to you.

**Goals (Not ranked):**
1. **Multi-modal choices** (buses, carpools, bike, and pedestrian options)
2. **An efficient system that is easy to access and provides mobility**
3. **Coordination between land use and transportation** (the type of land use, i.e. high-density residential or low-density commercial, affects the types of roads and transportation needed to reach it)
4. **An increase in the availability of affordable, effective public transit** (improve bus services, add light rail or bus rapid transit)
5. **Cross-town mobility** (ease of travel between the east/west and north/south sides of town)
6. **Safety** (for drivers, passengers, cyclists and pedestrians)
7. **Identification and allocation of funding** (new sources of funding; maintain existing assets while managing funds for construction and service operations)
8. **Economic and community compatibility** (achieve economic growth in a way that enhances quality of life; recognize and respond to disparities in economic circumstances, accessibility and mobility)
9. **Environmental stewardship** (preserve and enhance the natural environment)
10. **Accountability to the public** (public participation, government responsiveness to community interests, and effective leadership)

What other goals should be considered for the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan?

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3. Policy / Alternative Solutions

There are many transportation alternatives that could be included in a regional transportation plan. This exercise is intended to gauge support of certain policy issues and implementation strategies.

Please rate the alternatives on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means you are not at all supportive of the alternative and 10 means you are completely supportive of the alternative.

Policies / Alternative Solutions:
(Note: Examples are provided below in parentheses. Examples are not all-inclusive.)

1. Support High-Capacity Roadways (Build a highway loop around Tucson, a parkway or highway through the center of Tucson, add more lanes on existing highways)
2. Control Access (Limit driveways along major corridors)
3. Utilize More Technology (Increase use of cameras and sensors to allow traffic signals to respond to changes in traffic flow and operate in conjunction with nearby signals.)
4. Support TDM Programs (TDM = Travel Demand Management; support marketing and incentives to encourage alternatives to commuting alone in a vehicle)
5. Build MOV Infrastructure (MOVs = Multiple Occupancy Vehicles like carpools, vanpools, transit; create high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on Interstates, build more Park-and-Ride lots, transit stations)
6. Improve Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (Install charging stations for electric vehicles at parking lots and gas stations throughout the region)

Figure 1. An electric vehicle and charging station.

7. Support Motorized Alternatives (Support traffic laws and facilities necessary to allow the safe use of mopeds, segways, electric bicycles; this does not include motorcycles, which are already regulated)
8. Use Incentives and Disincentives (Institute fees for drivers on the most congested roadways, i.e. toll roads or toll lanes, or institute parking restrictions to encourage carpooling and alternative modes of transportation)
9. Link Land Use and Transportation (Support infill and/or high-density development, mixed land use)
10. Support Transit-Oriented Development (Build higher density residential and commercial developments near transit routes, build transit out to dense suburban areas)

Figure 2. Shopping and residential buildings surrounding a light-rail stop (an example of transit-oriented development).
11. Create High-Speed Rail (High-Speed Passenger Rail between large urban areas such as Tucson-Phoenix)
12. Create High-Capacity Transit (Light rail, commuter rail or bus rapid transit within Eastern Pima County)
13. Expand Local Transit (Expand Sun Tran routes, hours of operation, bus shelters, add more local circulators)
14. Improve Bike/Ped Infrastructure (Add bike routes, shared-use paths, sidewalks, bike/pedestrian traffic signals, and support programs such as Safe Routes to School)

![Figure 3: Bike/pedestrian traffic signal in Tucson called a TOUCAN.](image)

15. Increase Options for Special Needs (Further expand van transportation services for elderly and individuals with disabilities who cannot manage the existing bus system)
16. Increase Maintenance (Make maintenance of the transportation infrastructure a top priority, while also spending some funds on other programs and projects)
17. Maintenance Only (Just spend funds on maintaining the transportation infrastructure and services we already have; do not build anything new)

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**What other policy alternatives should be considered for the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan?**

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### 4. Financing

*How we pay for transportation projects is a critical part of the conversation about transportation improvements. The majority of transportation funding comes from user fees associated with buying/owning a car and buying gas. In our region, funding also comes from the half-cent RTA sales tax, which was approved by the voters in May 2006.*

*There are many financing options for transportation programs and projects. Please rate the financing options on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means you are not at all supportive of the option and 10 means you are completely supportive of the option.*
Financing Strategies:

1. Increase Impact Fees (Impact fees are a one-time contribution on new residential and commercial development)
2. Increase Property Tax (Link a transportation fee to the property tax in the region.)
3. Raise the Gas Tax (Support an increase in the state gas tax)
4. Index the Gas Tax (Support the gas tax rising with inflation – not an immediate increase but instead an increase over time)
5. Increase State Sales Tax (Support an increase in the state sales tax)
6. Extend the Regional Sales Tax (Extend the existing regional sales tax beyond 2026, to allow for more RTA projects)
7. Increase Regional Sales Tax (Increase the existing sales tax rate as occurred with the RTA to allow more projects and expand alternative mode choices in the region)
8. Charge for Miles Traveled (Consider a system that partially bases transportation fees (insurance rates, new mileage fees) on vehicle miles traveled – the more miles, the higher the rate. This solution is being piloted in parts of the country)
9. Public-Private Partnerships (A private company purchases a highway or bridge from a public entity and make a profit off tolling)
10. Congestion Pricing (Tax vehicles that drive during peak times and/or through congested areas)
11. Make Do (Regardless of the needs, government should make the most of the existing resources and not seek additional funds for transportation)

What other financing strategies should the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan consider?

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5. Project/Program Selection

The 2040 Regional Transportation Plan should reflect the transportation needs of the community. The following question is your opportunity to provide specific suggestions for transportation projects in the region. Remember, this is a multi-modal plan so be sure to think not just about roads, but also buses, bikes, pedestrians, elderly and disability transportation, modern streetcars, railroads, airports etc. Think about the region’s future transportation needs; by 2040, we will be serving a whole new generation of transportation needs. This is an open-ended question and the examples on the next page are shown only to indicate the types of potential projects.

What transportation projects and programs should the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan include? Please be as specific as possible. You can use the PAG Regional Map and RTA maps for brainstorming project ideas.

Notes:
## Project/Program Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Interstate/Freeway</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I-10 and I-19, outside of metro area in Pima County</td>
<td>Widen to 4 lanes and auxiliary lanes in each direction</td>
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<tr>
<td>I-10 Ruthrauff and Prince Traffic Interchange</td>
<td>Include rail overpasses</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Regional Roadway Corridors</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alvernon Way, Valencia Rd. to River Rd</td>
<td>Widen to 6 lanes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission Rd, Valencia Rd to Duval Mine Rd</td>
<td>Widen to 4 lanes and safety improvements</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Systemwide</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations and Maintenance</td>
<td>Various improvements and enhancements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Driver Program for Elderly Transport</td>
<td>Expand program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Travel Demand Management Program</td>
<td>Includes employer outreach, rideshare, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>High Capacity Transit</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tucson Regional Modern Streetcar System Expansion</td>
<td>Expand initial route</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucson Commuter Rail (Marana /Downtown/TIA/ Vail)</td>
<td>Develop commuter rail lines</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe Routes to School Program</td>
<td>Expand local Safe Routes program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bicycle Boulevards</td>
<td>Create network of bike priority streets</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Regional Freight</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Port Authority</td>
<td>Create authority to oversee freight development</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Regional Aviation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tucson International Airport</td>
<td>Add new runway</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Regional Transit (Other)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tucson Regional Circulator System Expansion</td>
<td>Green Valley/Sahuarita, Oro Valley, Marana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase local bus routes</td>
<td>Expand existing services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercity passenger rail, Tucson to Phoenix</td>
<td>Construct high-speed rail system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transit improvements

Modern Streetcar Route

RTA Projects
- Enhanced Local Bus Routes
- Bus Route Extensions
- New and Enhanced Express Routes
- Modern Streetcar Alignment
- New Park-and-Ride
6. Statewide Planning - bqAZ (Building a Quality Arizona)

Just as the 2040 RTP is a discussion on regional funding and regional projects, the State of Arizona is looking to develop a plan on how all the regions within Arizona connect and how citizens get around within Arizona. The “Building a Quality Arizona” (bqAZ) effort is gathering input from around the state on projects and funding sources.

There are many types of transportation projects that could be considered in the bqAZ plan. Please rate the project categories below on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means you are not at all supportive of the type of project and 10 means you are completely supportive of the type of project.

Types of Statewide Projects:
1. Widen I-10 and/or I-19 in the Tucson Area
2. Widen Interstates outside Tucson Area (to Phoenix, Nogales, California and/or New Mexico)
3. Build New Freeway through Tucson
4. Build New Freeway Segments on Tucson Perimeter
5. Widen State Routes (such as Oracle Road and Ajo Way)
6. Build Dual Level Roadways (Make Interstates or other routes that can’t be widened dual level instead of building new roads)
7. Build Intercity Passenger Rail (Between major population centers like Tucson-Phoenix, Tucson-Nogales and/or Phoenix-Flagstaff)

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What other projects should be considered for the bqAZ plan? You can use the State Highway Map for brainstorming project ideas.

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7. Final Comments

Transportation planning is a complex process than can benefit from public input.

What other comments, thoughts or ideas do you have regarding the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan?

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Conclusion – THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!!!