Parents at several schools in the region now have the opportunity to link up with other parents in their neighborhood to create carpool "school pools" to smooth their morning commutes. Pima Commuter School Pool is a new online ridesharing service, provided by Pima Association of Governments, to match up parents of children who attend the same school and live in the same area. When parents share the neighborhood carpooling responsibilities to transport several schoolmates, the program will lead to reduced traffic congestion in school drop off zones and help reduce harmful air emissions from idling vehicles.

Your participation benefits you, your family and the entire region.

Conference speaker lineup features leaders in trade, technology, transportation

From the senior director of intelligent technology strategies at UPS, a global logistics leader, to the chief technology officer of TuSimple, a Beijing-based artificial intelligence company that recently announced it will create 100 jobs in Tucson to develop driverless commercial truck technology, the Borderlands Trade and Transportation Technologies Conference on Oct. 19 will offer a wealth of new technology information.

The one-day conference will connect industry, academia and government leaders to learn about the latest technologies and build relationships for future collaborations and innovations in support of regional economic development.

Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild will open the conference with welcoming comments and Karla Petty, administrator for the Arizona Division of the Federal Highway Administration will emcee the event.

In addition to individual speakers, panelists will discuss the latest advancements in connected and autonomous long-haul trucking, innovations relating to last-mile delivery and updates on the regulatory climate to address such topics as moving goods at ports of entry.

Steve Hamilton, senior manager of Deloitte Transactions and Business Analytics LLP, will address the topic of Smart Borders, and Marco A. Lopez Jr. will address national security, border trade and commerce, and economic development. Lopez is the president and CEO of Intermestic Partners and formerly was chief of staff at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection.

Additional information about the conference program and speakers is available online. To register or view additional information, visit PAGtts.com
PAG Deputy Director retires

When Cherie Campbell started at Pima Association of Governments as a transportation planner 26 years ago, her position was funded by the Arizona Department of Transportation. Cherie, who most recently served as PAG’s deputy director, retired July 21 after 26 years of service to PAG and the region.

As a transportation planner, Cherie oversaw the development of PAG’s short-range planning and long-range planning leading up to the development of the Regional Transportation Authority plan. Cherie became transportation planning director in 2003 and director of planning in 2011.

In January 2013, Cherie was named Interim Executive Director. During her nearly 10 months in that position, she managed the construction of PAG’s new offices at 1 E. Broadway Blvd.

One of her accomplishments she is most proud of is the Transportation Art by Youth Program, which she developed to engage youth to build art along regional transportation corridors.

Approximately 800 youth, many of them economically disadvantaged, gained occupational skills as they worked alongside professional artists to create and install the art. To date, more than 80 pieces of art have been installed to beautify our regional roadways.

When Cherie served in transportation planning, she was instrumental in helping to develop the 1999 statewide agreement, known colloquially as the “Casa Grande Resolves.” This agreement ensures an equitable share of state and federal transportation dollars are spent in the PAG region.

“The need for transportation funding today remains an issue for long-term transportation planning,” said PAG Executive Director Farhad Moghimi. “The Casa Grande Resolves continue to have a significant impact on how state and federal dollars are distributed statewide. Cherie’s influence was a major contribution toward getting our fair share particularly when resources are limited.”

For such contributions, Cherie was recognized nationally in 2015 with the John Bosley Leadership Award by the National Association of Regional Councils. The award is granted to individuals who provide “outstanding service and contributions... to advance the success of the regional community.”

“Cherie was tireless in her pursuit of programs and practices that make our region a more attractive place to live, work and play,” said John Liosatos, interim deputy director and transportation planning director.

During her retirement, Cherie plans to spend more time with her family from her new residence in Texas.
Valencia/Kolb intersection overhaul to start later this year

Picture this: traffic backed up and waiting through several light changes at one of the region’s busiest intersections. Now, fast forward to a new and improved intersection where vehicles move with ease and efficiency.

The design for a new parkway-at-grade intersection at Valencia/Kolb roads will provide that and more by reducing conflicts and crash potential, and by providing improved traffic operations with capacity for growth.

The project is expected to begin late this year and construction will take approximately 24 months. The intersection is part of the Valencia Road, from Wilmot Road to Kolb Road, project approved in 2006 by voters as one of 35 regional corridor projects in the Regional Transportation Authority plan.

The RTA managed the design of the project and the City of Tucson will manage construction of the $20 million improvement.

RTA Deputy Director Jim DeGrood said traffic will actually improve during construction because crews will build the south on-ramp (see map) first to accommodate vehicles that would have traveled through the intersection. The Valencia Road project, when completed, will be a six-lane parkway with bike lanes and sidewalks.

The intersection will feature parkway-at-grade movements that use on-ramps in place of left turns, as well as indirect left turns (u-turns). Interstate quality signage will clearly direct drivers where to go.

“The intersection will operate like a diamond interchange with a traffic signal in the middle,” DeGrood said. “It is a very efficient way to handle traffic. Right now you have one lane of traffic moving, while 11 others are stopped. That is pretty inefficient movement.”

Since the Valencia/Kolb intersection will be the first parkway-at-grade intersection in the country, the Texas A & M Transportation Institute—one of the premier higher education-affiliated transportation research agencies in the nation—has been at the intersection to study the turn movement problems the project will address.

For more project information, visit RTAmobility.com.
Regional partners, above, celebrated the opening of Colossal Cave Road in Vail on Sept. 9. Joining in on the ribbon-cutting, from left, are former Pima County Supervisor Ray Carroll, Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce President Jeff Logsdon and Executive Director Michelle Harrington, Vail Preservation Society Executive Director J.J. Lamb, student artist Lily Collins, Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County District 4 Supervisor Steve Christy, Regional Transportation Authority Board Chair Tom Murphy, Pima Association of Governments and RTA Executive Director Farhad Moghimi, Vail Unified School District Superintendent Cal Baker, project artist Royce Davenport and Vail Unified School District Associate Superintendent John Carruth. The project is funded by the Regional Transportation Authority and Pima County and runs from Acacia Elementary School to Old Vail Middle School. Improvements include right turns lanes, bike lanes and a center turn lane.

Visit TransView.org to learn up to date information on traffic incidents, roadway construction, current weather conditions and … regional news, including information on Regional Transportation Authority projects, coming soon.

PAG continues its partnership in Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study

Secure water planning remains a key component of southern Arizona’s economic vitality, and our region continues to provide leadership in ensuring long-term reliability through partnerships with the U.S. Department of Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation in the Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study.

The study focuses on the groundwater basin designated by the Arizona Department of Water Resources as the Tucson active management area. Study objectives are to identify where physical water resources are needed to mitigate supply-demand imbalances and to develop strategies to improve water reliability for municipal, industrial, agricultural and environmental sectors in river basin.

Pima Association of Governments is leading public involvement for the three-year study. Now in its second year, the study has included a broad range of input through a public meeting held in late 2016 and specific stakeholder responses on water demand scenarios this past spring. PAG hosted both meetings, which attracted large turnouts and garnered positive feedback. The second public meeting is planned this winter.

While the main focus of the study is on water supplies for human use, it also will conduct an analysis of future riparian conditions. Finally, strategies to address water reliability (both structural and non-structural) will be analyzed. The study will use scenario planning to assess future water supplies and demands. Surface and groundwater models will be used to project potential future imbalances.

Key partners include PAG, the Southern Arizona Water Users Association, Cortaro-Marana Irrigation District, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Water Conservation District and the University of Arizona.
When you join a carpool, ridesharing adds up to a variety of benefits for you and your community. The Sun Rideshare commuter assistance program of Pima Association of Governments recently launched a new campaign that encourages commuters to “Do your share. Drive less. Carpool.”

The campaign message focuses on the concept of the sharing community and the opportunity to share your ride to work with your neighbors, and to take sharing a step further by sharing your lunch or even your dreams.

Carpooling offers many benefits for you, your employer and your community. Fewer vehicles on the road leads to reduced traffic congestion and reduced vehicle emissions.

When you choose to carpool, you can save on fuel costs, gain time to engage with your fellow riders or catch up on work emails before you start your day. Your employer may provide priority parking and make it easier for you to arrive at work on time. Less stress means a more productive workforce for employers.

You can learn more and find out if ridesharing works for you by visiting Sunrideshare.org to sign up for free in our carpool matching database. Get your name in and you will receive information on potential matches. At that point, you can select a match and work out a carpool schedule that best suits your needs. If you have emergency situations, the Sun Rideshare program offers support to ensure registered participants are guaranteed a ride home.

Share your commute, meet your neighbor

PAG partners with YMCA for healthy living

Pima Association of Governments is teaming up with the YMCA of Southern Arizona to encourage YMCA staff and members to see the wellness benefits of carpooling and using active modes of transportation, such as riding a bicycle to work.

PAG’s Travel Reduction Program promotes the use of alternative transportation modes, and its Sun Rideshare program gives active participants an opportunity to earn Walgreens gift cards by logging their monthly trips.

The partnership with the Y, which is dedicated to improving the human quality of life, allows PAG to provide information to Y staff and members about the healthy habits of sharing the ride, biking or walking. The Y provided single-day passes to PAG to use as Travel Reduction Program incentives for people who register at SunRideshare.org.

Mastering travel demands

Genine Sullivan, outreach coordinator for PAG’s Travel Reduction Program, recently met with TRP employer transportation coordinators at an HR Mastermind session to discuss varied travel needs among employees, from millennials to baby boomers, and how employers can improve their bottom lines by supporting different travel options.
PAG to host new Teen Leadership Conference

Pima Association of Governments will host a new Teen Leadership Conference on Jan. 12, 2018, at the University of Arizona. PAG collaborated with Oro Valley and Sahuarita teen advisory councils and the office of the Pima County Superintendent of Public Schools to plan the event.

The conference is limited to 200 students and is open to high school age students from any public or private school in Pima County. Dustin Williams, Pima County Superintendent of Public Schools, will serve as the emcee.

PAG Regional Council Chair and Oro Valley Mayor Satish Hiremath also will speak and other members of the Regional Council plan on engaging with the students. In addition to presentations on leadership, students will participate in a career roundtable discussion and have access to college educational materials. The conference will include entertainment and an interactive event.

For more information or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Nubia at 792-1093.

PAG Regional Council leaders welcome Ari-Son representatives

Pima Association of Governments’ Regional Council Chair and Oro Valley Mayor Satish Hiremath welcomed representatives of the Arizona-Sonora Megaregion (Ari-Son) to the Town of Oro Valley on Aug. 23 and highlighted the importance of bi-national collaboration.

This event was one of several that took place as part of the Arizona-Sonora Binational Megaregion initiative, also referred to as “Ari-Son.” Established in April 2014 through the signing of a partnering charter among a variety of leaders on both sides of the international border, the initiative brings local elected officials and others together to enhance prosperity in both Sonora and Arizona.

School Pool

Healthier air for your children and less stress on you may be great reasons to try carpooling but the reasons don’t end there. Sharing the carpooling duties can help reduce your fuel costs and save you time. Plus you have a chance to get to know your neighbors better.

Quail Run Elementary School in Marana, a school in the Marana Unified School District, is the first pilot program participant. Following the pilot program, Pima Commuter School Pool is expected to be open to parents of children in grades K-12 at all schools in the region.

Parents interested in the program need to contact their child’s school for registration information and ask for the Pima Commuter School Pool program administrator for more information. Other schools interested in joining Pima Commuter School Pool should contact Nubia at nbertsch@PAGregion.com.

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