Financing Transportation Improvements, Including Pavement Preservation, for Economic Expansion and Community Wellbeing

Chuck Huckelberry
County Administrator
Economic expansion is a critical component of community wellbeing.

Economic expansion is heavily dependent upon quality transportation infrastructure.
Arizona Society of Civil Engineers 2015 Report Card

Arizona’s Roads Grade = D+
Barriers to Adequate Surface Transportation Funding

- Arizona’s gas tax unchanged since 1991
- Arizona will have difficulty competing as surrounding states act to fund infrastructure
Barriers to Adequate Surface Transportation Funding

- State’s historic diversion of over $1 billion in Highway User Revenue Funds to balance the State Budget
- Rising costs associated with aging infrastructure
- Declining transportation revenue due to increased vehicle fuel efficiency and alternatively powered vehicles
An export-based economy requires effective and efficient transportation systems
How is Pima County responding?

- 2017 Legislative Agenda prioritizes transportation funding
  - Eliminate Legislative HURF Diversions
  - Increase the gas tax
  - Develop alternate, sustainable revenue sources

- Developing infrastructure for major employment expansion, growth
  - New Aerospace Parkway in Tucson’s Aerospace and Defense Corridor
  - Supporting efforts for a new second runway at Tucson International Airport
  - Working with Union Pacific Railroad to connect rail to primary, technology-based employment centers
  - Successful public-private partnership with the Port of Tucson to secure TIGER grant funding for large train offloading with a new 8,000-foot rail siding and high-speed switch.
What You Can Do to Help

• Speak up for increased infrastructure funding.

• Don’t be afraid to say “tax increase.” Taxes built this country’s infrastructure.

• Collaborate, communicate and cooperate. We can do more working together than individually.

• The time to act is now to ensure economic expansion. We are at the tipping point of success or failure for infrastructure planning, funding and development.