

# ARIZONA STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of Arizona

February 16, 2018

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor of Arizona  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Steve Yarbrough  
Senate President  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable J.D. Mesnard  
Speaker of the House  
Arizona House of Representatives  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007



**William F. Cuthbertson**  
*Chairman*



**Jack Sellers**  
*Vice Chairman*



**Deanna L. Beaver**  
*Member*



**Michael S. Hammond**  
*Member*



**Steve Stratton**  
*Member*



**Jesse Thompson**  
*Member*



**Sam Elters**  
*Member*

Subject: Adoption of Arizona Long Range Transportation Plan

Dear Governor Ducey, President Yarbrough and Speaker Mesnard:

Today, the Arizona State Transportation Board adopted a new Arizona Long Range Transportation Plan. The Plan was recommended by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and adopted by the Board pursuant to A.R.S. Section 28-307. The Plan also fulfills federal requirements (23 U.S.C. 135).

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a policy plan; it is not project specific. In developing the Plan, ADOT and the Board have considered trends and issues affecting transportation in Arizona, assessed the performance of the state highway system, forecast anticipated revenues over the 25-year period through 2040, and identified system needs. We have used this information to develop a Plan to guide us in allocating our limited transportation dollars among the areas of greatest need.

The LRTP states that ADOT will need \$53.3 billion over the next 25 years to cover all needs for the state highway system. This includes preservation (preserving current roadways and bridges), modernization (safety-focused projects and system upgrades) and expansion projects (new roads and added lanes) through all areas of Arizona. However, while \$53.3 billion is needed for highway projects, only \$22.8 billion is expected to be available, leaving ADOT an expected 25-year funding gap of \$30.5 billion. Out of the \$22.8 billion that is targeted for highway improvements, approximately \$14.5 billion comes from Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan area funding programs that are dedicated largely to highway expansion in these regions. The LRTP focuses the remaining \$8.3 billion on preservation and modernization of the existing state highway system in Greater Arizona (areas outside of metropolitan Phoenix and Tucson).

The recommendation to focus our limited future revenues for Greater Arizona on preservation and modernization (including safety) is supported by the professional judgement of ADOT professionals as well as the significant input received from extensive public and stakeholder outreach efforts associated with the LRTP.

The LRTP states that Arizona does not have sufficient funding to recommend *new* system expansion at this time, beyond the expansion projects in the current 2018-2022 Five-Year Program. However, the Board will take a serious look at how potential expansion projects in the proposed Tentative 2019-2023 Five-Year Program and the six to ten year timeframe will be affected.

As the State Transportation Board adopts the LRTP, the Board offers the following specific comments:

- As acknowledged in the Governor's Executive Budget summary and by bills being considered in the Legislature, the current state of the Motor Fuel Tax revenues is inadequate and fails to capture the growing number of alternative and fuel efficient vehicles. This results in increased pressure on state and local governments, severely limiting their ability to build, maintain, and operate our critical transportation system. The inadequacy of transportation revenues has been a strong theme communicated to ADOT and the Board by our citizenry and transportation stakeholders throughout our extensive public outreach activities.
- The LRTP is a policy plan providing guidance to the Board. The Board recognizes that compelling highway system preservation and modernization/safety must be top priorities; however, there continue to be demands on our system that create the need for highway expansion in areas throughout the state. As the Board considers the Five-Year Program each year, the Board will exercise due diligence toward system preservation, modernization and safety, but the Board may also choose to seriously consider system expansion on a case by case basis as we believe may be warranted.
- The Board recognizes there are also significant discussions about infrastructure funding at the federal level. The Board will carefully observe these discussions and guide ADOT to be prepared and flexible to optimize benefits for Arizona based on any plan ultimately approved by the U.S. Congress.

The State Transportation Board values its important role in serving the state of Arizona. Thank you for your consideration of the Long Range Transportation Plan and our additional, specific comments.

Respectfully,



William Cuthbertson, Chairman



Jack Sellers, Vice Chairman



Deanna Beaver, Member



Michael S. Hammond, Member



Steve Stratton, Member



Jesse Thompson, Member



Sam Elters, Member

Enclosures

cc. John S. Halikowski, ADOT Director