

# Director's Letter

September 2017

Arizona benefits from one of the best performing transportation systems in the nation. The statewide network of highways, transit systems, airports, local roads, and bicycle/pedestrian facilities is crucial to our economic prosperity and quality of life, providing Arizona's citizens access to jobs, education, and recreation, and enhancing the productivity and market access of Arizona's businesses.



Going forward, however, the State and its partners face tough choices about investment of our limited transportation dollars. For example, the fact that our transportation system is getting older means the cost of maintaining and preserving that system is increasing. On the other hand, continued population growth leads to demands for costly capacity and operational improvements. To help inform difficult trade-off decisions regarding how the State will address its future transportation dollars, ADOT undertook this update of our statewide long-range transportation plan known as *What Moves You Arizona 2040 (WMYA 2040)*. The update of the plan incorporated a performance-based, data driven planning process that brought together Arizona's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Councils of Government (COGs), and numerous other transportation stakeholders to create a new vision for how ADOT will fund and operate our transportation system in the future. Significant input from Arizona citizens provided us further guidance to form this vision.

The primary finding of WMYA 2040 is the Recommended Investment Choice (RIC), which establishes guidance on how ADOT will allocate future transportation funding among preservation (maintaining the condition of existing roads and bridges), modernization (improving safety and deploying technology to enhance system operations), and expansion (new roads and adding lanes to existing facilities). As the updated plan describes, current realities will require ADOT to focus funding that is not dedicated to system expansion in the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas on preservation and modernization. We will also continue our efforts to focus on performance-based decision making, and we will work with our partners to deliver the best system performance possible with the resources we have available.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John S. Halikowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

John S. Halikowski  
ADOT Director