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Funding Transportation Infrastructure in Arizona
ADOT Communications, Office of Public Affairs

Few realize how big Arizona really is--only six other states are larger. In terms of transportation, this means planning and maintaining 28,348 lane miles, nearly 30,000 freeway signs and over 4,700 bridges. Your Arizona Department of Transportation, (ADOT) is more than just about building freeways--we are a multi-modal agency also responsible for planning transit and many aviation operations throughout Arizona.

- ADOT's leadership believes that there is a strong and direct link between a quality transportation system and a vibrant economy. The swift movement of goods, services and people are critical to a thriving economy and a high quality of life in Arizona. Recognizing that transportation infrastructure is one of the key foundations of economic development, ADOT developed the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) which was adopted by the State Transportation Board in November of 2011. This multimodal plan identifies the needs at \$88.9 billion with projected revenues of \$26.2 billion over a 25 year timeframe.

So how do we pay for this? ADOT's traditional funding sources include the gas tax, vehicle licensing fees and monies from federal programs. But these funding sources are highly sensitive to economic conditions and political decision making at the state and federal levels.

Many consider the federal or state gas tax as the ultimate user fee and the foundation for transportation funding. While true, neither the federal or state gas tax has changed since the early 1990's. For every gallon of gas purchased, the state receives 18.4 cents in revenue and the federal government receives 18 cents in revenue. Fuel consumption dictates the health of this fundamental funding source for ADOT. Recent rising gas prices, the economy and driver habits have impacted behavioral changes and resulted in a decline in gas tax collections for Arizona.

This decline means ADOT must adjust its business plan for the future. ADOT has been known as an agency of highway expansion, traditionally spending 76% of revenues on new capacity. With declining revenues, our agency's business plan will shift to largely preservation and maintenance, with limited funding for new highway expansion.

ADOT's Office of Public Affairs is reaching out to inform local government leaders, chambers of commerce, trade associations, the business community and you on the status of today's transportation needs. ADOT understands the key to Arizona's economic recovery is a vibrant multi-modal transportation system. By working together to build partnerships in the community, we can address these important fiscal issues with innovative solutions while ensuring a sustainable transportation system for generations to come.

Visit our blog to learn more about how transportation is funded in Arizona:

<http://adotblog.blogspot.com/2012/04/funding-arizona-transportation.html>