

citizen-driven regional transportation plan

RTA overview – The Regional Transportation Authority, which manages the implementation of a 20-year regional transportation plan that is funded through June 2026, is planning to develop a second RTA plan to continue RTA project delivery. The current RTA plan, approved by voters in May 2006, is funded by a half-cent excise (sales) tax, which also was voter-approved and is collected from the RTA's state-established taxing district within Pima County. To date, the RTA has delivered more than 870 projects within budget and on time, affirmed by a state audit of plan performance in its first 10 years. The independently governed RTA Board established and charged a citizens' advisory committee with developing a draft, citizen-driven regional transportation plan with broad public input and ultimate voter approval.

Why a citizen-driven process? Voting citizens of Pima County ultimately will need to support the next RTA regional transportation plan for a new plan period. Citizen input is important, and the RTA needs to deliver a regionally balanced plan voters will support.

What is the role of the citizens in this process? Currently, the RTA has established a citizens' advisory committee with people who represent diverse interests. The membership also reflects balanced geographic representation of the region. Their role is to develop a draft regional transportation plan to be shared with the public for feedback.

Prior to committee development of the draft plan, the RTA sought initial public feedback on guiding principles and goals the committee established to develop the plan. Over 85% of the people participating in a November 2019 survey indicated that they strongly agree or agree with the following goals: improve the condition of existing roadways, provide efficient crosstown mobility, reduce congestion and reduce crashes at intersections. The RTA currently is encouraging the public to provide their views of regional transportation priorities. The public may submit their comments at RTAnext.com for plan development consideration.

What is the role of RTA members? Each of the RTA members (Pima County, the cities of Tucson and South Tucson, the towns of Marana, Sahuarita and Oro Valley, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Arizona Department of Transportation) were asked to submit named corridor projects to be considered as candidate projects by the citizens' advisory committee and provide technical guidance as needed. Named projects are those with clear scope and cost estimates that can be identified on a future ballot.

**What are your
transportation priorities?**



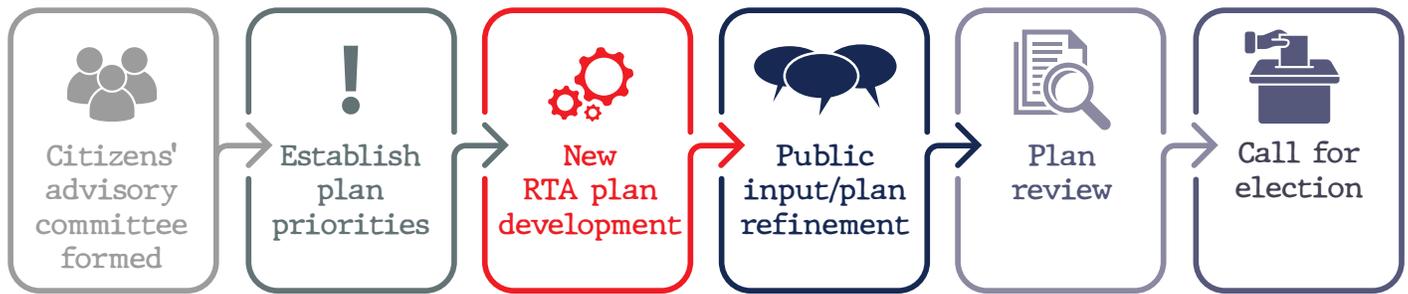
Tell us
about them.



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How will the plan be developed?

- 1) The citizens’ advisory committee learns about the plan development process and factors to consider for future project selection, such as how new projects will meet desired performance outcomes. The committee establishes plan guiding principles and priorities and seeks public feedback through a regionwide survey.
- 2) Named new RTA projects are submitted for review.
- 3) Categorical elements of the plan will be identified by the committee. (e.g., transit, safety, environmental and economic vitality).
- 4) Future RTA revenue projections will be updated to set a plan budget. The RTA’s tax-generated revenue is the only voter-approved dedicated and flexible funding source for meeting regional transportation needs in Pima County.
- 5) The committee will review the new RTA project list, consider the various planning factors that have been presented, identify categorical needs, gather technical input from the RTA’s Technical Management Committee (project scope, cost and desired performance outcomes) and determine which projects to select for a draft plan and available budget. Project costs cannot exceed projected revenues. The committee’s project selection will be based on meeting the region’s greatest transportation needs guided by what projects have been recommended by the RTA members and by technical parameters, projected performance measures and initial public input.
- 6) The RTA will seek broad public feedback on the draft plan to ensure the committee’s recommendations meet the transportation needs of the citizens of the region. The draft plan will be refined as needed.
- 7) The RTA will ask stakeholders to review and endorse the final draft of the citizen-driven plan.
- 8) The nine-member RTA Board, representing RTA members, will approve the final draft.
- 9) An election date will be set, and voters will decide the fate of the plan and tax.

Plan development goals for the next RTA plan:

- reduce congestion
- provide efficient crosstown mobility
- improve transit ridership
- reduce crashes at intersections
- reduce wildlife-related crashes
- improve the conditions of existing roadways
- provide safer bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- maintain or improve air quality
- improve access to workplaces
- add functionality to key corridors