

SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

Serving our member governments and their constituents since 1972

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Cochise County Benson Bisbee **Douglas** Huachuca City Sierra Vista **Tombstone** Willcox **Graham County** Pima Safford San Carlos Apache Tribe **Thatcher** Greenlee County Clifton Duncan Santa Cruz County Nogales Patagonia San Carlos Apache Tribe

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RESOLUTION NO. 2017-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE BOARD URGING THE ARIZONA LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO DIRECT DEDICATED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING TO ITS INTENDED USES, AND TO MODERNIZE OUR TRANPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING MECHANISMS

WHEREAS, the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) is a regional planning agency which performs and coordinates a variety of functions, including transportation planning, in the four-county region of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties; and

WHEREAS, transportation revenue streams are declining due to better vehicle fuel efficiency, reductions of vehicle miles driven, declining motor vehicle sales, and fuel taxes not being adjusted for inflation for nearly twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$107 million in dedicated transportation funding was diverted to fund other government programs in the current fiscal year, and over \$2 billion has been diverted since 2001; and

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing diversions of dedicated transportation funding, Arizona State, county, and municipal road programs have been significantly scaled back to routine maintenance work, which will hasten far more costly reconstruction activity at the public's expense in the future, negatively impact highway safety, and increase vehicle maintenance and repair costs for both the general public and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the State's updated 25-year Long Range Transportation Plan (from 2016 through the 2040 planning horizon), which considers such factors as pavement conditions, congestion levels and safety performance, projects an \$81.6 billion gap between system needs and anticipated revenues; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the diversion of transportation funding is vital for developing and maintaining the quality infrastructure needed to support jobs and economic growth, enhance Arizona's global competitiveness in interstate and international trade, and maintain the quality of life Arizonans have come to expect.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the SEAGO Executive Board that the Governor and State Legislature are hereby urged to eliminate the diversion of transportation funding to the State General Fund, to direct dedicated funding such as HURF toward its intended uses, and to modernize the mechanisms needed to develop and maintain our State's transportation infrastructure.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 24th day of February 2017.

Gerald Lindsey, Chair

SEAGO Executive Board

Randy Heiss,

SEAGO Executive Director