

# SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

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# SEAGO Member Entities

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

## SEAGO Main Office

Administration Community and Economic Dev. Transportation

1403 W. Hwy 92 Bisbee, AZ 85603 520-432-5301 520-432-5858 Fax

### Area Agency on Aging Office

300 Collins Road Bisbee, AZ 85603 520-432-2528 520-432-9168 Fax

www.seago.org

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2018-04**

# 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 continue to decline due to better vehicle fuel efficiency, reductions of vehicle miles driven, and fuel taxes not being adjusted for inflation for nearly twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$111 million in dedicated transportation funding was diverted to fund other government programs in the current fiscal year, and over \$2.1 billion has been diverted since 2001; and

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing diversions of dedicated transportation funding, Arizona's 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, ADOT's recently updated 25-year Long Range Transportation Plan 2016 – 2040 considers such factors as pavement conditions, congestion levels and safety performance, and anticipates \$98.3 billion will be needed to meet Statewide Multimodal Spending Needs over the Plan's 25-year period; and

WHEREAS, the Long Range Transportation Plan has identified the State's total highway capital needs from 2016-2040 to be \$53.3 billion, and with only \$22.8 billion in anticipated revenue to meet those needs, there is a \$30.5 billion funding gap between system needs and available 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; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Highway Safety Fee established by HB 2166 will fully fund the Department of Public Safety operations in Fiscal Year 2020 and therefore eliminates the need to divert HURF, Vehicle License Tax, or other revenue sources dedicated for transportation purposes to the State General Fund.

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 funding mechanisms needed to adequately develop and maintain our State's transportation infrastructure.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018.

John Doyle, Chair

**SEAGO** Executive Board

Randy Heiss,

**SEAGO** Executive Director