



# SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

*Serving our member governments and their constituents since 1972*

## RESOLUTION NO. 2014-02

### A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE BOARD URGING THE ARIZONA LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO DIRECT DEDICATED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING SUCH AS HURF TO ITS INTENDED USES

#### 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*

**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, higher gas prices reducing vehicle miles driven, declining motor vehicle sales, and fuel taxes not being adjusted for inflation for nearly twenty years; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2001, the State has diverted over \$1.7 billion in highway and road funding to pay for an increasingly larger portion of Department of Public Safety (DPS) operations over the past twelve years; and

**WHEREAS**, in spite of an annual cap of \$20 million, approximately \$127 million in HURF funding was diverted to fund DPS operations in the current fiscal year, while the State General Fund contributed only \$45 million; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the HURF diversions and revenue declines, \$350 million in previously planned highway construction and maintenance activity have been eliminated from the State's five-year plan; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the HURF diversions and revenue declines, 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 25-year Long Range Transportation Plan, which considers such factors as pavement conditions, congestion levels and safety performance, projects a \$63 billion gap between needs and revenues; and

#### SEAGO Office Administration CDBG

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**WHEREAS**, in recent years, state general fund revenues have surpassed forecasted levels, and as of the end of November, year-to-date revenues were \$53 million above forecasted levels, weakening the rationale for subsidizing the state budget with HURF funds; and

**WHEREAS**, eliminating the diversion of transportation funding is vital for developing and maintaining the quality infrastructure needed to protect public safety and the environment, support jobs and economic growth, and enhance the overall quality of life for Arizonans.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the SEAGO Executive Board that the State Legislature and Governor are hereby urged to eliminate the diversion of transportation funding to the State General Fund and to direct dedicated funding such as HURF toward its intended uses.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2014.

  
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Rudy Molera, Chair  
SEAGO Executive Board

  
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Randy Heiss,  
SEAGO Executive Director