



# SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

*Serving our member governments and their constituents since 1972*

## RESOLUTION NO. 2019-05

### A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE BOARD URGING ARIZONA'S STATE ELECTED LEADERS TO DIRECT DEDICATED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING TO ITS INTENDED USES AND URGING ARIZONA'S STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTED LEADERS TO STABILIZE AND MODERNIZE OUR TRANSPORTATION 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 improved vehicle fuel efficiency, reductions of vehicle miles driven, and fuel taxes not being adjusted for inflation for nearly twenty-five years; and

**WHEREAS**, Arizona's fuel tax rate is ranked 46th in the nation as many other states have proactively increase their gasoline tax, implemented automatic adjustments based on fuel prices and inflation, or are considering alternative funding measures such as sales taxes dedicated to transportation or moving to vehicle miles travelled fee structures; and

**WHEREAS**, more than \$2.1 billion in transportation funding dedicated for maintenance, modernization and expansion of Arizona's transportation systems has been diverted to the State General Fund since 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, the historic diversions of dedicated transportation funding have caused Arizona's State, county, and municipal transportation systems to fall into a state of disrepair, and road programs to be reduced to routine maintenance work – which will result in more costly reconstruction 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 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

#### 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

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**WHEREAS**, the State's Long Range Transportation Plan has identified Arizona'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 remains a \$30.5 billion funding gap between system needs and available revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, limiting the diversion of transportation funding to the statutory limit of \$20 million 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 AS FOLLOWS:**

**THAT** the Governor and State Legislature are hereby urged to direct dedicated funding toward its intended uses and to limit the diversion of HURF funding to the statutory limit of \$20 million;

**THAT**, the Governor, State Legislature, and U.S. Congress are hereby urged to stabilize our primary transportation funding mechanism by indexing the gasoline tax to inflation in order to enable transportation funding to keep pace with ever increasing costs; and

**THAT**, the Governor, State Legislature, and U.S. Congress are hereby urged to modernize State and Federal transportation funding mechanisms by increasing the fuel tax rate, implementing sales taxes dedicated to transportation, or moving to vehicle miles travelled fee structures to adequately develop and maintain our State's transportation infrastructure.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2019.

  
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David Gomez, Chair  
SEAGO Executive Board

*Richard Ortega for*

  
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Randy Heiss,  
SEAGO Executive Director