

Investing in Transportation Infrastructure: The Economic Upside of What Voters Want

What's the Issue?

Arizona's rapid growth is outpacing its current transportation infrastructure. Voters **across all demographics and party affiliations agree** it's time to act. According to Center for the Future of Arizona's **2024 Arizona Voters' Agenda**:

- 90% of voters agree that robust transportation infrastructure is essential to Arizona's long-term economic success.
- 88% support a long-term investment strategy based on stable revenue and better planning.

Bottom line: The vast majority of voters see stronger planning and investing in freeways, roads, and public transit as top priorities for the state's future.

What Arizona Stands to Gain

Investing in highways, roads, and transit systems delivers measurable economic returns by supporting commerce, creating jobs, and reducing everyday costs.

- In metro Phoenix, congestion costs drivers an estimated \$1.5 billion annually in lost time and wasted fuel (about \$400 per driver).
- The extension of Prop 400 in Maricopa County is expected to generate \$3.70 in economic benefits for every \$1 invested in transportation projects.
- In Pima County, continued investment through an extended RTA plan could support 102,000 new jobs and generate a 1.6-to-1 return on investment by 2045.
- Public transit (bus and rail systems) investments generate a 5-to-1 return and can reduce household transportation costs by approximately \$1,100 per month.

The Economic Case for Action on Transportation

Transportation infrastructure is a foundational component of a strong economy. Strategic investments reduce costs for taxpayers, improve competitiveness, and support job creation. With strong public support and real-world case studies showing high returns on investment, aligning policy with voter priorities will support statewide growth, improve mobility, and strengthen local economies.

Voter-backed priorities like transportation infrastructure offer a high return for Arizona and a strong foundation for long-term prosperity.

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