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ADOT seeks public input at community workshops

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and local/regional partners are hosting a series of community workshops in late March and early April across the state to solicit public input on a long-range vision for the future of transportation in Arizona.

The workshop will be held in Show Low Monday, March 24 at Torreon Golf Clubhouse Pavilion, 651 S. Torreon Loop.

This statewide transportation planning process looks ahead to the year 2050 and is also known as "Building a Quality Arizona."

For purposes of study, the state has been divided into four regions. Regional Framework Studies kicked off earlier this year for Northern, Western, Central and Eastern Arizona.

The first phase of the yearlong Framework Planning Process focuses on "Existing Conditions and Issues Identification." The community will be asked: "What is your vision of the future of Arizona and your region?" and "Based on what you think the future holds, what are the transportation needs for your region?"

The community workshops are designed to encourage local communities to hear information about the process, review the work to date and provide input, according to ADOT officials. All workshops are open to the public.

ADOT is partnering with local and regional planning organizations across the state such as local councils of government and metropolitan planning organizations, as well as tribal communities, the business/development community and the environmental/conservation community to ensure the true statewide collaboration that is necessary to make this effort a success.

For more information on community workshops near you or general information about the study visit www.bqaz.gov.

ADOT says the Framework process is a unique and unprecedented way of looking at transportation planning because it looks further into the future than ever before. Traditional planning timeframes are about 20 years. This process looks out to 2050.

Most planning processes are cost-constrained, meaning that they look at the dollars available and then try to fit transportation improvements within those dollars. This process is not cost constrained but instead considers what is needed in the future.

This statewide process is unprecedented in the United States because it will examine transportation in the context of community and economic development. This is important to communities at the local level because it is an opportunity to look ahead at community and economic development patterns and the desires of local and regional communities in terms of growth and development to make smart choices about the future.

The Regional Framework Studies will be compiled in early 2009 into a Statewide Planning Framework "that truly reflects the desires and growth trends at the local level."

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