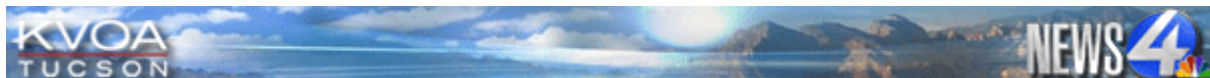


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State transportation board OKs strategy

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PHOENIX (AP) - The state Transportation Board has formally adopted a transportation spending strategy that provides a planning foundation for a proposed ballot measure to raise the sales tax by a penny on the dollar.

The "Statewide Transportation Investment Strategy" calls for spending \$42.5 billion over 30 years for highway construction, transit, rail service and other projects.

Transportation Director Victor Mendez says the strategy would help reduce Arizona's reliance on gasoline and increase transportation options.

The money to implement the strategy would come from the sales tax increase proposed in the so-called "TIME" initiative filed by business interests and other backers last month.

That coalition has until July 3 to file voter signatures to get it on the November ballot.

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