

PHOENIX -- What will Arizona roads look like in 40 years?

Teresa Wellborn with the Arizona Department of Transportation said they could look very different from now.

Interstate 17 could be eight lanes in each direction. There could be a new freeway from the west Valley to Flagstaff. There could even be high-speed rail from Phoenix to Los Angeles, San Diego and Las Vegas.

The sky's the limit, according to Wellborn.

"How do we want to get to work? How do we want to go shopping?" are questions ADOT's asking Arizona residents in an online survey. Participants are asked to pretend that money is no issue.

"When you are free to think about this vision for 40 years, you come up with some great ideas," said Wellborn. "This 40-year vision will take us right into our 20-year plan. What's it really going to look like, but with cost constraints."

People shouldn't think about how old they are -- or whether they'll be around in 40 years, Wellborn said.

"Most of us listening now probably weren't in Arizona 40 years ago either, but we were planning for now."

She added, "We've never underestimated our growth in the state of Arizona. So we have to be ready for people who are moving here. We have to plan for those 40 years."

All the ideas are just "what ifs" at the moment, but Wellborn said planning for some of them will start in the next two years.

