

## Change is long human desire

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President-elect Barack Obama has had great success with the shortest campaign slogan in history - "Change" - although he is not the first to recognize the uniquely human ability and need to consciously adapt to new circumstances.

Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him."

With a bit more grit, Democratic President Woodrow Wilson said, "If you want to make enemies, try to change something."

Most bluntly by Harold Wilson, "He who rejects change is the architect of decay. The only human institution which rejects change is the cemetery."

But lastly, and perhaps most timely and profound is anonymous quote: "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

With these quotations in mind, I offer huge kudos to all of the participants in the Nov. 19 Arizona Department of Transportation-sponsored meetings in Yuma regarding comprehensive planning for the transportation needs of a rapidly growing Arizona.

The concept of preparing Arizona for the decades of 2030 through 2050 is delightfully audacious! As our domestic automobile manufacturing industry is discovering the hard way, adaptation or extinction are not simply abstract intellectual concepts found in academic conversations bent over cups of espresso.

And the lessons go well beyond our choices in mobility. "The one unchangeable certainty is that nothing is certain or unchangeable," said John F. Kennedy.

The year 2050 will out of necessity and desirability be unrecognizable to us. This is worthy of celebration. Let's embrace it "not because it's easy, but because it's hard."

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