

Regional Council Meeting Summary

Meeting Summary of Thursday, December 4, 2025

Full Video Recording (YouTube): [YouTube Recorded Meeting](#)

"We encourage and uphold the importance of regional collaboration as the Regional Council addresses regional priorities and pursues regional solutions."

To view the full Regional Collaboration and Unity Pledge, visit: PAGregion.com/pledge

Regional Council Members Present: Mayor Jon Post
General Ted Maxwell
Mayor Tom Murphy
Supervisor Matt Heinz
Mayor Roxanna Valenzuela
Mayor Joe Winfield
Chairman Verlon Jose
Chairman Julian Hernandez
Mayor Regina Romero

Regional Council Members Absent: None

Staff Lead: Michael J. Ortega, P.E., Executive Director

The following is an audio-to-text transcription of the **Regional Council Meeting held on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025**, and is being used as the written summary of the discussion. Minor changes were made to the transcription to include grammar or formatting for clarity, YouTube links/time stamps, spelling corrections and the addition of the agenda number or items based on the posted agenda.

Agenda

1. Call to Order (12:09 p.m.)

[Item #1 Video Link](#)

Mayor Romero: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you so much for waiting for me. I was having lunch because I was starving. But thank you for joining us. Do we have anyone with us online? OK, so we will call this meeting to order. I think we have to do roll call first, correct? Roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

- Mayor Joe Winfield
- Mayor Tom Murphy
- Mayor Roxanna Valenzuela
- Chairman Julian Hernandez
- General Ted Maxwell
- Mayor Jon Post
- Mayor Regina Romero

Mayor Romero: Please join me for the Pledge of Allegiance.

All: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Romero: Thank you so much. Really appreciated. Item number 2 is call to the audience. Do we have any people waiting for a call to the audience?

2. Call to the Audience (Remote Access Option)

[Item #2 Video Link](#)

Adam Ledford: Madam Chair, we do have a speaker today. As a reminder, speakers are limited to a three-minute oral presentation and may submit written comments of any length for the council's files. Calls to the audience are limited to 30 minutes. Individual council members may respond to criticism made by those individuals who have addressed the council. However, the council will not discuss or take action on a matter raised during a call to the audience that is not

already on the agenda. And today we have Mr. J.P. Salvatierra. Thank you, Mr. Salvatierra. You are now in front of the Regional Council. If you would start your comments by stating your name on the record and, after that, you'll have 3 minutes to address the PAG Regional Council. At the two-minute mark, I'll politely hold up a finger to let you know you have 1 minute remaining.

Speakers List (with audio links):

- [J.P. Salvatierra](#)

Adam Ledford: Thank you, Speaker. Madam Chair, at this time, that's all the speakers that we have.

Mayor Romero: Thank you so much, Mr. Ledford. And we move on to item 3, meeting summary approvals.

3. Meeting Summary Approvals

[Item #3 Video Link](#)

Mayor Murphy: Move to approve.

Mayor Romero: There's a motion to approve. May I have a second?

Mayor Winfield: Second.

Mayor Romero: There's a motion and a second. Any further discussion on this motion? Hearing none, all those in favor please signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

Mayor Romero: Any against? Motion carries. And I just want to let the record show that Regional Council Member Heinz and Regional Council Member Jose have joined us at the table. Thank you so much for joining us. Appreciate you two. We move on to item 4, consent agenda items.

4. Consent Agenda Items

[Item #4 Video Link](#)

Mayor Post: Move to approve.

Madam Chair: There is a motion to approve, and may I have a second.

Mayor Murphy: Second?

Mayor Romero: A motion and a second. Any further discussion?

Mayor Winfield: Madam Chair.

Mayor Romero: Yes, Council Member Winfield.

Mayor Winfield: So, just one comment on item B. The Oro Valley or Town of Oro Valley would like to request that a sentence or two be added that just gives a brief explanation as to what the contract is and some brief financial information that's related to those contracts that would facilitate the review of those. So, again, we're just asking for a sentence or two, and then financial summary information. Thank you.

Mayor Romero: So, that is just additional language.

Mayor Winfield: Yes.

Mayor Romero: OK. Perfect. Any further discussion on this item? Hearing none, all those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

Mayor Romero: Any against? Motion carries. Item 5, PAG Regional Active Transportation Plan. I know that PAG staff has a prepared presentation. Ms. Hannah Oden is at the podium to give us a presentation. Ms. Oden?

5. PAG Regional Active Transportation Plan (RATP)

[Item #5 Video Link](#)

PAG Planning Manager Hannah Oden provided the Regional Council with a presentation regarding the RATP which included the key elements of the plan. Links to the YouTube Recording and presentation slides are below.

- **[Staff Presentation to Regional Council - Item #5](#)**

- [Item-5-Final-Draft-RATP-Plan-Presentation.pdf](#)

Following the presentation, the Regional Council continued discussion.

Mayor Romero: May I have a motion please to approve the RATP?

Mayor Murphy: Move to approve.

Mayor Romero: There's a motion, is there a second on the motion?

Mayor Post: Second.

Mayor Romero: Any discussion? I do have some commentary. I think that now having this information with us to be able to put it to work is going to be key. I think that we've all seen the stories in the paper, right? The pedestrian and bicycle crashes and the lack of safety on our streets for pedestrians and bicyclists, and so I'm glad that there's a lot of examples of how we can create more safety. The safety of people walking and biking is a huge problem and it's not just happening here in Pima County or in Arizona, it's happening throughout the country. And I don't know if you all read the story in the Arizona Daily Star, it was a front-page article talking about the problems regarding the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the country. And it is a huge issue that we really do have to tackle together. I did bring a memo, but that's going to be later on in the meeting, requesting that we, as Pima Association of Governments, take a look at how to make pedestrian and bicycle safety that much better as a region. I think we need to tackle this. I'm happy that PAG is taking an active role in creating a plan within the regional active transportation system, and I think that moving forward our role as Pima Association of Governments and a planning organization, this piece will be super important for us to tackle: pedestrian and bicycle safety. I also understand that Pima County, together with the City of Tucson, was successful in being selected for Safe Streets for All, a grant, and we are collaborating and putting together an action plan. I don't want us to do work that is already being done, so it might be a good idea to have Pima County present, maybe present to staff at PAG and see how we can further collaborate with pedestrian and bike safety in our community. So I just wanted to add that. I don't know if any others have some questions or comments.

Mayor Winfield: Miss Oden, the Town of Oro Valley is working on a similar effort that parallels this nicely, and I know our staff has been working with you. When our plan is completed, is there a process so that the information in the Town of

Oro Valley plan, that's not reflected in this, can be integrated or incorporated? Is there a process to do that?

Hannah Oden: Madam Chair, Mayor Winfield, I could think that maybe information efforts could go into the next RMAP cycle. It's also our long-range transportation plan.

Mayor Winfield: And that cycle is what?

Hannah Oden: So, it was just approved earlier this year, so in another, it'll be four years from now, roughly.

Mayor Winfield: Thank you.

Mayor Murphy: I'd just be interested when you do have that presentation by the County, I'm not clear if it's just working with the City on those proposals or working with all the municipalities. We all participated recently on an economic development plan the County's working on, so I'll just be curious to make sure that it's all inclusive with all of our –

Mayor Romero: And it might be, it might be a council member, it might be a good conversation to have at the table.

Mayor Murphy: Right.

Mayor Romero: With all of us so that we can, the issue is not having to do the same work.

Mayor Murphy: Multiple times.

Mayor Romero: Multiple times. Maybe it's an opportunity to include your town's input into what's happening with the Safe Streets for All action plan. We can talk further in terms of how to itemize it at the next PAG meeting, but it might be a really good conversation for all of us to have at this table.

Mayor Murphy: Thanks.

Mayor Romero: All righty. So, there's a motion and a second. Any further discussion or comments?

Michael J. Ortega: Madam Chair, I just wanted to point out the RTA Next plan has \$254.6 million for safety and active transportation. The idea is this will set some of the framework for that. The conversations that happen can already basically be guided by what you've seen. So, I think it's important to mention that there's already a plan for investment, assuming that RTA Next is successful in March. But I wanted to point that out and remind you that that's already included. Thank you.

Mayor Romero: Yeah, that's a great point. Council Member Maxwell.

General Maxwell: Madam Chair, since the Executive Director brought it up, I think it's really important to remember that often these plans are great, but if they don't have funding behind them, it becomes a challenge, so we have to think about that. And it's not just the \$254 million that's in the safety for an active transportation category that makes these types of improvements. Every single road project that is in there will also have both the safety and the active transportation aspects built into the project so when you look at it's a lot more than \$254 million in the RTA Next. It's probably closer to \$1.4 billion or 1.5 billion when you add up the different areas that all contribute to that safety and back to transportation.

Mayor Romero: That's right. Council Member.

Mayor Murphy: Can I just piggyback off of that? The other advantage is if it does pass, when it passes, it also frees up the PAG money that's been dedicated. So, it compounds. It's the road projects, it's the dedicated funding, and also as those needs become apparent as we move forward, that those PAG monies are also available, which we've used over the years before. We were sweeping them to try to continue our commitment to RTA 1.

Mayor Romero: So, it further highlights that the need to have this conversation as a Regional Council. Councilmember Jose.

Chairman Jose: Good day to everyone, Madam Chair, Honorable Board Members. All I have to say is as long as South Tucson, Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham Nation are not forgotten and pushed to the wayside. Thank you.

Mayor Romero: Absolutely. Absolutely agree. Council Member Heinz.

Supervisor Heinz: Thank you. I understand that earlier on with regard to the methodology here, I know City of Tucson staff and Pima County staff as well as I believe Town of Marana staff had some concerns about specifics of the methodology and how this was conducted. So can we just clarify, for me, for the group here, what we're approving, like proscriptive dollars will go in these buckets kind of thing, or is this more of a guide? Because I'm just trying to figure out what is going to be happening because of this plan specifically and what does this vote exactly mean?

Michael J. Ortega: Madam Chair, I'll take a stab at that. I think that question did come up actually at the TMC as well. And the concern was the prescriptiveness or is this a prescriptive recipe if you will for how these dollars would be expended? The short answer is no. This is a guide in terms of what the region's priorities are today, right this minute, but it obviously has opportunity, particularly when we start getting into the detail of the RTA Next investments, as well as the regional fund investments down the road, there is flexibility. So, this is intended to be the guide for the region in terms of the information that we gathered, but it is not intended to be prescriptive and said we can only stay within this plan. That is not the intent.

Mayor Romero: Any others? All righty, if no other points of discussion, all those in favor of the motion please signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

Mayor Romero: Any against? Motion carries. Item 6. When I find it, is Dial-a-Ride Microtransit Service Area Analysis. Miss Oden and Mr. Preston McLaughlin are going to present on this, too.

6. Dial-a-Ride and Microtransit Service Area Analysis

[Item #5 Video Link](#)

PAG Planning Manager Hannah Oden and Transportation Mobility Manager Preston McLaughlin provided the Regional Council with a presentation detailing the Dial-a-Ride and Microtransit Service Area Analysis. Links to the YouTube Recording and presentation slides are below.

- **[Staff Presentation to Regional Council - Item #6](#)**
- **[Item-6-Dial-a-Ride-and-Microtransit-Final-Report.pdf](#)**

Following the presentation, the Regional Council continued discussion.

Mayor Romero: Any questions?

Mayor Murphy: Madam Chair.

Mayor Romero: Council Member Murphy.

Mayor Murphy: Well, one, I'm personally pretty excited about this. I've been following the microtransit movement, across the country and it seems like it's more personalized, more effective, more flexible, so I'm happy to see we're moving in this direction personally. I do have a question though for other areas of unincorporated Pima County, what does it take to actually qualify because of my previous life doing some other things. I think of Amado, Aravaca, Elephant Head, and Three Points, some of those areas that really have a struggling demographic. And transportation is usually the linchpin from it. So I'm just curious on where you have to get to to actually be included, I know we're beginning on this, but the smaller areas, how do we help meet their needs in the future?

Preston McLaughlin: Thank you for that question, Mayor Murphy. So first and foremost, the microtransit zones and the eligibility criteria, at least for what we're envisioning, it would be similar to our general public Dial-a-Ride services where everyone, you don't have to qualify per se. The only qualification would be if you live, not even if you live, if your origin and destination are both within the service area boundary, then you're able to take it. So, there isn't any sort of eligibility. Anyone can theoretically be provided with these services in the future if we decide to move forward and implement them. In terms of other unincorporated areas of the County that could potentially benefit from microtransit service, I know and maybe Kimley-Horn, staff from Kimley-Horn Horn or Hannah could add to this, but I believe we looked at the county as a whole, and at least at this point in time, in terms of the demographics, the population, urban density, so on and so forth. These 13 zones were the zones that made the most sense and where transit service isn't really available, and the gap would be filled with the microtransit service typically in the suburban rural areas. I would say, if population continues to increase in these communities, then we can reassess and determine if microtransit is a good fit for those communities. I think at this point, they weren't targeted and picked out. But that doesn't mean in the future if demographics change and population increases and the need is there, we can

always reassess, reevaluate and run a similar type of analysis to determine if it makes sense.

Mayor Murphy: Right. I know this is the beginning of it. So, I appreciate that. But of course, keeping the whole County in mind as we move forward.

Preston McLaughlin: Absolutely.

Mayor Romero: Council Member Jose.

Chairman Jose: Thank you for the presentation. What would be some of the restrictions or unallowable services provided? Is there anything that you would say, I'm just trying to think. I don't know of any. I'm just asking if there's anything that you know that would not be allowable or would not restrict someone from utilizing the services.

Preston McLaughlin: Thank you for the question, Council Member Jose. No, in theory, this service should be available to everyone. Again, the only parameters would be that where they're going and where they're being picked up need to be within the service area boundary unless, I guess the caveat is there are certain nodes outside of the service area that are considered key destinations like hospitals and major shopping centers where they could theoretically go outside that boundary. But in terms of who is eligible, everyone should be eligible. Obviously, there's going to be rules and policies for the riders. And if they are unruly or prevent some sort of safety hazard for other riders or drivers, then there could be suspension. And those individuals probably couldn't utilize the service but other than that, the service should be available for everybody.

Chairman Jose: Thank you for that. You're going to need a really big truck to come to my house. Thank you.

Mayor Romero: Chairman, I mean Council Member.

Mayor Winfield: Oro Valley was illustrated in your presentation as a successful Dial-a-Ride and growing program. Is the vision or intent of the microtransit, let's say in relation to the Oro Valley area, that this would be an additional alternative or option for our residents, the microtransit, and not replace the Dial-a-Ride?

Preston McLaughlin: Yeah, so, I believe the intent would be to replace the existing Dial-a-Ride with the microtransit model, where it's basically the same

thing. The only main difference I would say is that instead of booking 24 hours in advance, residents of Oro Valley could just book at that moment and be picked up within a 30-minute window. But the operational aspect of things shouldn't deviate very much from the actual Dial-a-Ride service being provided in your community right now. So, it would only be an enhancement. It would cost a little extra, obviously, but it would be a lot more convenient for riders to get on an app, book a trip, and then be picked up in 30 minutes versus having to call in 24 hours, at least 24 hours, in advance to book that trip.

Mayor Winfield: Thank you.

General Maxwell: Council Member Maxwell.

General Maxwell: Thank you, Madam Chair and Mayor Winfield. You set up my question perfectly. So you had the numbers up there, I think \$12 million annually, and you threw out a number to get all the financials. So there's the financials. Does that, the cost of actually running it, what it's up and running, and what kind of savings does it get us from what we're currently expending if it's going to be replacement? So, we're not looking at that, or is that the differential?

Preston McLaughlin: It's my understanding that these numbers do account for the replacing of the existing services. So that would be the net increase to provide all of those services. That doesn't mean we need to provide all 13. That would be in the scenario if we did provide all 13 services. That's how much it would cost on an annual basis to provide transit service to all of those zones. You can, mix and match and pick.

General Maxwell: And clarify that includes the funding that like Oro Valley's already receiving for their Dial-a-Ride. That would be in addition to the Oro Valley line up there.

Preston McLaughlin: Yeah, so the cost of service to run the Oro Valley Dial-a-Ride was subtracted from this total calculation, and then the Oro Valley microtransit option was then added. So, it does cover the difference and it would be more, it would just be the increase when you subtract what they're currently paying to operate their Dial-A-Ride. And then just on top of that, Mariate or Hanna, is that accurate, just to confirm.

Mariate Echeverry: Yes. This is the net cost. But the cost that is the operational cost is currently taken into consideration.

General Maxwell: Yeah, I'm purely just trying to get if that's additional to what we're currently spending or it is. So that's an additional amount of money we'd have to come up with every year on top of what we're currently spending for Dial-a-Ride and other services.

Mariate Echeverry: Yeah, it will be additional. Yes.

General Maxwell: OK. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mayor Romero: Any others? And this is for information only. All righty. If there's no additional questions or comments, we're going to move on to our next item.

Preston McLaughlin: Thank you.

Mayor Romero: All righty. We're moving on to item 7, Social Services Planning Subcommittee - Social services Block Grant. Our presentation will be given by Genine Sullivan. Thank you, Ms. Sullivan.

7. PAG Social Services Planning Subcommittee – Social Services Block Grant
[Item #7 Video Link](#)

PAG Transportation Mobility and Accessibility Program Manager Genine Sullivan provided a report on the Social Services Block Grant for State Fiscal Year 2027. Link to the YouTube Recording is below.

- **[Staff Presentation to Regional Council - Item #7](#)**

Following the presentation, the Regional Council continued discussion.

Mayor Romero: Thank you so much for the presentation. May I have a motion to approve the recommendations in the report?

Mayor Winfield: I move to approve.

Mayor Romero: OK, there is a motion to approve the recommendations in the report.

Mayor Murphy: Second.

Mayor Romero: A second. And any discussion or questions on this item?
Council Member Maxwell.

General Maxwell: I just have one question. So the total was \$1.4 million and that's because that's what's we typically receive. Is it a competitive process up there? I mean, do we give up money by not applying for more or is it already how it's split up between the different counties or the different municipalities or the different MPOs? Is that already predetermined?

Genine Sullivan: That's a great question. Thank you for asking. The Department of Economic Security, they provide us the funding and service intents for the respective state fiscal year. We don't really have any input on that. And then through this process, we provide recommendations to you, the council. And then with your approval, it gets submitted to Department of Economic Security. The committee can provide additional insights in terms of what they would like to see the funding increase to or how monies could potentially move from one division to another. But that's the extent of our input. And with that feedback, the Department of Economic Security and through their process, they would decide what shifts need to be made with regard to the different funding levels for our region or any other region. But just to point as an example, based on the recommendations that the committee provided when we were doing this process for state fiscal year 2026, they took that input and actually made shifts in the funding amounts that resulted here, that you're seeing in the funding allocations for state fiscal year 2027.

General Maxwell: OK. I appreciate that and I guess, yeah it's a good answer because as long as we're not saying OK, this is what we normally get. So, this is what will fill because I'll tell you from being on the State Transportation Board, if all the municipalities did that, a lot of them would get nothing. So, you don't get what you don't ask for. So, if there's a need in the community, I'd suggest that we sometimes push the number a little bit because ultimately, I understand it's out of our control. DES is gonna be the deciding factor. But those who speak the loudest often get what they need, and so I just don't want to make sure we're not just settling and saying OK we know this is we're going to get \$1.4 million. This is how we'll do it, this is how if we've got a greater need we've got to be willing to step forward and ask.

Genine Sullivan: Thank you, Chair.

General Maxwell: They can always say no.

Mayor Romero: Well, and Council Member Maxwell, I was thinking the same thing, right? Is there any possibility of with our motion to approve, is there a possibility of being able to ask for more money, right? The needs are great. And then my question was going to be, is there a possibility of expanding the uses based on the needs? In other words, we are seeing a huge need in mental behavioral health. We are seeing a huge need in substance use disorders. How can we request additional support and funds from the state to be able to serve, un-sheltered homelessness is a huge issue throughout Pima County. So how do we ask for more and for additional categories?

Genine Sullivan: Thank you, Mayor Romero, and thank you Council Member Maxwell. I appreciate your questions. Mayor Romero, to address your question, I wrote some notes down based on what you shared, and I think what might be appropriate to do is go ahead and reach out to the Department of Economic Security to the appropriate contacts and ask for what is the methodology to provide that feedback and see what the next steps would be.

Mayor Romero: Would you want us to add to our motion to approve an additional caveat of requesting additional funds for additional uses? Would that be appropriate?

Genine Sullivan: I'm happy to submit that as part of our process –

Mayor Romero: Mr. Ortega is shouting over there “yes” and I see Council Member Valenzuela also nodding her head. Councilmember Jose.

Chairman Jose: Thank you for the information. I mean that should be part of our regular practice all the time. What I heard you say is do you want to make the most noise? Not all the time, but if we remain silent, then we'll never get it. We'll just remain status quo. And there is a need out there. We see it all the way around us. And we should be able to, in our respective positions, to also advocate on behalf of this project, so forth. So I think it should kind of be always that motive that we need additional more, but we need to be careful because when we do get it, we need to make sure that we're expanding it for its purposes, because if we're not and we're asking for more, and if I was the funding agency, I'll say, "Well, look, you got this, but you didn't do that." And either, I don't think there's something that's too much money. There's either not enough, not enough to do the things you want to do, and you have to kind of piecemeal it together. But there's always going to be a need. It's around us. And the challenges of

yesterday are different today and will be different tomorrow. So, we should always be thinking that way, forward thinking about, it doesn't take put a whole report together because if we just look at our communities, the challenges. Every community is different, and it makes me really sad, when I see these challenges when I drive down the streets. So, there's no reason why we shouldn't be continuously advocating for additional funding, additional services and so forth. But we also have that plan in order to deliver that with the funding that's available. Those are my thoughts. Respectfully, and if that's in someone's motion, then increase it. I know she said something about with no changes, but I think that just approving as it is. And if there's an opportunity, go back to DES. What do we need to do? I heard her say something about, there's some discussion before that. I think each one of us sitting around this table can also advocate in the right times in the right places. Hey, take a look at this. My thoughts respectfully. Thank you.

Mayor Romero: Thank you, Council Member. Will the motion maker consider an addition to the motion?

Mayor Winfield: Yes, I'd certainly welcome the amendment. I appreciate Council Member Maxwell getting this discussion started but would certainly amend the motion to include directing staff to request additional funding and services as related to this item.

Mayor Murphy: I agree as well.

Mayor Romero: Secunder will agree and Councilman Jose doubles the second. Thank you Councilmember Maxwell and Valenzuela for encouraging this discussion and some of the additional possibilities of adding additional categories as well if that's OK. All righty, so there's a motion, a second, any further discussion on this item? Hearing none, all those in favor please signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

Mayor Romero: Any against? Motion carries. Right. Thank you.

Mayor Winfield: I don't know if we need to, we lost Supervisor Heinz. I don't know if it's gone permanently –

Mayor Romero: I'm not sure, where, oh, there he is. OK. We have him here with us. And so, we'll note that he also voted for this item as well. OK. Perfect. I've got a thumbs up over there. Item 8 is the 2025 PAG Title VI Implementation Plan, and we are going to receive a presentation by Preston McLaughlin.

8. 2025 PAG Title VI Implementation Plan

[Item #8 Video Link](#)

Transportation Mobility Manager Preston McLaughlin reported on this item on behalf of Philana Jeremiah who is PAG's Title VI Coordinator. Link to the YouTube Recording is below.

- [Staff Presentation to Regional Council - Item #8](#)

Following the presentation, the Regional Council continued discussion.

Mayor Romero: Any questions or comments. Actually, I think you need an approval, correct?

Preston McLaughlin: Yes.

Mayor Romero: OK.

Mayor Winfield: I move to approve

Mayor Murphy: Second.

Mayor Romero: There is a motion to approve in a second. Any discussion on this item? I am going to add some discussion to this item because this is an item that I have been really taking a look at since I first got here. So Mr. Ortega, if you allow me to give some input. I think that the document is written well and it's been getting better and better every year that we discuss this. We need to make sure that we, PAG, emphasize our commitment for continuous improvement of the Title VI Plan and that we get better and better every year. I believe that highlighting PAG's focus on reaching underserved and historically marginalized populations, improving our data collection, improving our outreach methods and engagement strategies to ensure all voices are meaningfully included in this plan as we move forward is very, very important especially the hard to reach elderly, our relatives, and the indigenous nations within our community, in rural areas of

our community that have great need. And of course, historically marginalized populations really need to, the Title VI report really needs to reflect that work. And how we are going to address those needs from those populations through our planning, both transit and transportation and other issues that we should be talking about at this table. The Title VI Plan needs to go into detail in terms of how we're going to reach, but how we're going to correct the needs of those communities through funds from both PAG and as a consequence RTA as well. I think we need to underscore the importance of more clearly demonstrating our planning efforts, how we're going to deliver additional funds to make sure that we're addressing the inequities that really have been historically, through generations and decades, been existing for a long time. And then finally, affirm that the Title VI Plan should tell a more complete and transparent story of our progress. So these are our needs. This is how we're going to attend to them and this is the progress that we are making with our Title VI planning. Where we're doing well, where we're not doing great, where we need to improve, and how we will measure the success moving forward. I think that's my input in terms of how we make this report better and more meaningful. But other than that, I think this report has been getting better and better every year.

Michael J. Ortega: Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Romero: Other than that, any other questions, observations, comments? Hearing none? All those in favor of the motion, please signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

Mayor Romero: Any against? Motion carries. And we move on to item 9, Executive Director's Employment Agreement. Ms. Lisa Anne Smith will give us a report.

9. Executive Director's Employment Agreement

[Item #9 Video Link](#)

Lisa Anne Smith: Thank you, Madam Chair. I prepared a new form of contract for the Executive Director based on the input from the board at the last meeting. The primary change is that it is a term contract through the end of December 2026 subject to annual renewal thereafter. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

Mayor Romero: Any questions, comments?

Mayor Winfield: Move to approve.

Mayor Post: Second.

Mayor Romero: There is a motion to approve in a couple of seconds. Any additional questions or comments? Discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion, please signify by saying aye.

Members: Aye.

Mayor Romero: Any against? Motion carries unanimously. Thank you so much. We're moving on to item 10, Request for Future Agenda Items.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

[Item #10 Video Link](#)

Mayor Romero: All right, so this is a new item that we've just currently added to this particular meeting. One of the reasons that Council Member Post and I really wanted to add this item to the agenda is to be able to have some preliminary, not discussion, but an advance of future items and give the opportunity to any of the Council members at this table to add items that you wish to discuss at our next meeting. I know that Council Member Heinz was thinking of adding something, but I wanted to, as I gave you the preview beforehand, that I would like to add an item to our following meeting to discuss the role PAG serves in providing planning support for traffic safety region-wide. In particular, I'm interested in improving safety for our most vulnerable users of the transportation system, those that are walking and biking. Far too many people have died on our roads and it's not particular to Tucson right? It's happening throughout Pima County. And I would like to be able to have a conversation about how we work together to make sure that we are putting together an action plan. As I said previously, Pima County and the City of Tucson received a grant to put an action plan together for bike and peds. If it's possible that we merge these efforts or at least have PAG collaborate and give input to that process, that would be wonderful. So, I'll give you all a memo and if there's any other of my colleagues, Council Member Maxwell.

General Maxwell: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think these are the kind of topics that you know too often when we get wrapped up and are trying to get to the next

thing that we have to get across the line, we forget about going back and taking a look at this. What I would ask to really highlight, that if it's something I don't know if I've really seen it, that's a single document that shows us where are the most areas that need most emphasis throughout the entire County. So, we can take a look at just the sheer numbers where they're happening. You can't address the problem unless you really understand it. So, we've got to know where the challenges are and then what's leading to those areas being challenges because sometimes we think the solution may be one and it's really something else that will stop the deaths and accidents from happening. So I appreciate you bringing that up.

Mayor Romero: Thank you so much, Council Member Heinz.

Supervisor Heinz: Thank you, Chair. I would like to add on a future meeting, which does this just go to the next one, like Jan. 29, or is it? OK. The discussion of expanding the membership of this body. So, I think it makes a lot of sense in other similar entities and other jurisdictions, for example, they have like a transit dedicated person. So like the City of Tucson obviously would, I think, benefit from having a transit member. And like the University of Arizona clearly runs a transit program as well, and they are a population of 50,000 by themselves. I don't need to get into all the details of the item but I think we can talk about just kind of in terms of best practices other similar regional councils have additional membership and my reading of the statute, and I was a legislator for 4 years, so that just makes me really dangerous. But I believe, and our council can do a thorough review of this and tell us next time, I believe it's some simple majority vote of this group. I don't think it has to go to the voters. I don't think that we need the statutes, the statutes changed or anything like that. And also the inclusion of transit members, and we can talk about like airport authority and stuff like that too. But in the inclusion of transit members I believe is actually in the state handbook governing these entities. So, this is definitely a best practice that we should consider doing.

Mayor Romero: Will we expect a memo requesting the item? Awesome.

Supervisor Heinz: Yes, I'll do that for the January meeting.

Mayor Romero: Excellent. Thank you so much. All right. Any others? OK. Then we move on to item 11, which is an Executive Session.

11. Executive Session

[Item #11 Video Link](#)

Mayor Romero: Do I need to read the Pursuant to ARS language?

Lisa Anne Smith: Yes, my suggestion is that you read the language and get a motion to convene an executive session at the end of the RTA meeting and to recess this meeting until then and then have the executive session jointly with the RTA board.

Mayor Romero: OK. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3) (discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body) and (A)(4) (discussion or consultation with the attorneys of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding the public body's position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation), the Regional Council meet in a joint executive session with the RTA Board of Directors for legal advice and possible instructions regarding a Notice of Claim from the former executive director and related matters. May I have a motion to proceed into an executive session at the end of the RTA meeting.

1:19 p.m.: Motion was made by Mayor Jon Post, Town of Marana, seconded by Mayor Tom Murphy, Town of Sahuarita, and unanimously carried that the Regional Council of Pima Association of Governments recess the PAG Regional Council meeting. The Regional Council will reconvene with the RTA Board of Directors in closed Executive Session at the end of the RTA Board Meeting.

2:04 p.m.: The Regional Council reconvened in closed Executive Session.


3:35 p.m.: Motion was made by Mayor Joe Winfield, Town of Oro Valley, seconded by Mayor Regina Romero, City of Tucson, and unanimously carried that the Regional Council of Pima Association of Governments and Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board of Directors instruct Counsel and the Executive Director to proceed as discussed in Executive Session.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a meeting summary of the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Regional Council meeting held on Dec. 4, 2025. This summary is not intended to be verbatim. It serves as the summary of action items taken at the meeting upon approval by the PAG Regional Council. An audio recording is available upon request and serves as the official minutes. I further certify that a quorum was present.



Michael J. Ortega, P.E.
Executive Director

In compliance with the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the PAG Regional Council legal actions and this meeting summary are posted online, and an audio recording which serves as the official minutes of the meeting is available upon request. In addition, a meeting video is also available at: [YouTube Recorded Video](#)



December 4, 2025

Dear Board Colleagues,

I am pleased to see the Regional Active Transportation Plan included in our December 4 meeting material. Traffic safety was highlighted in the media during the month of November 2025 and not just because of the deeply tragic deaths of three University of Arizona students at 2nd St/Euclid Ave. An article published in the Arizona Daily Star on November 23, 2025¹ highlighted US DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics that across the US, "traffic deaths are up 20% from a decade ago, from 32,744 in 2014 to 39,345 in 2024." Pew Research Center data referenced, which was published last year, indicate that Americans are "driving more dangerously." Additionally, "out of 29 high-income countries, America ranks at the bottom of road safety... this spike is not... a global trend. The U.S. is an outlier."

I respectfully request a future agenda item to further discuss the role PAG serves in providing planning support for traffic safety, regionwide. In particular, I'm interested in improving safety for our most vulnerable users of the transportation system, people walking and biking. Far too many people have died on our roads, and together we can have an impact on improving safety for all users of the regional transportation network.

In Community,

Regina Romero
City of Tucson Mayor and PAG Chair

CC:
Michael Ortega, Interim Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Authority