



WELCOME TO *Desert Drive*



We're excited to launch Desert Drive as a way to highlight past events, showcase our chapter's achievements, and share exciting opportunities and collaborations on the horizon. Thank you for your engagement throughout the first half of 2025 – we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events in the second half of the year.



Spotlight on Impact: Fueling the future!

Earlier this year, our chapter was able to give **\$25,000** out in scholarships split between five very deserving women pursuing degrees in transportation related fields at the University of Arizona.



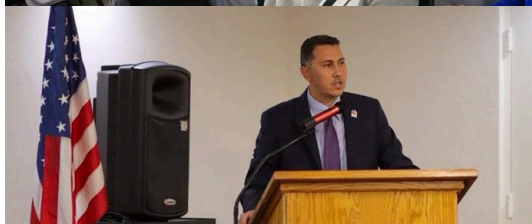
Thanks to all of the great support our chapter receives throughout the year, from raffles to our annual Top Golf event, thanks to you, we were able to give out this record amount of money!

January 16, 2025



State of the Streets

Updates from City of Tucson, Pima County & ADOT



State of the Streets

TOWN EDITION

Updates from Marana, Sahuarita & Oro Valley



March 13, 2025





A morning momentum: WTS Tucson & Metro Phoenix Joint Breakfast

In **February**, we hosted our first-ever joint program with WTS Metro Phoenix, marking a significant and successful collaboration. The event served as a valuable opportunity to strengthen connections between our communities and share insights on the fast-growing region connecting both Phoenix and Tucson.

Representatives from City of Casa Grande, City of Coolidge, City of Eloy, Pinal County & Sun Corridor MPO shared updates on their respective jurisdiction. Special thanks to Irene Higgs, Executive Director Sun Corridor MPO, for her key role in coordinating this event, which took place in Casa Grande, Arizona.

February 2025 - Girls in Gear Exploring Engineering at Girl Day

WTS Tucson hosted a successful Girl Day event with over a dozen girls participating! This year, young girls got to tour the City of Tucson's Downtown Links Improvement project. Granite Construction led the tour, showcasing their extensive work on the Sixth Street underpass, the deck plaza and the new Union Pacific Railroad Bridge.



After touring this large-scale project, the group got to make asphalt cookies and get hands on, learning the steps it takes to make an asphalt mix! Girl Day is a time when we show girls how engineers change our world.

Research found that this simple formula helps girls develop an interest in engineering, building confidence in problem-solving skills and creates a STEM identity. Thank you to our sponsors, Granite Construction, Psomas, HDR and CEI Consultant Engineering Inc.



We are happy to share that the WTS Tucson Chapter has been honored with the Silver Chapter Circle of Excellence Award by WTS International, recognizing the dedication and accomplishments of our chapter. We appreciate the continued support and engagement of our members and supporters, which made this achievement possible.



RTA Next Series

“WHAT RTA NEXT MEANS TO TUCSON AND OUR INDUSTRY”

This past April and May, WTS Tucson hosted two programs centered around RTA Next – “What RTA Next means to Tucson and our industry”. The first edition featured Jenny Fiore-Magana, Director of Outreach and Engagement for RTA. Part II of the RTA Next series, featured industry perspectives on this topic with the following speakers: Mike Barton (HDR), Alejandro Angel (Psomas) and Chris Bridges (ACEC). Below is a summary of the key highlights from these series.



RTA Next: Key Highlights

As an industry leader, always be prepared to answer RTA Next questions to your immediate community.

1. Think of the RTA as a **builder**, not a fixer
2. RTA funds **leverage other funds** (federal, state grants)
3. **48,000 additional jobs, \$2.9B revenue** over baseline
4. **\$11.9B in economic benefits** – new jobs, new tax revenue, etc.
5. Without RTA Next, **loss of 60% of regional funding**
6. Good roadways make Tucson **more competitive** for site selectors



Desert Dates Coming Up!

August

- **WTS x IRWA** Program “What utility & ROW planners wish transportation engineers knew”
Date: August 14th, 2025
Location: Brother John's
- **Summer Mixer WTS x IRWA**
More details to come soon!

October

- **TopGolf Scholarship Fundraiser Program**
Date: October 2nd, 2025
Get your clubs ready!

September

- **TAA Update Luncheon**
Date: September 18th, 2025
Location: Tucson Airport
Registration opens in August!