Progress Over the Year

Many positive developments for bicycling in this region have occurred during the period covered by the last 30-plus years of regional bicycle plans. In 2006 and again in 2008, the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) recognized the Tucson - Pima Eastern Region as a Gold Level "Bicycle Friendly Community," the first and only such regional designation in the United States. Bicycling Magazine has ranked the City of Tucson as the 2nd best bicycling city in the United States in 1995, 1999 and, more recently, in 2006. The City of Tucson, Pima County, Oro Valley, and PAG all have full-time staff working on bicycle issues. Also, the Tucson Police Department now dedicates officer work hours specifically toward the targeted enforcement of bicycle laws, both for motorists and cyclists, in areas of the city with high levels of bicycling. There are also a variety of active, involved citizens, bike clubs and advocate groups working to support and improve cycling in this region.

A growing emphasis on regional coordination and regional solutions has accelerated progress toward meeting the multi-modal transportation needs of our citizens. The Regional Transportation Authority Plan and half-cent sales tax passed by voters in 2006 included substantial levels of funding for bicycle projects as well as vital roadway and transit improvements. As the regional planning agency, PAG has been a leader in bringing together diverse groups, interests and jurisdictions and has initiated major new work efforts to improve decision-making. Most recently, PAG established an annual regional bicycle count program to collect data on rider numbers and characteristics at locations throughout the region. PAG also initiated an annual regional bicycle crash analysis that examines types of crashes and their locations to help identify where and what types of improvements may be needed.

Design Guidelines/Standards