



NACOG Verde Valley Master Transportation Plan

NEWSLETTER

May 2026

What is the Verde Valley Master Transportation Plan?

Building a Safer, More Connected Future for Our Communities

The Verde Valley is growing - and so are the needs of the people who live, work, and visit here. To help shape the region's future, the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) is updating the Verde Valley Master Transportation Plan (VVMTP) from 2016, along with a new Supplemental Safety Action Plan (SSAP) supported by federal Safe Streets for All funding.

Together, these plans will guide transportation improvements over the next 25 years, focusing on safety, mobility, and access for all.

Why This Matters

The Verde Valley's unique geography and limited roadway connections mean that even small disruptions like traffic incidents or road closures can create major travel delays. At the same time, increased tourism and population growth are placing new demands on our roadways, pedestrian/bicycle facilities, and transit systems.

This transportation plan will help the region identify opportunities to:



- Improve travel reliability.
- Reduce serious injuries and fatalities on local roads.
- Expand safe walking and biking options.
- Identify opportunities for transit improvements.
- Strengthen connections between communities.
- Plan for future growth and funding opportunities.

Project Elements Completed

April Charrette

In April, NACOG convened the Verde Valley Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), partner agencies, and regional stakeholders for an interactive transportation charrette focused on shaping the future of the VVMTP. The working session explored investment priorities, trade-offs, and regional decision-making through facilitated discussion and hands-on exercises.

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What We Heard

Participants shared a vision for a connected, multimodal, and resilient transportation system that improves regional mobility while preserving the Verde Valley's character.

Key themes included:

Through a funding exercise, participants tested how different investment strategies perform under both a baseline and higher-funding scenarios. While allocations varied by group, there was broad agreement that transportation investments must balance maintenance, safety, capacity, and multimodal needs, and that priorities shift as funding levels increase. Many of the groups prioritized maintenance and then split the funding to the other three categories. Under the high funding scenario, groups demonstrated greater willingness to advance regional capacity and connectivity improvements and scale pedestrian, bicycle, and transit investments across jurisdictions.



Figure 1: Funding Scenario Game

What's Next

Feedback from the charrette will directly inform the VVMTP vision, goals, investment framework, and upcoming project prioritization, marking an important step from identifying needs toward defining regional solutions.

Final Supplemental Safety Action Plan (SSAP)

The SSAP has reached the final draft milestone, marking an important step forward for roadway safety planning in the Verde Valley. The SSAP establishes a unified, data-driven safety strategy to reduce fatal and serious-injury crashes and guide coordinated safety investments across jurisdictions.

With a final draft in place, the region is well positioned to pursue funding through the federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Notice of Funding Opportunity, which is currently available and grant applications are due May 26, 2026. The SSAP strengthens the Verde Valley's ability to compete for these funds by clearly documenting safety needs, priorities, and implementation approaches. The final draft of the SSAP will go to NACOG's Regional Council on June 25, 2026.

In Progress Project Elements

Regional Traffic Model Development

The existing and future No-Build Travel Demand Models have been developed from Winter 2025 - Spring 2026. A traffic modeling workshop was hosted in December confirming preliminary modeling results for both existing in future model projections. The project team is currently developing future build modeling scenarios to support project prioritization.



The project team presented existing and future No-Build Travel Demand Models in the April Verde Valley Transportation Planning Organization meeting to inform the committee, gather feedback on the model outputs, and gather input on potential new capacity corridors to consider in modeling scenarios

Multimodal Needs Analysis Memo

The Multimodal Needs Analysis Memo takes a close look at how residents, visitors, and commuters walk, bike, and travel throughout the Verde Valley today, identifying gaps in the network and uncovering opportunities to create safer, more connected options for everyone. This memo lays the groundwork for future transportation recommendations that reflect the needs of the Verde Valley. The memo is currently being finalized and will be shared later this spring for review and feedback.

Upcoming Project Elements

Recommended Investment Choice

Building on the feedback gathered at the April charrette, the project team is working toward developing a recommended investment choice, which will serve as a framework for future decision-making and project development. As the planning process moves forward, the project team will bring a recommended investment choice to stakeholders and the TAC for review and discussion.

Potential Project Recommendations

In early summer, the project team will develop project recommendations for the VVMTP. This work will build upon public and stakeholder feedback, identified safety priorities, previous planning documents and studies, and traffic modeling data. The project team will identify projects and improvements that directly respond to the gaps, safety concerns, and multimodal deficiencies surfaced through the planning process. These potential recommendations will be brought forward to stakeholders and the TAC for review and feedback.

Project Schedule

