

Topic: Transportation and the Built Environment

Increase transportation convenience and reduce time spent in travel.

The small town planning has to stop. It is a source of anguish to see how traffic is handled, how the streets still are built as if this is a small town. There is a huge amount of traffic out there. There needs to be better planning.

We live on the east side and it takes forever just to get to the westside to get on I-10.

We shouldn't have to travel far from our homes to work and play.

Unfortunately, the city of Tucson developed without much planning or vision. It takes a ridiculous amount of time to just get across town. We need a cross-town freeway/expressway running east to west. I personally avoid doing any business on the west side of town (and I mean west of Campbell) because it takes me so long to get there from my home (near Wilmot). I have many friends who feel the same way, and it must be hurting business.

Congested roads lead to lost time and accidents.

We live in a community of car convenience . . .

Very spread out. Cars are necessary because distances are not walkable.

Tucson's lack of a cross-town freeway and loop system is city planning malpractice at its finest! The poor road system in Tucson makes driving a nightmare in any part of town.

Improve and increase mass transit. Increase viable transportation options.

Make public transit so people want to use it. Change its image so it's not only used out of necessity, but as a choice.

Wish I could at least have the option to take public transportation twice a week to work, and wish there was safe, reliable public transportation from the Foothills to downtown and to campus on the weekends.

Tucson is in danger of becoming as big and ungainly as Phoenix. The low-density development and sprawl wastes resources and threatens the natural beauty of our surroundings. I worry that the city planning will deter from the creation of a good mass transit system.

As someone who would rather not drive, the fact that a car is necessary in Tucson is disheartening. There do not seem to be very good alternatives - there aren't enough bus routes, no light rail, etc. Tucson is not a small city anymore, although it likes to think it is. We need to take a good look at how we're developing and make smart investments in infrastructure, and I hope a good mass transit system is one of them (not just freeways).

There needs to be a better infrastructure plan. With a growing community, we cannot rely on just our own individual vehicles. This is why we are in the traffic mess we are in today, with an RTA program readily admitting that those monies are like a downpayment on a much larger and costly problem.

Keep our region's roads and infrastructure in good repair.

. . . it is difficult to keep our eyes on the cars ahead and the enormous pot holes, all at the same time.

The roads in Tucson are rough and need repaving.

Pot holes in roads

Poor road maintenance makes it feel like we live in a really dumpy community, and it probably appears that way to visitors as well.

Better road maintenance

While Tucson has grown, and there have been many road improvements to the main roads, many of the smaller roads have had no attention; often building takes place increasing the volume of traffic with no road improvements

Increase the viability and safety of biking as a mode of transportation.

I am a cyclist and believe that cities can be livable without being overly dense, loud or dirty and that designing cities on a bike/pedestrian scale is the way to get there.

I can bicycle or walk most places, yet I have a yard where I can grow things.

Continuing to create good NS and EW corridors like 3rd street bike boulevard.

Cars and bikes need to know how to treat each other.

Cycling in Tucson is dangerous since the bike routes are unclear and often bike lanes disappear at busy intersections.

Plan with difficult transportation circumstances in mind.

Costs of water and transportation will further divide haves and have nots

. . . employment is limited when available workers cannot reach all areas

Seniors without mobility

Single mom stuck at home

Difficult for kids without cars to get places

People stay in their cars because otherwise they'll get scorched.

Rural and outlying areas have almost no access to public transportation.

. . . mixed zoning leads to a further distance between destinations and leads to the need to drive a car rather than walk.

Increase the quality and variety of nearby amenities and venues.

Tucson can create a charming downtown core and outlying areas can develop similar mini cores where people can congregate for recreation, shopping etc. There is no evidence of such planning in the development of these areas, in spite of what Rio Nuevo was supposed to be, since it did not happen. Creativity needs to be applied to this town, and it should be a requirement.

A professional place for talent to perform in a comfortable and suitable environment would add opportunities for major entertainment that by passes Tucson now.

Saks, Niemanns, not even a lowly Nordstroms. One decent shopping center in town (La Encantada) no men's store, no butcher shops, no bakery, nothing except tire stores.

Green Valley Village to be the core of the town (poorly designed shopping center, no downtown)

Better parking downtown when attending music hall and convention center

Make our region more pedestrian friendly and safer to walk.

We need to get more people off the roads and make Tucson a more pedestrian friendly environment. Hopefully the modern streetcar project will go towards achieving these goals.

Hard to find places for children to walk around without a parent and feel they are safe.

Creating neighborhood hubs where grocery stores, drugstores, department stores and other necessities are within walking distance would encourage neighbors knowing neighbors and reduce the problems caused by automobiles.

Every time i walk home i always walk in the dirt and every time it rains my shoes muddy and dirt.

. . . there are no sidewalks or lights in my neighborhood . . .

Crosswalks on Euclid by U of A = dangerous - buses not stopping on main streets blocking traffic
We need more walk friendly areas like 4th Av

Maximize easy connectedness among people when designing the functional layout of cities and the region

There are too many areas of segregation. For example: one area is primarily industrialized, one area is neighborhood, one area is businesses.

Besides University of Arizona to some extent, there is no one thing that binds together the community.

People care about their own quality of life and the quality of life of others who live here. The segments blend well: anglos & hispanics, young and old, long-time residents & newcomers.

Latinos were here before Anglos, yet now the majority of Latinos are geographically segregated from central Tucson which is where the city appears to thrive (university, downtown)

. . . light rail links to hubs in every region of the city.

Neighborhood connectivity (sense of old fashioned community)

Maintain a clean and attractive visual appearance of the built environment

This is a beautiful city with beautiful people. It hurts me personally to see so many run-down buildings along major streets -- like Speedway, Grant, etc. Our city needs to go on a major beautification project.

There are some old, dirty areas of Tucson, and it makes it look dumpy. Appearances mean a lot to people, and I think some of the older, crappier areas of Tucson are a turn off to folks who would otherwise love living here.

I like good architecture, there is no charm in the houses here, they look like boxes

Driving through many of Tucson's older neighborhoods is like visiting a war zone. There is a ton of vacant and underutilized land, trash, and poorly maintained properties.

Better care of the boulevards that are overgrown with weeds and have accumulated trash

Most of the new developments in Tucson are right out of the Southern California playbook; no architectural style or sense of the desert. So are our commercial spaces. Ugh.

Topic: Growth, Mixed Use, Density and Sprawl

Encourage (re)development in already populated areas in a way that doesn't negatively impact existing neighborhoods and improves the aesthetics and character of the built environment

Encourage redevelopment in the city. Too much effort is spent trying to preserve decaying neighborhoods. Some are worth saving and others are not. The vision needs to be broader than the limited neighborhood view.

More density and walkability in certain places near retail and other neighborhood services would connect me to my neighborhood and reduce the amount of time I spend in the car.

More mixed-use, mixed-income, high-density, housing with public transportation

I'm in real estate and have development experience and look forward to improving Tucson's run-down neighborhoods and creating change, but the City needs to create more incentive and get rid of the obstacles to encourage more redevelopment.

Develop a stricter interpretation of R-1 zoning, or give some teeth to NPZ guidelines.

Integrate high density but don't lose community or quality of life for people who already live there.

The low-density development that has dominated over the past 40-60 years diminishes quality of life now and particularly in the future (fossil fuel use, environmental impacts, health impacts).

Increase central Tucson density/disempower obstructive neighborhood associations.

I don't like being forced to share walls, live close to people. I like my privacy and the feeling of open spaces.

Additional population density downtown would provide more business for the downtown core.

Old neighborhoods with low density & the potential for a high quality of life.

Reduce sprawl and focus development on core population centers

I am concerned that Tucson keeps spreading out as people always want to live on the fringes of town.

Don't bulldoze my desert and put stucco boxes on it

We cannot continue to ignore our growth. Plans for roads and infrastructure have to be made if this is where we want to live and work.

These far flung communities create longer commutes for residents, and present air quality problems and traffic jams among other things.

I don't want Tucson to become a generic big city, but more than that, I don't want us to just languish at the expense of sensible progress.

Work together to accommodate growth in orderly manner.

The myth of limitless land in western cities is done.

With sprawl, you lose the sense of place and the unique identify of the Tucson region. You also destroy the resources that make this area so desirable and attractive.

It is disheartening to see so many crackerjack tract homes built on bladed-over pristine desert when there is so much infill land still to use.

Slow sprawl and focus development on the urban core.

More decisions in metro area like Tucson Water footprint – conscious decision of where to grow and not grow.

Improve the quality of the relationship between community and government. Reduce the rancor coming from competing views on growth and reduce the influence of special interest groups.

For years there has been a strong no growth attitude and development structure that created a reputation that chases away clean, higher paying industry and business. This needs to be re-balanced.

There are many vacant, abandoned properties and buildings that should to be occupied or repurposed rather than fostering future indiscriminate growth.

Growth is critical to the long term sustainability of our area. Our current city and county leadership is largely anti-growth.

Community and government need to work together.

You grow or you die! Make all the entities in Pima county more receptive to business and development. Establish necessary controls but eliminate the abuse of these controls. . . As a business man, I am constantly being dinged or harassed by some rule or official that has nothing better to do.

I would like to see . . . zoning changed to encourage higher mixed-use density.

Neighborhood groups drive the agenda at City Hall and it's bad for business which means bad for jobs and prosperity.

It would be a great day when we have support from Pima County on pro growth developments.

Accept reality that water is going to be a limiting resource to growth.

Bigger is not better . . . No more expansion into the desert, no more subsidies for developers. Change the focus to sustainability, and if the community shrinks ... good.

Something needs to unify this community so that the right decisions can be made towards a common vision for the future

Clarify and specify government's role in developing the region

The current recession can be used to re-examine and re-direct our priorities from a boom-town that caters to massive housing projects leap-frogging into the rural areas to an innovative community that capitalizes on our abundant sunshine and invests in the most dense areas of the valley with infrastructure improvements.

I continue to hear unbelievable stories about bureaucracy's opposition to business and development.

I am concerned that if development does not have to meet some criteria, the Tucson landscape could be turned into sprawling L.A. Suburbs.

We have few examples of well planned, functional and appealing development.

I'm frustrated by the waste of fancy plans that don't happen.

I would like to have a community that comes together to face development issues, rather than posturing against each other.

Topic: Downtown and Activity Centers

Ensure that the redevelopment of Downtown Tucson is a success.

A vital urban core is the 'beating heart' of a city. Without it we're just a series of linked suburban strip-malls.

Need to promote and communicate about what is already happening

We need walkways, horse trails, an interactive science center, movie theaters, coffee shop, a Trader Joe's or Sunflower, a pool, a gym, boutique hotel, amenities that appeal to the neighborhood and to tourists alike.

A strong vibrant downtown positively affects the whole region.

I work downtown- it's like a ghost town after 5 pm weekdays and almost all weekends. Need a reason to come downtown. Also visitors are used to a 'real' downtown as in other parts of the country.

Being able to move large projects like Rio Nuevo forward is important to establishing a vibrant downtown. The inability to make that happen is disappointing.

I don't feel safe in downtown Tucson after dark.

Restaurants, galleries, theatre, places to walk around - all downtown and close to each other

There are so many wonderful things that could be happening . . .

Do downtown right

Topic: Business, Jobs, Major Sectors and Economic Environment

Support new business development and business expansion

Instead of putting up obstacles to opening business, become more welcoming. This does not mean we need to compromise all of our codes etc., but we could work together with businesses to create win/win.

Larger businesses will not move here until we improve our education system.

How many jobs are necessary to support a greater population?

Tucson's economy is not sufficiently diverse to grow long-term. We need more industries here of all kinds. We have very few large, diverse companies and then a whole lot of small businesses. A community that has the doctors and lawyers to help the small businesses serve each other is fine, but for long-term expansion and growth we need more.

We need a community that embraces business. We need capital formation, incentives to start and grow

businesses, more tech transfer from the university, focus areas, easier business licensing, etc. It needs to be much more business friendly.

The infighting between local governments is creating a lack of opportunities to recruit businesses and create new jobs for the future of the community.

More support for small local business

Improve government's relationship with the private sector and make it easier to do business in the region

Simplify government controls on businesses.

The anti-business approach of both elected officials and government employees makes it harder to do business in the Tucson area.

It is difficult to successfully run a business here because of too much red tape and regulation. City and county government should encourage business development and be more helpful to business. Improving the business climate would result in greater job opportunities and increase revenue into city and county coffers.

The attitude of business people is that residents are their enemies.

Tucson has no business identity.

We are all one social and economic unit, the artificial jurisdictional boundaries are both the result of, and continue, us vs. them arguments.

Tucson can't seem to get its management act together. There needs to be more incentives to bring in business.

The Tucson community needs to support businesses and make it reasonable for them to operate here (instead of putting up obstacles and having negative attitudes)

We need to elect people to the AZ legislature who will stop bleeding the state of all that state government needs to do well. We need to support education, infrastructure, etc. and reform the tax code/rates to meet goals. Right now the state is an embarrassment. It turns off investors and visitors.

Increase the number and quality of jobs

Jobs are being lost due to inability to grow and establish business. Too many tax issues and administrative roadblocks.

More jobs with purpose for youth

We must create more jobs and opportunities. We must fight for great companies to move here.

The region has so much to offer, but the government seems to reject the most important concept. In order to support a million people, there have to be jobs. There needs to be creative thinking in attracting corporate headquarters. I want my children to stay & work in Tucson!

There are few high-paying jobs and professionally our move to Tucson has been very limiting for me.

Lack of opportunities for professionals in middle to upper middle professions

We cannot keep our young people, our most precious asset, if we cannot provide them with financial opportunity.

We have an enormous brain drain from our University. There must be a business structure that keeps this talent here in our region.

Improve wages and salaries

Tucson has been known as a minimum wage town for years. If better paying jobs, opportunities were introduced to the area we would see the living standard rise and people feel better about themselves.

Get more jobs and jobs that pay a decent wage

I was appalled when I moved here and found out what jobs pay.

Low paying jobs with no benefits; divisions are sharp between poverty and middle class.

I was laid off in March, and have yet to find good paying job.

More interesting and well paying jobs.

Pay raises so teachers don't have to pay out of pocket

Work toward a better educated workforce

Tucson needs more job opportunities and this will require that the city be known for its educated workforce.

Our P-20 education needs to be a beacon & mecca which will then attract high knowledge, high value employers.

A good education is key to getting a good job which impacts the life style and opportunities that you can provide for your family.

Kids are getting out of school barely qualifying for service jobs.

Lack of a well educated job pool, poor schools make it difficult to recruit high level employees and new industry.

We're seriously lacking in quality education and in our ability to generate a qualified labor force for the future.

Broadly speaking, I don't think metro Tucson schools are doing an adequate job preparing young people to compete in the global economy. Compound that with our brutally high drop-out rate, and we're headed for trouble. Cheap labor won't cut it for southern AZ.

All public schools are poorly funded, and as an employer I can tell you first-hand we are graduating a generation of idiots who are ill-prepared for the 21st century.

Support for education is a key to having a vibrant economic future. Having an educated workforce is an economic driver and should be a high priority.

Support and expand local tourism

Tourism brings money into the community and helps to support the cultural amenities that make it a great place to live.

Acceptance of tourism as a major part of our economy

Our history and the diverse cultures that exist are priceless assets that will continue to make Tucson/community/region a place on the map and draw tourism.

Need to have facilities to attract tourism, trade shows and industry

. . . that each of us takes our visitors to see our local natural wonders says it all.

Whether it is a wad of gum spat on the sidewalk or trash tossed out the window of a car, it affects not only our community's beauty but also the impression visitors have of it. They won't come back.

Expand the presence and success of major business sectors

Tucson's vision should be to become the biotechnology capital of the southwest. Without a platform like this, higher paying jobs and therefore better educated citizens will continue to bypass Tucson.

Our fiber optics, medical research, and astronomy programs are outstanding. These are facets we must promote and enhance.

The University of Arizona has an enormously positive impact on the quality of life and economic productivity in Tucson. It is the single most important institution in the state of Arizona.

Manufacturing products, research and technological innovation are strong measures of our economic

condition and the city and county should go overboard to embrace these industries.

Tucson needs to get serious about attracting Bio tech and High tech industries and the quality of well paying jobs that come with them. Tucson can not thrive on service sector jobs for the masses.

I am an architect, but we need a sustainable economy based on tourism, solar, optics, and bioscience.

The city has lost too many large companies and industries to keep future business from exploring Tucson as a base of operations. The loss of major military contracts, etc. has lost the city much needed revenue.

The large presence of the military and defense industry

Topic: The University of Arizona and its Role in the Region

Support and promote the University of Arizona for the quality of education it provides

The U of A is a top-notch university -- the best in the state. It is the one thing that does tie our diverse community together, with education, sciences of the future, jobs, sports and philanthropy.

The U of A is a great anchor for our city. It is a great example of solid public education.

The UofA is an enormous cultural, arts, science, knowledge driver & economic engine & power center of learning.

University of Arizona - Highly ranked in many categories.

Continue to support University of Arizona athletics for their impact on the region's sense of community, identity, and for the entertainment they provide

I'm a huge U of A sports fan, and feel it's the strongest civic bond Tucson has, of any kind. Where else to you see such a blend of ages, ethnicities, religions, political persuasions, socioeconomic statuses, etc. in one venue?

I am (and my family is) a physically active person and love sports. Our climate supports that and our tie to UA Athletics is strong in many sports (basketball, football, softball, swimming and diving, golf, etc.)

Drop the baseball dreams. Tucson is happy supporting the U of A athletics.

I love attending and watching the U of A sports and other school related activities.

Our interaction with the UofA athletics only enforces this feeling of a small town. Being of an older generation (I am 57) and involved with collegiate sports, keeps me 'in the loop'.

Increase positive interaction between the community and the University and seek to mitigate some of the impacts of the University on surrounding neighborhoods

The U of A is such a fabulous resource, but I feel like I'm missing most of it. When my daughter was at ASU, in the school of fine arts, I got a weekly email about all the arts presentations on campus. I asked at U of A if they had such a thing, and they didn't. It seems like it would be good for students to connect their work to the 'real' world, and for Tucson to connect to the students.

Work with the University of Arizona to make it more accessible to local residents.

Many neighborhoods near downtown and the university are experiencing the encroachment of development for student housing, specifically 'minidorms,' much to the detriment of the neighborhoods and values of houses proximate to the new development. These are clearly not 'single-family' housing units.

Change the University's destructive behavior toward surrounding neighborhoods.

The UofA is an 'icon' for community health. 'Do all our children know how & why we brush our teeth?' UofA should continue to contribute to our community.

Topic: Public Education Performance and Funding

Improve administrative effectiveness in local public education

Get education bureaucracy out of the way of achievement.

I've considered running for the TUSD school board because I'm so frustrated with its mismanagement, but I realize I would just be in the middle of the politics and bureaucracy issues that would make me crazy!

It is sad to see what programs they continue to take away from the children and use that money to hire more highly paid administration.

The bureaucracy of TUSD is ridiculous.

An area is defined by the school district and its achievements.

TUSD and some huge school districts should be broken into smaller districts to allow for more hands-on management and bureaucracy.

Quality of education and poor school district administration needs to change.

Focus on hiring, supporting and retaining high quality teachers

Exciting, competent school teachers

We need to support teachers so they will stay.

Without quality education at all levels (and I am not just talking about passing measurement tests) there is no future here, and without great teachers, there can be no quality education. More respect, and better pay, for teachers would attract enthusiastic, creative and dynamic people to the field.

It provides a spark for students; that's why we need good teachers.

We need to retain the fabulous teachers we do have.

Improve the quality of education and overall performance of schools in the region

Schools at all levels need improvement if we are to continue to hold on to families choosing to raise kids in Tucson.

Although individual schools are working hard, there needs to be a more equitable way to provide excellent education for all of Arizona's children if we are to continue to thrive as a state.

We . . . bought in a good school district for our daughter and am happy with the quality of the schools - who are doing so much with so little!

Education is the most important factor in having a successful community and the system in Tucson is lacking in support, funding and performance.

Make public education a draw rather than a negative

The education system across the valley needs to improve by demanding more from students.

The public education system doesn't provide or adhere to benchmarks - they pass students even if they don't master the fundamentals

Expand school curriculum to foster and develop a diverse, skilled, and well-rounded citizenry

Arts and music – lack of funding limits them – we need a well-rounded education.

Focus on job training in public schools

This is personally important as I see more and more people finishing high school and being unable to

think through basic problems. Forcing teachers to teaching to a test rather than to approach situations with rational thinking and problem solving strategies produce citizens who are inflexible, unimaginative, and ill-prepared to function successfully in a dynamic, ever-changing reality.

Math, reading etc. are vitally important, but so is taking care of the one body we have. Every district should have to teach Health -- doing so keeps students healthier which ultimately contributes productive members to society and lowers health care costs.

Curriculum doesn't challenge students to think and learn for themselves.

Excelling students are often not challenged.

Increase family, community and governmental support for and commitment to schools and education

Parents don't get involved anymore - we need to compete with other countries, but how can we do that if some parents just don't care enough?

Need involvement for quality schools.

Improve school readiness of preschoolers

Stronger relationships and partnerships among businesses, community and TUSD

In spite of flagging state support for education, we need to be more supportive of our public schools and provide them with more resources.

Greater need for parenting support - educate parents, especially those that are new parents and may need some assistance with how to help their kids.

Increase State and local funding for education and schools

Our most valuable asset is our children and young people, and the lack of education funding keeps them from developing to their highest potential

As a former public school teacher, I feel that the schools in this area are not funded adequately to keep pace with making sure the children are prepared for the future.

AZ ranks at the bottom of the pile for education funding - Fix It!!

. . . the price to attend the U of A is way beyond the salaries of the average non-privileged Tucsonan. Higher education is becoming an elitist dream.

Value education as means of providing opportunity for the region's children and young people

Creativity and innovation results in kids who take education to the next level - good careers, think outside the box

It provides opportunity for children.

Education is a gateway to opportunities and quality of life.

We really need to educate our children better and offer a good learning environment for them. It is important to me because I have grandchildren in the school district.

Topic: Government, Politics, Institutions and Leadership

Recruit, develop, and elect strong leaders who can articulate and implement a clear vision for our region

There is a huge void in leadership and a resulting lack of vision. Our politicians and civic leaders keep trying to be all things to all people. There is no political will to bite the bullet and do the things that are necessary to move our community forward.

I have lived here for 30 years and we're still fighting about the same issues today as we were back then. We need true leaders in our community. It's time to vote in people that want the best for our entire region, not just their neighborhood interests. We need visionaries from the public, private, and educational sectors.

We have no leadership that is willing to take the risks, move forward, be progressive.

Our leaders don't lead -- they follow the wind.

Poor leadership continues to drag us down. The people we respect as leaders in our community are not the ones running our government.

There isn't a cohesive group of individuals who are leading Tucson. There's no unified vision of what a future Tucson should look for and there is no will to see it through...

The current form of government does not inspire or promote political and civic leadership. We have lived in many other cities and have found from personal experience that strong mayor cities get things done, are more progressive, and more accountable.

Improve intergovernmental relationships, increase cooperation, and adopt a more regional outlook

There is too much politics between jurisdictions. All are fighting over resources and tax base. Can't we all get along and follow a common vision?

Tucson is really five incorporated cities (Tucson, South Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley & Sahuarita) and a large area that is unincorporated Pima County. The time, effort and money spent either duplicating efforts and/or 'fighting' over issues is wasteful. Stronger regional cooperation is essential.

The city and county need to work as one to create a vibrant, active community where people and businesses actually want to move back into the city's center.

There is no regional vision. All jurisdictions seem to work independently and against each other on major issues.

The infighting between local governments is creating a lack of opportunities to recruit businesses and create new jobs for the future of the community.

Reduce wastefulness in government and improve overall effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability

We are not nimble, dynamic, responsive to taking advantage of opportunities because we have a bureaucratic culture. Initiating and sustaining a series of improvements for lean, accountable, responsive, collaborative government would improve the near and longer term quality of life.

With the budget problems, and the waste we hear about the Rio Nuevo project, the local government needs to step up to the plate and be financially and socially responsible, and service oriented and accountable to the citizens of Tucson.

Our local elected officials have spent the last 30 years turning Tucson into a fiscal nightmare. Too much money is spent on the wrong priorities and too little is focused on the core services which should be its No. 1 focus.

I'd like to see more efficient and effective government for the common good - real info, real people, real problems, real solutions.

Our city government is dysfunctional for reasons that go beyond personalities and relate to the very structure of government.

The City system seems overly cumbersome and ineffective. Restricts ability to get projects done, wastes tax revenues, has a narrow vision and talks more than does.

Continue to recognize and support the region's various non-profit, health care, and social service organizations and celebrate its culture of volunteerism

I love that Tucson supports over 2,000 non-profits, including everything from hospitals to community radio to museums. It is also a liberal community which suits my political nature.

There are lots of non-profits supporting low-income families, immigrants, and other marginalized groups. It's sad that many of them are having to cut back, but I appreciate how many of them are out there.

Wonderful grassroots and volunteerism - government needs to bring these together. Like the potential for positive growth exhibited by many community groups.

We have some of the finest facilities in Tucson, ranging from the best doctors to the best hospitals

Friendly people who give back to their community via volunteerism as well as financial support. There is a pride in helping others.

Charitable nature of our community.

Preserve and support our cultural institutions including performing arts centers, galleries, museums, and libraries

We enjoy attending concerts, and live theater, and going to art galleries and museums. We are not big TV watchers, so this is our alternative

For a city of this size there seems to be an amazing number of opportunities to go to musical events, arts events, festivals, and collegiate sports.

The Tucson Symphony Orchestra, the AZ Friends of Chamber Music, the U of A music and dance and drama, the Rogue Theatre, the Tucson Museum of Art, the Center for Creative Photography, and many more fine organizations We have a great arts and culture community here. MOCA, The Poetry Center, the Center for Creative Photography, TMA, and other small non-profit organizations really make this a fun, unique community to be a part of.

Symphony, museums, great public and community radio, good theater.

I enjoy ATC and the symphony; I enjoy the Desert Museum and all the museums. I attend plays and concerts and take my grandchildren to the museums, parks and other cultural events or attractions.

Support professional, semi-professional and college level sports teams and sporting events.

Tucson is a great place to play and get involved in sports. Especially to watch. There is no reason we shouldn't be able to support a minor league baseball team, spring training, horse racing, etc.

I believe there could be more tournaments throughout the city that bring in southern Arizona teams to play in Tucson. Most tournaments are held in either Phoenix or out of state. It is difficult for these teams to find places to play.

I loved attending spring training games. If done correctly, these ventures should generate jobs and income for Tucson.

As a former athlete and UA graduate I am proud of our athletic programs and coaches. I expect the UA to continue to be an outstanding institution in Arizona and the Pac 10.

I love attending and watching the U of A sports and other school related activities.

We need to attract a Triple A franchise to Tucson and to bring more people to downtown Tucson. A baseball stadium with either downtown or mountain views will bring around 10,000 people to downtown Tucson.

Our wonderful weather conditions make it a perfect sports town.

Add a huge sports complex that could host large youth sporting events, especially soccer, and including baseball/softball.

Topic: Policy, Planning, Regulation and Taxation

Create realistic and feasible plans for the region and implement them

Create a master plan that doesn't change with the political winds.

Being able to move large projects like Rio Nuevo forward is important to establishing a vibrant downtown.

The inability to make that happen is disappointing.

Seems that the county and the city have different agendas. We need professional regional planning when it comes to development, infrastructure, water, etc. Rio Nuevo a mess, TCC a mess, water planning and development not done well or imaginatively.

We have had opportunities to make changes in the areas where we know people and industry are moving and we talk about getting ahead of some services / infrastructure needed - but instead of implementing our plans in advance or concurrently we wait until it is a crisis before action seems to happen.

We have dozens of long range strategic plans sitting on the shelf and haven't implemented any of them to any degree.

Reduce regulation where appropriate, streamline the permitting process, and provide other incentives to attract business and foster economic development

It's difficult to start a new business in this city because of existing codes and regulations.

Want the ability to open small business more easily.

Provide incentives for economic development.

Jobs are being lost due to inability to grow and establish business. Too many tax issues and administrative roadblocks.

Not easy to get around the codes....even Janos had problems!

It's hard to do business and grow in this region.

The city is one of the worst places to try to open a business, this has caused many small businesses to either not open or move out.

Construct a tax rate and tax structure that doesn't inhibit economic development or unduly burden residents, but adequately pays for necessary services and is stable

Too dependent on sales tax - need stable revenue for good government and good policy.

These high taxes in Tucson limit manufacturing growth in Tucson and our ability to bring more employment options to the community.

Higher property taxes - The community pays way too little and therefore basic infrastructure, like roads, is in a bad way.

Less taxes on dumb projects that produce nothing - change elected officials that have been there too long.

Incorporate more of the county so we would receive a fair share of our tax dollars.

Lower taxes.

Reduced sales tax.

Our taxes are too low - we cannot support a thriving city and region with the current tax base, and threats to cut taxes further is insane.

Topic: Weather, Nature, Desert, Mountains and Views

Preserve and celebrate the region's unique and beautiful natural environment

This is a unique and interesting biological and geographical region. The landscape and bioscape is what makes living here worthwhile.

I like that when I am in the city I can look in any direction and see a beautiful mountain range. I am also proud of the fact that the County (and other local jurisdictions) has made preserving open space a priority

and I hope that never changes.

The natural environment makes Tucson a sacred place to live.

I think that it crucial that Tucson does not build into our national parks and preserves Tucson's natural beauty. The weather is so great here that being outside is so appealing and it is so important that we have beautiful, clean, and fun parks/facilities to enjoy the outside. I also think that this attracts tourism.

Tucson is a great place to bring people visiting Arizona for the first time because it seems to have more natural beauty than Phoenix. And who doesn't love Tucson sunsets?

Helps give me a sense of identification, place.

Maintain accessibility to open space and recreation opportunities for all the region's residents

Its beauty, its easy accessibility, and climate. A ten minute drive to a beautiful hike

I love being able to get on a trail and feel like I am out of town, without really being 'out of town'.

Tucson is wicked beautiful. I love walking the Rillito River trail with my dog every morning and evening. I love being surrounded by beautiful mountains. I love that everyone else in Tucson loves to be outside!

Federal lands mean access for all income levels.

I think we should preserve some desert spots for people to be able to go to for recreational purposes.

Hiking trails, intimate garden settings - TBG, Tohono Chul, AZ Inn, etc. Diversity of mountains, birds & wildlife, golfing opportunities; I can be outside every day here.

I'm a healthy, active outdoor person and the natural local beauty is an easy integral part of life here.

I love to hike and get out into nature. I feel more calm and at peace when I am hiking. Having nearby trails that are easily accessible is important to me.

Protect visual access to the desert and mountains

First and foremost, I enjoy the mountains and scenery Tucson offers, in addition to the climate

I love the desert wildlife and the ability to sit in my backyard and watch birds of all kinds, and watch the wide open skies and weather moving in

It's special, there are few places you can see so far, but it is surrounded by mountains; and each mountain is unique.

The Catalina Mountains are beautiful. When we moved from Phoenix and saw how close we could live to the mountains with the gorgeous views, I thought Tucson was the best kept secret.

I love being able to drive up any street and see a mountain backdrop.

The mountains that surround Tucson are beautiful and are second to none. It is something that everyone that has come to visit me as always loves. It gives such beauty to our community. I love seeing them each morning when I wake up.

I love the 'dry heat'. The view of mountains any direction one looks gives a feeling of being in a protected environment.

We visit Tucson (to see our kids and attend football games) about 4 or 5 times each school year. We love the sunsets. Not too many towns have sunsets that turn the mountains purple. It's gorgeous.

Expand and improve local park systems

I thoroughly enjoy being outside and I know that it is important that everyone has access to fresh air in a safe place. Tucson is woefully deficient in park land. Connecting the linear parks along all our waterways is a big step.

Lack of interior parks space.

Well maintained parks are important.

I think the park system is very good and hope it will continue to improve.

Keep building parks and open spaces as the city grows.

Add more parks in the city limits - we would all benefit. The river walk is wonderful and could be extended.

More parks so children can have a place to play.

In all the local parks I've visited, all have been well laid out, clean and provide what I feel to be a safe place for me to exercise outdoors. The people I encounter also add to the experience.

We either need cleaner parks or just more of them.

Whether it's parks for kids, or senior league baseball, there is something here for everyone.

Topic: Managing Resources and Sustainability

Maintain and improve air quality in the region, including development of more clean transportation options

I want to walk outside and breathe the clean air for me and my family - it rejuvenates me.

A long line of cars at 5:30 on many major roads just causes more pollution. We have fairly clean air now; let's keep it that way.

After living in large cities in California, Tucson is a breath of fresh air...literally.

I care about maintaining air quality and want to make our streets usable to all modes of transportation (besides vehicles).

View of the mountains and surrounding desert areas will be lost to degradation of air quality which impacts all of us.

The air quality, the desert, and the surrounding environment make this a great place to live.

Protect and preserve our natural resources, in particular water, so that future generations may continue to enjoy a high quality of life in the region

I want to see every person making small sacrifices to save the desert. Using less water, volunteering to help pull invasive species, carpooling and driving less etc.

So much could be done to make Tucson a model. We currently seem to have no foresight when it comes to use of resources. Our recycling is spotty and limited. Our public transportation is lacking. Our use of green energy is practically non-existent. Our water use is outrageous. There is so much potential and we've barely scratched the surface.

Water, especially here, is a scarce resource. We do not have many more years to figure out ways to sustainably live in Tucson.

It's the only thing that will make living here in the future feasible. Those of us who love the desert will be happy to live with water restrictions.

Tucson is progressive in its policies and mindset with regard to living a sustainable lifestyle. I want to minimize my impact on the earth.

It really sets us apart from other cities and towns. In fact, it's made me more aware of environmental issues -- when visiting towns with grass lawns, I think of the expense and waste of watering and maintaining them.

If you don't protect it now, little by little it will be gone.

Seek to expand and develop the solar power industry to improve the local environment and to create quality jobs

I am an architect, but we need a sustainable economy based on tourism, solar, optics, and bioscience.

I'm 100% dedicated to a solar powered and green Tucson. I believe we need to find a new way to live

and interact with each other, nature, animals, and our planet. Going solar and green brings these benefits and life lessons to us. We'll all be the better for it.

I feel that massive efforts can be made to produce solar power here in Tucson, both bringing jobs to the area and reducing carbon emissions.

I would like to see Tucson capitalize on our status as a solar city and combine forces to do what it takes to influence the state legislature and corporation commission to offer carrots and sticks to build our green industry.

Too many people don't earn enough to have the best quality of life. This should be one of the solar capitals of the world. It would employ more people in jobs that are worthwhile.

More incentives to attract green businesses (solar in particular) to come to Tucson.

Topic: Regional Character, Identity, Diversity and Relationships

Maintain a Strong Sense of Community and a Relaxed, Small Town Feel

Small town feeling – easy to get involved in the community and make a difference

Sense of connectivity leads to a sense of responsibility

Tucson is so special. Many different people and cultures emerge and peacefully co-exist. For the most part, people are happy and pleasant and welcome different styles.

Sense of community – people willing to connect

Easy-going, laid-back atmosphere

Small community feel - Does not feel like a huge city

With my Christian values, this is so important to me. Our family does a lot of volunteering and collecting for non-profits. I find the community very supportive.

While spread out geographically, many area residents still maintain a friendly, 'small town' attitude of politeness and courtesy.

I know my neighbors . . .

Running into people you know fosters the sense of community

Community and neighbors who enjoy spending time together

Respect, Celebrate and Expand Appreciation for the Region's Diversity

(Diversity) causes us to look at community needs differently, to take a broader view of the community landscape

Cultural diversity – interesting people – academic community

Appreciation of diversity enhances communication opportunities

It's time to accept that we are all in this together and that there is room for us all to thrive

One night you can go to the Loft Theater, and the next for to hear music at the Rialto after hiking in the desert or nearby mountains. We can have Mexican, Thai, Indian or almost any other food any day of the week. People are not just Anglo, but may come from Sudan or Guatemala. I've met the sister city Khazakstan folks when they come. This diversity enriches my life.

Communities that have major universities embedded in them provide an attraction to scholars and thinkers as well as to youth. These two populations attract higher quality and more diversity in cultural events, restaurants, stores and a sense of vitality that is lacking in communities whose economies are largely based upon industry, tourism or retail malls

Cultural diversity and rich cultural heritage that arises when two sovereign nations meet; add in the two Tribes and we have four sovereign nations sharing space! This difference in perspectives, cultural history, and language help us forge a more global attitude.

Reduce Divisive, Polarized and Negative Comments and Relationships

My word! Where did these nasty people come from?! Disagree, but take your hatefulness, racism and other prejudices elsewhere.

Incivility in civil discourse, especially through email and the internet

Whether it's in traffic, in line at a store, or in many other settings, many people here seem grumpy and rude to each other much of the time. We seem to lack compassion for our common man.

I am new here (3-4 years), but all of the finger pointing and accusing over the past is not doing any of us any good.

Stop the blaming and vitriolic in-fighting among people.

Even adjacent neighborhoods 'don't cross the road'

There seems to be few links between the foothills, downtown, south tucson, the west side etc. It's important to be interconnected to really take broad community action for change

Dumb, opinionated people and politicians who listen to them

Removing partisan politics may help with the election of qualified candidates. This Dem/Rep divide is hurting us and is unnecessary on a local level.

We organize ourselves in small worlds (ex: gated communities)

Ethnic separation

Tucson has a business culture which fosters a win/lose attitude in business transactions/relationships. It is difficult to make a living when the culture fosters beating the other side bloody.

Protect, enhance and promote the positive image and reputation of the Tucson Region

It is the one thing that makes Tucson unique and also the very thing that made me buy a house here 5 years ago. Natural beauty.

The uniqueness of our Sonoran Desert. We have plants and animals that are only found here. The quality of air and light.

Tucsonans are welcoming, giving, thoughtful, and just a little weird. I love the small things about Tucson that make it slightly quirky and just fun . . .

I like living in a University city. It brings a great deal of enthusiasm for sports, arts and research. There are many offerings for all ages.

Everyone says the same thing about Tucson: compared to the east coast the pace is a refreshing and welcoming change. Even though there's always something to do, the city has a more laid-back vibe to it.

Tucson has a serious self-confidence problem. People here do not see the many positive aspects of living here. Tucson is a gem that its residents fail to recognize.

Tucson looks low-income, with run-down business fronts, an unsafe image - people don't want to stay so we have a revolving community.

Not too late to save our identity – don't blade the desert

Without the mountains and desert, we're Lubbock

Burnish, don't tarnish, Tucson's reputation.

Make Tucson fall in love with itself

Topic: Arts, Music, Activities and Cultural Events

Maintain easy access to a wide variety of arts and music groups, events and venues

Many opportunities to enjoy all kinds of music - blues festival, folk festival, Club Crawl, free/low-cost UA performances.

Arts and beauty helps foster our spiritual side

Without beauty and creativity, we are not human, and Tucson has some of the most creative folks around in visual and performing arts. I participate as much as I can.

The arts enriches all of our lives on many levels. This town attracts such a splendid diversity of artists, organizations and groups who can barely subsist and grow.

More funding and understanding of the arts.

Access to professional performing arts (Arizona Theatre Company, Tucson Symphony, Arizona Opera) as well as UofAZ arts (theater, school of dance,music) and smaller theater companies and musical groups.

Art, music, and downtown activities

Protect, expand and promote access to outdoor activities, sports and recreational opportunities of all types

We have beautiful land, extraordinary wildlife & weather that supports healthy outdoor activities and appreciation of nature; hiking, golf, picnics, outdoor community & social events

I love that my family can spend as much time outdoors - swimming, biking, hiking. We can go to Sabino Canyon to swim and hike, bike at Sahuaro National Park and drive up Mt. Lemmon for snow and cool air.

I enjoy playing soccer year round. I am happy in sunshine.

It's a great place to be and to be able to enjoy nature. Whether you walk, hike, cycle or run - Tucson is the best of all worlds.

Whether it's parks for kids, or senior league baseball, there is something here for everyone.

Nearness to Saguaro National Park, state parks, surrounding desert, opportunities for outdoor activities.

Access to various outdoor activities (hiking, biking, etc.) and spectator participation in various levels of athletics from public schools through the university programs.

Provides scenic and recreational opportunities. We enjoy being outside and hiking the trails which surround Tucson.

Right next to my house there is Reid park, a great place to run, swim, golf, or just play.

Outdoor activities for youth

Celebrate and build on the University of Arizona's contribution to the social and cultural environment of the region

UA brings people together, creating a happier friendlier place, a healthy attitude, and community bonding.

Attracts young people and educated people, and provides great diversity, as well as things for the public to do: museums, Centennial Hall, Music school, dance, theater, festivals

The diversity brought in through the university, high tech companies, religious refugees, etc. adds color to our society, exposure to new beliefs, introduction of new types of food, etc.

I cannot imagine Tucson without the UofA. The University brings so much to the area in the way of arts, culture, education, and interesting people who come here to work at or attend the University.

The University offers so much to the community from continuing education, to performing arts and athletics; many of which are comparable to professional offerings in other cities

Having access to an academic health center and great physicians; artistic, athletic and cultural events on campus; the intellectual vitality that radiates from a great university and the discoveries that its faculty bring to the community.

Promote and protect cultural events in the region, including an expanded appreciation of Hispanic, Native American and other ethnic and cultural influences and groups

The mix of people and cultures and the food, music, languages and arts they represent make Tucson a great place to live. That includes our heritage and our urban night life/arts scene.

Tucson Meet Yourself celebrates the multicultural fiber of Tucson. I like the feeling that we all appreciate our cultural backgrounds but we are all Tucsonans and Americans.

As a citizen who likes to grow continually and to participate in a positive manner in my environment, I enjoy community events that draw various ethnic & cultural groups together to share our uniqueness & our common commitment to our community.

Different cultures - native american and Mexican and opportunities to experience them now - living - not in history.

For a city of this size there seems to be an amazing number of opportunities to go to musical events, arts events, festivals, and collegiate sports. All that's missing is major league type sporting events.

Enhance the variety, affordability and accessibility of youth activities and opportunities in the region

Lack of recreation for kids, especially in summer; pools closed and too expensive

More places for teens and young adults to hang out

Need for better and more opportunities for youth after school

More youth activities spread out across town - not just downtown

It is hard to get places via the public bus system. I work with under-served youth and this a major complaint they often voice.

Young people need music, chess clubs, debate clubs

More affordable youth activities

Students don't see a role for themselves in the community

More sports activities for the youth

Topic: Well being, Opportunity and Quality of Life

Support access to quality, affordable health care throughout the region

Good hospitals and doctors that are close to home . . .

My family has health issues that make access to quality health care very important to us.

The current health care system is skewed to provide expensive medications and treatments (and to generate profits).

For folks in the outlying regions urgent care and emergency care continues to be a problem . . .

Need a more integrated, effective mental health system

Catastrophic health care

Cheaper to go to Mexico for prescriptions, due to costs

My mom - subsidies for home health care - children have to do it

Doctor calls even when we are on vacation to check

Ensure access to a wide range of health promotion activities and services

Health and fitness is important and weather is ideal for it

Pre-natal and minor child health affects education and trickles down - availability of good nutrition

The climate allows us to enjoy so many outdoor activities, it allows us all to live a healthier, more active life

I am so much healthier here. I feel good here, my family also. We are able to take advantage of the natural beauty and opportunities for outdoor activities.

Health and Wellness

I find solace and spiritual uplift from nature as well as a feeling of health and well-being.

Increased mental health and mental health education services

Good, local food – e.g. Farmer's Market

Maintain a variety of accessible and affordable quality of life elements within the region. Reduce threats to quality of life.

Natural beauty enhances my life.

The educational system is the backbone of any community and will greatly impact the future of Tucson.

In many other communities, activities that improve the quality of life are not accessible or not affordable. Tucson has a lot to offer from a lifestyle/quality of life perspective.

The mountains make me feel better about myself.

We are fortunate to have access to music, dance, and theatre. Art enriches our lives and helps us have a better understanding of the human spirit and intellect.

Who can't be happy watching the sun rise and the sun set over the mountains each day.

It makes for a better quality of life; not having to deal with major rush hour traffic or inclement weather.

Churches are important to maintaining a higher quality of life. Moral and ethical standards that are advocated by churches benefit the entire community.

The University of Arizona has an enormously positive impact on the quality of life and economic productivity in Tucson.

There needs to be more enforcement of these small crimes, because their cumulative effect degrades the quality of life for everyone.

. . . low level flights across the city at all hours. These flights are very disruptive to university classes, damages older homes, and damages the quality of life for those in the flight path.

It takes me 20 minutes to commute to work. We can easily afford our home on one income (although both of us work). We are not stretched thin financially or time-wise so it allows for a greater quality of life.

It's easy living here... No storm windows, snow tires, leaves to rake... Leaves more time for leisure and enjoyment.

Ensure that housing resources meet the needs of all residents of the region

There is a need for more affordable housing for people with disabilities and low income families.

I like not spending lots of money for decent housing.

There are 'pockets' throughout Tucson of various types of communities, housing options (e.g., pricing), etc.

Substantial and means based incentives for sustainable housing

Huge redevelopment needs to occur to make this place attractive. The only attractive part is the natural environment.

I was able to purchase my first home in Tucson and the cost of living is low

I work for non-profit and have a limited housing budget. I think there are a number of middle class professionals here who would like to be able to live in decent, yet affordable housing.

Aging housing stock, sprawl

Mixed income housing that provides amenities

Maintain and increase choices and opportunities of all types throughout the region

Opportunities to attend lectures and be enriched by the university.

A University town has more intellectual opportunities.

. . . the Tucson area offers a myriad of outdoor opportunities which I highly value and enjoy.

Access to a lot of diverse cultural opportunities, food and events

Alternative fuel and energy opportunities.

Better job opportunities

Business opportunities

I am retired and enjoy working with others for a common goal. This affords me an opportunity to be socially creative and express my self.

Need for better and more opportunities for youth after school

Opportunity to see wildlife

The open spaces and the opportunity for an active lifestyle

Be sure that needs of people in trouble receive appropriate attention

We have a lot of residents who are down and out.

There is a wide division among rich and poor

Hunger

I think that for a community to be healthy, all segments should feel the same. There is much division among the classes and the wealthy have the power.

Large number of families and seniors living in poverty

Arizona social services are limited, poor quality, not functional

It is personally sad to see people living on the streets.

We have economic barriers to access to healthy food

Lack of employment opportunities

Not a family friendly town if you are not financially well off.

Low cost of living

Topic: Crime and Safety

Reduce crime

I suppose crime and gang activity grows as the population does. I'm sorry to see murder and gang violence at such a high rate. I want my family to be safe. I live in midtown where there is a lot of drugs and all the nasty things that go with that.

I've lived in my current house 8 years and it has been burglarized 4 times. My car was stolen from in front of a busy restaurant on Speedway in broad daylight. Do I have to convert my home and car into fortresses to live here? I've been pouring money into windows, gates, security doors, alarm systems, etc. I'd rather pay more taxes for better drug prevention/police work.

I believe that Tucson is getting a reputation for not being safe due to gang activity and drug runners. Homicides, shootings, and assaults seem to be a nightly item on the news.

Graffiti and vandalism in our neighborhoods. There needs to be more enforcement of these small crimes, because their cumulative effect degrades the quality of life for everyone.

Border issues - criminal activity and drugs.

Corruption in government and the media

Graffiti and murals are ugly and sicken me. Crime in general is a bad thing. Traffic is not the concern. Drugs, home invasions, theft, vandalism, murder, etc...

Increase personal safety and reduce fear

I often don't feel safe in Tucson. Seems to be high crime. Dark streets, feels unsafe. Hard to find places for children to walk around without a parent and feel they are safe.

It feels like at any given moment I could get in an accident because so many people are all over the place trying to quickly get to their destination.

My friend lives right across the wash and my mother won't let me go across because it is unsafe.

There are several safe communities to live in. We live in a middle class home where we feel very safe.

For pedestrians in the area of downtown, it's not a safe place crossing the streets. People in cars continue to run lights and go through when pedestrians have the right of way.

It is a false fear - media exaggerates crime, results in fear.

Downtown is still too dangerous. I would never take my family there.

Bike lanes are frightening- need to be improved and made safer.

There are events and businesses that I don't visit simply because I do not feel the adequate presence of police/security personnel.