INTRODUCTION

Extraordinary growth is an exciting challenge to have!

-We think safe flourishing communities

-Places to play

-Access to shopping

-Convenience to one's workplace

-Etc.

However, there is another side of the coin:

INFRASTRUCTURE

It's the foundation of economic activity. Transportation is just one very important aspect.

Concerns/Challenges

A) Finding and obtaining usable land for new construction of roads as well as improving and maintaining existing ones.
B) The foresight to meet not only todays needs but the inevitable needs of the future.
C) Funding of projects.

A) The what and the how

1- Expansion of existing roadways
EX: SR 24 going deeper into Pinal County
Germann and Meridian Rds.
All connecting Pinal and Maricopa Counties

2- Creation of new roadways
EX: Pinal Pkwy-North/South Alignment

3- Possible considerations for public transportation
4- Looking for ways of utilizing state and private lands for local use

B) <u>The current state of Pinal County and its residents</u>

1- According to Pinal County Financial Report for last year ending 06/30/2020 (Exhibit 1): The county lost just shy of ½ million dollars ($436,350) in revenue. An increase of $69,253 from the previous year.
2- Breakdown of Pinal County's primary source of revenue: 64% of revenue is generated from taxation (Exhibit 1 for further breakdown).
3- According to the *"Sales Tax Handbook"* Pinal sales tax rate is 1.6% plus an additional Arizona State sales tax of 5.6% gives residents a 7.2% minimum sales tax, which could include additional city and gov't taxes adding up to a maximum sales tax of 11.2%, which is a 93% higher maximum sales tax than other Arizona counties and a 99% higher maximum sales tax of counties nationwide (Exhibit 2).
4- According to an independent study by ASU and published @ Azeconomy.org personal income of state residents declined by 26.5% in second quarter of 2021 with the national average declining by 21.8% (Exhibit 3)

Additional or higher taxes aren't the solution to the challenge of funding. Besides high taxes aren't conducive in attracting new residents and developers.

C) <u>Funding Options</u>

<u>Federal Government</u>

1- Although the federal government has a role to play in assisting the expansion of our county's infrastructure, it shouldn't be a "piggy bank" for our local government.
2- All federal funding should come with a "no strings attached" provision especially if it is counterintuitive to our communities needs.
3- All federal monies granted must be exclusively utilized solely for the project at hand.

<u>Cutting Costs</u>

1- Revisiting outdated agreements and draft new legislation addressing new and future demands.
2- Line-item reductions (ex: office space, travel, etc.).

<u>Increase Revenue</u>

1- Generate additional revenue from existing taxes-NOT raising taxes but increasing the tax revenue number by adding more residential housing, retail, commercial, industrial and manufacturing "outlets".
2- Attracting more of these "outlets" can be accomplished by creating an environment that is ripe for growth. Ex: Incentives for new construction, relocating businesses from surrounding counties, aggressive deadline bonus' as well as tax incentives.
3- With new infrastructure projects, especially transportation, it's expected to generate more private investing for real estate development (residential, commercial etc.) which in turn creates more tax revenue. As it currently stands, I venture to say that Maricopa County enjoys most of our tax dollar revenue just by people commuting to and from work.

4- Mass advertising/promotion campaign. "I Love N.Y." worked wonders in the 70's and 80's for NYC. It made people aware that the city was there. It will make a difference here as well. Utilizing billboards, commercials we can inform people around the state what is available in our county ex: parks, recreation, concerts and county fairs. Attract tourism, and let people know we are here, that we are a law-and-order county, making them feel safe.

CONCLUSION

Considering the time constraints, and without getting into depth, these are just a few ideas to assist in creating a healthy balance between residential, commercial, industrial and manufacturing properties and utilizing them as a means of generating additional revenue to fund our growing demand for adequate infrastructure without burdening the taxpayer any more than they already are.