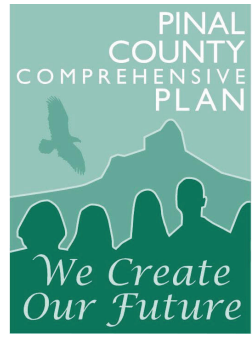


# Preferred Alternative and our Vision

## A guide to how land use, job creation, and transportation are addressed in the draft Preferred Alternative.



A land use and transportation map is only one element of a Comprehensive Plan. It is important to remember that the Pinal County Vision will largely be carried out through the implementation of detailed policies included in the Comprehensive Plan and its various elements. The guide below summarizes how land use, job creation, and transportation is addressed in the draft Preferred Alternative.

### Preferred Alternative

Concentrating growth in west and central County along major transportation corridors and a balance of development and rural preservation in east County.

Open Spaces and Places



Incorporates the majority of the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan. Intended to limit high intensity development in much of eastern County. Provides for hospitality and ecotourism in east County. Establishes a “context sensitive corridor” to preserve the vistas of natural landscape along SR 79 (Pioneer Parkway).

Sense of Community



Through a sustainable land use pattern, concentrates high-density development in the center of the County and encourages the preservation of the small-town feel and unique character of Pinal’s more rural communities. Provides transit opportunities that connect communities in Pinal.

Economic Sustainability



Concentrates economic development and employment corridors along existing and proposed freeway corridors and rail lines. Conceptually locates a commercial airport. Provides for hospitality and ecotourism in east County. Provides for a variety of regional mixed use activity centers and quality employment opportunities County-wide.

Quality Educational Opportunities



Provides for the development of a large University and satellite campuses in central County, with activity centers that integrate education and the business community.

Healthy, Happy Residents



Incorporates the majority of the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan. Provides medical institutions throughout County. Supports community development that encourages walking, biking, and recreation.

Mobility and Connectivity



Implements Regionally Significant Roads plan as well as other regional transportation plans/studies, providing new types of roads to meet various needs. Provides for a commuter rail route through central-Pinal, connecting Phoenix and Tucson. Provides a bus rapid transit route connecting Pinal to Phoenix and Tucson, as well as connecting communities in Pinal. Conceptually locates a regional airport.

Environmental Stewardship



Incorporates the majority of the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan, helping to protect washes, viewsheds, wildlife corridors, natural resources, and environmentally sensitive areas. Emphasizes transit opportunities throughout County.



# Vision

*Pinal recognizes the importance of the region's strategic location between Phoenix and Tucson and its relationship to the overall well-being of the State of Arizona. What happens in Pinal County does not stay in Pinal County; the decisions made here will impact the entire state on many levels: business development, mobility, land management, air quality, water, and overall quality of life. People choose Pinal for the diverse opportunities it offers; this diversity is what makes Pinal unique but also represents a challenge as Pinal continues to grow and change.*

Pinal is a place where history, culture and heritage are the foundation for its future. Pinal County will be seen as a leader in environmental stewardship and conservation practices by ensuring that the natural environment is preserved, yet still available to be discovered. Pinal provides quality educational and training opportunities placing residents in cutting edge, environmentally-compatible jobs within the County. While communities within Pinal retain and celebrate their unique qualities, governments and agencies share a collaborative spirit to ensure successes across Pinal and remain responsive and accountable to their constituents.

**Open Spaces and Places**—Residents value the large connected open spaces and unique places of Pinal, not only as part of their quality of life, but as an important resource to sustain the region's immense wildlife habitat and their corridors. From the majestic mountains rising from the desert floor in the west to the high desert and rugged mountain terrain to the east, enjoyment of and respect for the natural surroundings is a big part of why people choose Pinal County to live and visit.

**Sense of Community**—Pinal is a collection of unique communities, each of which has something special to offer residents and visitors. Balancing emerging urban centers and Pinal's rural character is important to residents; ensuring that the threads of Pinal's history, heritage, and culture are woven into its future is what makes Pinal unique from other regions. Ensuring places exist for people to gather and for communities to showcase the diversity of places, people, lifestyles, cultures, and opportunities will help to define Pinal's identity.

**Economic Sustainability**—Expanding opportunities for residents to live, work, learn, and play in close proximity promotes long-term economic viability. Pinal desires activity centers that serve the current and future residents' needs offering services, businesses and employment opportunities, including high-tech and environmentally-friendly employers who champion Pinal's conservation philosophy. The creation of the full range of quality jobs that allow residents to start their career, raise a family, and move up instead of out of Pinal for career advancement is essential.

**Quality Educational Opportunities**—Quality, community-based Pre K-12 programs that provide youth with a competitive edge along with a wide variety of post-secondary educational opportunities and technical or specialized workforce training are necessities. Pinal residents seek out life-long opportunities that help to expand their minds and diversify their experiences.

**Healthy, Happy Residents**—Access to quality healthcare and healthy lifestyle choices is a priority. Pinal is a healthy, safe place where residents can walk or ride to activity centers and where interaction in Pinal's clean, natural environment is encouraged. Ensuring residents are healthy, safe and happy in their community is a priority for Pinal.

**Mobility and Connectivity**—Ensuring Pinal has adequate transportation corridors and a variety of multimodal transportation options addressing all populations is essential for moving goods and people throughout the County and State with minimal affect on Pinal's native wildlife. Offering multiple mobility and communication options, to effectively connect communities and activity centers throughout the county, will reduce congestion and improve air quality while enhancing the area's quality of life.

**Environmental Stewardship**—People value the views of the mountains and open vistas during the day and the stars at night. These values have translated to a strong conservation ethic that stresses the importance of maintaining the quality of Pinal's natural resources for future generations. Pinal County is the leader in environmental stewardship, and rewards and encourages sustainable practices such as innovative land use planning, sustainable agriculture, water conservation, green building development, and the use of renewable and alternative energy sources.