RESOLUTION 2-2014

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, URGING THE ARIZONA LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO DIRECT DEDICATED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING SUCH AS HURF TO ITS INTENDED USES

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona taxes motor fuels and collects a variety of fees and charges relating to the registration and operation of motor vehicles on the public highways of the state including gasoline and use-fuel taxes, motor-carrier taxes, vehicle-license taxes, motor vehicle registration fees and other miscellaneous fees; and

WHEREAS, transportation revenue streams are declining due to better vehicle fuel efficiency, higher gas prices reducing vehicle miles driven, declining motor vehicle sales, and fuel taxes not being adjusted for inflation for nearly twenty years; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, the State has diverted over $1.7 billion in highway and road funding to pay for an increasingly larger portion of Department of Public Safety (DPS) operations over the past twelve years; and

WHEREAS, in spite of an annual cap of $20 million, approximately $127 million in HURF funding was diverted to fund DPS operations in the current fiscal year, while the State General Fund contributed only $45 million; and

WHEREAS, due to the HURF diversions and revenue declines, $350 million in previously planned highway construction and maintenance activity have been eliminated from the State's five-year plan; and

WHEREAS, due to the HURF diversions and revenue declines, Arizona State, county, and municipal road programs have been significantly scaled back to routine maintenance work, which will hasten far more costly reconstruction activity at the public's expense in the future, negatively impact highway safety, and increase vehicle maintenance and repair costs for both the general public and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the State's 25-year Long Range Transportation Plan, which considers such factors as pavement conditions, congestion levels and safety performance, projects a $63 billion gap between needs and revenues; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, state general fund revenues have surpassed forecasted levels, and as of the end of November, year-to-date revenues were $53 million above forecasted levels, weakening the rationale for subsidizing the state budget with HURF funds; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the diversion of transportation funding is vital for developing and maintaining the quality infrastructure needed to protect public safety and the environment, support jobs and economic growth, and enhance the overall quality of life for Arizonans.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Benson that the State Legislature and Governor are hereby urged to eliminate the diversion of transportation funding to the State General Fund and to direct dedicated funding such as HURF toward its intended uses.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, this 10th day of March, 2014.

TONEY D. KING, SR., Mayor

ATTEST:

VICKI L. VIVIAN, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MESCH, CLARK AND ROTHSCHILD, P.C.
By Gary J. Cohen
City's Attorney