

**Valley Forward Livability Summit
Panel Presentation
Outline**

- I. **Change**
 - a. Few words create more intense emotional reactions positively or negatively than the word Change
 - b. Bruce Barton, the adman who named General Motors and created Betty Crocker once said, “When you are through changing, you are through.”

- II. **A Little Perspective**
 - a. Prior to attending law school – long before getting into transportation – I worked for a non-profit organization assisting at-risk teenagers with positive life changes.
 - b. It was then that I realized, “People usually don’t change until it is too painful to stay the same.”
 - c. At the heart of what we always discuss at these Summits on Earth Day and every other day we hold them is – will we change, or will we stay the same?

- III. **It is Up to Us – Changes that Will Make Sustainability Possible**
 - a. The Underlying Premise: The way we “do transportation” – plan it, build it, fund it – will determine whether or not our state grows “sustainably,” or not.
 - b. What must be done:
 - 1) Creating and funding a statewide, long-range transportation plan and implementation strategy that includes options such as rail, transit, bike, pedestrian facilities – and not just highways and roads; and
 - 2) All of us working together with local, county, regional, state, private and non-profit entities to connect land use and transportation decisions to create places that work for PEOPLE and not just cars.

- IV. **1,000 Different Decisions Every Day**
 - a. Every day thousands of decisions are being made in all of our different silos – Do these decisions lead to a more sustainable future for our state – or, do they not?
 - b. Are we working together to ensure these decisions are positively impacting each other’s decisions?

- V. **It is Not Easy to Change – But, ADOT is Doing It**

- a. Of course you can imagine how difficult the concept of Change can be for an organization such as the Department of Transportation that has been around since 1927 and was originally named the Arizona Department of Highways.
- b. Well, I am pleased to speak to you today about a few of the many changes the Arizona Department of Transportation is making to create a more sustainable Arizona;
 - For the first time ever, ADOT is creating a State Rail Plan for Arizona;
 - ADOT is folding the State Rail Plan as well as an Aviation Plan and bicycle and pedestrian plans into the 20-year statewide long-range transportation plan;
 - ADOT is partnering with the Arizona Department of Housing to integrate the Housing-Transportation Affordability Index into the way each agency does business;
 - ADOT is partnering with Department of Housing and Department of Environmental Quality to work with the feds in implementing the HUD/USDOT/EPA Sustainable Communities partnership;
 - ADOT is working with grassroots livability coalitions throughout the state to support local and regional projects that integrate transportation, infrastructure and housing – so that all our decisions together may lead to place making and not just laying pipe.

VI. Too Painful to Stay the Same

- a. Well, in my humble opinion, it is currently too painful to stay the same and as a state we are at a critical juncture.
- b. Will we take the road, line, bus or bicycle path less traveled by?
- c. If we do, it will make all the difference.

Thank you.