



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 13, 2015

To: The Honorable Ally Miller, Member
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Your February 10, 2015 Letter Regarding Road Maintenance Funding and the Orangewood North Neighborhood**

Since you have only been a Supervisor since January 2013, it may be difficult to understand the issues and dilemmas regarding transportation funding within the County. The same area about which you are complaining regarding poorly maintained roads has been the beneficiary of over \$170 million of transportation or highway capacity improvements funded with County Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) bonds and County funds.

Had we concentrated simply on road maintenance 17 years ago in lieu of the 1997 HURF bond issue, streets in Orangewood North Neighborhood would be well maintained and without potholes. However, Thornydale and Magee Roads would continue to be two-lane highways; and the residents would be complaining more about their inability to commute to and from work, shopping and school due to severe highway capacity restrictions from an unimproved roadway system. (See attached table and graphic.)

As you know, the last phase of the Cortaro Farms Road widening is in final design. Would you suggest we cancel this project and repave the streets in Orangewood North instead? If so, I would recommend you place the item on the Board's agenda for consideration.

Transportation is insufficiently funded, and to make up the shortfall in user fees with property taxes is inequitable to the County residents who reside in cities and towns. To adequately maintain local streets in the unincorporated area of Pima County, user fees must be increased. This means a gas tax increase. There are no magic solutions or budget tricks, and no major diversions of property taxes will solve this problem.

As you are aware, inadequate funding is adversely affecting transportation systems across our state. I suppose this is the reason the County Supervisors Association, which represents every county in Arizona, chose to endorse increasing the state gas tax as a legislative priority.

The Honorable Supervisor Ally Miller
Re: **Your February 10, 2015 Letter Regarding Road Maintenance Funding and the
Orangewood North Neighborhood**
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If you wish to blame me, please go ahead, but it will not solve the problem. Rather, I would appreciate your efforts to work cooperatively toward a solution, as finger-pointing is counterproductive.

CHH/anc

Attachments

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Priscilla Cornelio, Transportation Director
Tom Burke, Director, Finance and Risk Management
Lauren Eib, Risk Manager, Finance and Risk Management
Thomas Weaver, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Residents of Orangewood North Subdivision

Fiscal Year	Pavement Preservation	Treatment	Cost
2014/2015	River: Shannon to La Cholla	patch/crack/micro	\$167,125
2014/2015	Sabino Canyon Intersection: Ventana to River	patch/crack/micro	\$196,671
2014/2015	1st Ave: River to Ina	patch/crack/micro	\$439,250
2014/2015	River: La Cholla to La Canada	patch/crack/micro	\$192,500
2014/2015	Thornydale: Rudolf to Daphne	patch/crack/micro	\$237,913
2014/2015	La Cholla: River to Magee	patch/crack/micro	\$635,708
2013/2014	Oasis: Cmo de Oeste to Twin Pics	overlay 2"	\$330,789
2012-2013	Heatherwood Hills / Flecha Caida 5, 8 & 10	chip seal	\$292,068
2012-2013	Catalina Foothills Estates 7 & Northridge Estates	chip Seal	\$384,800
2012-2013	Shadow Rock	chip Seal	\$129,330
2012-2013	Flair	mill / fill 2"	\$597,333
2012-2013	Camino de la Tierra: CL to Orange Grove	structural overlay 2"	\$268,668
2012-2013	Casas Adobes- partial	structural overlay 2"	\$799,974
2011-2012	Campbell Avenue: River to Sunrise	mill/fill 2"	\$544,800
2011-2012	Las Lomitas	structural overlay 1.5"	\$303,364
			\$5,520,293

Capital Projects	Project ID	Total Cost
Magee Rd/ Cortaro Farms: Mona Lisa to La Canada	4RTMLI	\$ 24,125,453
Magee Rd/ Cortaro Farms: Thornydale Rd to Mona Lisa	4MCFTL	\$ 23,453,804
Magee Rd: La Canada Dr to Oracle Rd	4MRLCO	\$ 17,498,400 estimated
La Cholla Blvd: Magee Rd to Overton	4RTLTM	\$ 25,091,471 estimated
La Canada: River Rd to Ina Rd	4LCRRI	\$ 32,033,333 estimated
La Canada: Ina Rd to Calle Concordia	4RTCCI	\$ 25,743,491
Thornydale Rd: Ina Rd to Cortaro Rd (DOT-22)		\$ 16,772,737
TOTAL		\$ 164,718,689

\$5,520,293

TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS & PAVEMENT PRES

\$ 170,238,982

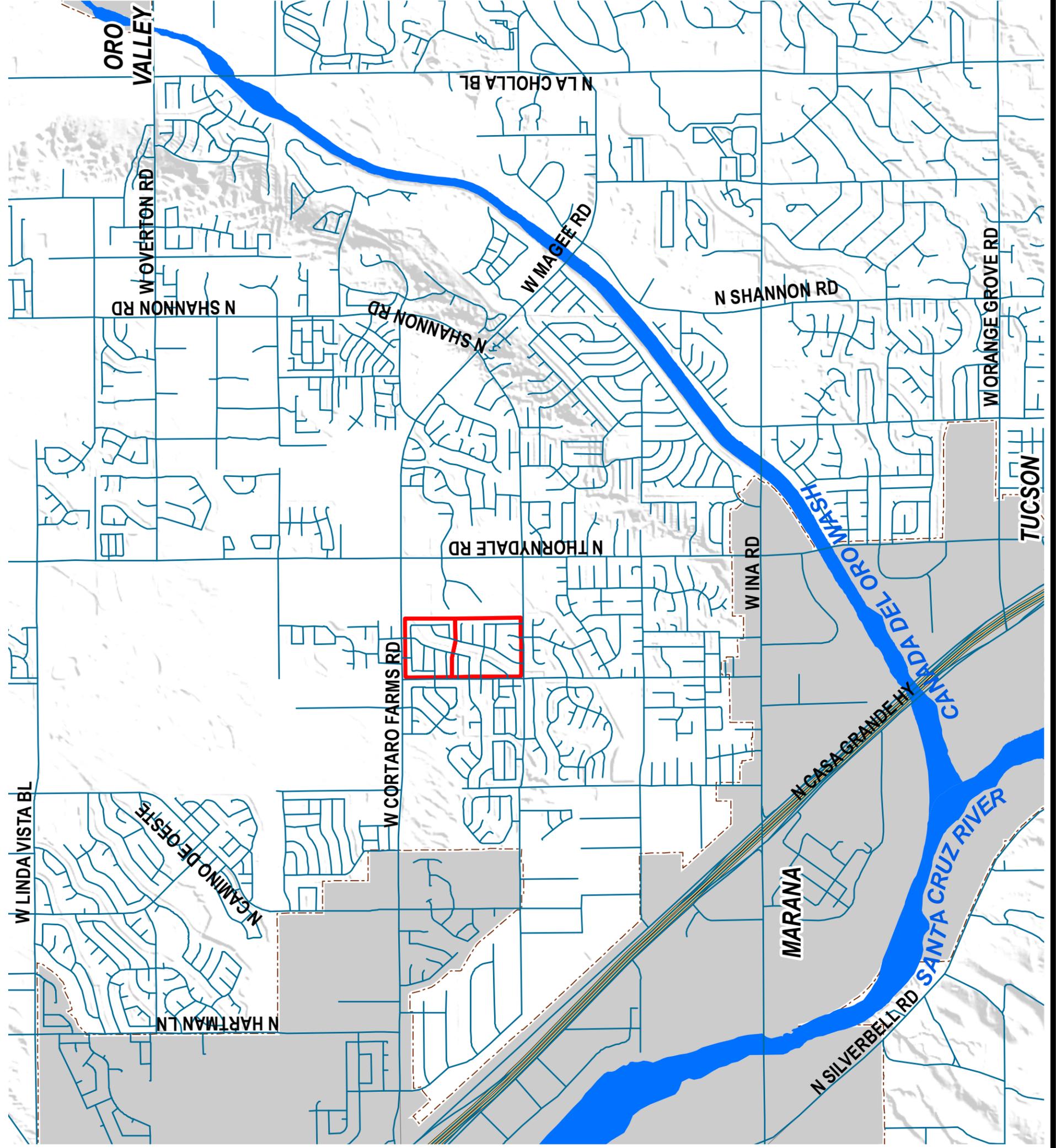
Orangewood and Surrounding Area

- Street Network
- Orangewood Subdivision
- Major Waterways



Miles

Date: 2/11/2015





**PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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ALLY MILLER
SUPERVISOR

February 10, 2015

Mr. Chuck Huckelberry
County Administrator
130 W. Congress, 10th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Mr. Huckelberry:

As you know, Pima County has acquired an almost \$300 million dollar road problem under your leadership as County Administrator over the past 20 years. While you continue to claim the crumbling roads are the result of residents not paying enough in gas taxes, Pima County tax payers are very much aware of how you have prioritized spending over the past 2 decades.

Under your 20 years as County Administrator, you have repeatedly chosen to allocate funds to other projects and disregard basic infrastructure maintenance - a core service of County Government. For years, your excuse behind the failed roads has always been to redirect blame somewhere else: the State Legislature, unfair HURF formulas, a need for a new tax and to increase taxes. While other counties and jurisdictions have been able to adjust and re-prioritize to maintain infrastructure, their roads are not in failing condition.

As the Supervisor in District 1, I am once again requesting your serious attention to deal with the problem that has developed under your tenure. With the upcoming budget hearings, you can be certain I will be looking for the full HURF allocation, (less bond repayments), to be used on our roads in Fiscal Year 2015/16.

The citizens in the Orangewood North Neighborhood have clearly documented roads that are a safety hazard and due to a lack of maintenance and repair by the County, are now in dire need of being repaved before someone is seriously injured or killed.

Please allocate funds to repair these roads and address the serious safety concerns residents face every day when driving their neighborhood roads.

Sincerely,

Ally Miller
Supervisor, District 1

**C: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Priscilla Cornelio, Director, Department of Transportation
Tom Burke, Director, Department of Finance
Lauren Eib, Risk Manager, Risk Management Department
Thomas Weaver, Chief Civil Deputy, Pima County Attorney's Office
Residents of Orangewood North Subdivision**

