



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
130 W. CONGRESS, FLOOR 10, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
(520) 724-8661 FAX (520) 724-8171

C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

November 23, 2015

Mr. Dennis Currie
6456 W. Knoll Pines Way
Tucson, Arizona 85757

Re: **Your Questions Regarding Transportation Funding at Call to the Public on November 17, 2015**

Dear Mr. Currie:

Since we cannot readily provide you with the answers to your questions in an open dialog during the real-time Call to the Public, I would like to answer the questions you posed at the November 17, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting.

First, transportation funding or funds used by the County to finance the Department of Transportation are generally Highway User Revenue funds derived from distribution of revenue sources by the State, the major source of which is the gas tax. The second source of funding is the statutorily allocated portion of the Vehicle License Tax (VLT) for transportation purposes. This portion is restricted to use for "transportation purposes." Transit is a transportation purpose. You are correct about our difference of opinion with the Arizona Auditor General in 2007 regarding her interpretation of the statutes relating to VLT. Because of the differing interpretations, the law was clarified by the Arizona Legislature in 2008 to settle the matter that VLT monies could be used "for any purpose relating to transportation." The issue was settled long ago with the Auditor General in the County's favor. The County makes appropriations from the General Fund on a case-by-case basis to the Department of Transportation and is under no obligation to pay anything back based on our use of VLT to fund transit. I believe this answers your questions and debunks the notion the County used VLT inappropriately to fund transit.

The subject raised by you previously and now by Mr. Marty Wiger, is why Pima County has not released other development blocks within Star Valley. Quite simply, the developer

Mr. Dennis Currie

Re: Your Questions Regarding Transportation Funding at Call to the Audience on November 17, 2015

November 23, 2015

Page 2

has not honored his obligations in the Star Valley Specific Plan. As you know, this matter is in active litigation. We are hopeful the litigation will be completed soon and the County will be repaid the transportation funds owed by the developer. By repaying the transportation funds, the developer will honor the development obligations agreed to years ago with Pima County. None of the developer's defaults at this time are having an adverse impact on Star Valley residents, as Camino Verde has been completed and is open to traffic. Also, Valencia Road has been widened to just past Wade Road.

Please share this information with Mr. Wiger.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/anc

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Tom Burke, Deputy County Administrator for Administration
John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Director, Development Services
Priscilla Cornelio, Transportation Director