

Application of Criteria for Pima County Bond Project Proposals

Project Name: Regional Public Safety Training Academy: Driver Training Facility

1. Broad Demonstrated Support by Public: Driver training has long been identified by the public as an important need for all law enforcement agencies and fire departments. Facilities that were originally intended to teach basic driving skills are inadequate for the purposes of providing judgmental driver training. Creating realistic driving environments that test and train officer judgment and physical driving skills has challenged both law enforcement and the fire service. A facility to provide realistic training opportunities to all regional law enforcement and fire agencies in has been growing in need over two decades.

2. Has Regional Public Benefit: This project will offer a training capacity that is currently unavailable in Southern Arizona. All regional agencies will have access to this new facility to provide critical training in tactical and emergency driving. Additionally, other government entities will have access to the facilities as currently allowed with the existing facility.

Driver training is of the most important risk reduction strategies for law enforcement agencies and fire departments. Traffic collisions involving law enforcement officers continue to be the single largest source of serious injuries and fatalities for employees. Basic driving skills are easily taught at conventional training facilities, but officers drive in a tactical environment, which requires realistic training opportunities. The original training facility, built 20 years ago, neglected to include a classroom facility. As training has evolved, it has become clear that two thirds of training time requires a classroom setting, while one third requires the use of a highly technical track. Classrooms are used to teach the judgmental portions of the training for high-speed pursuits, tactical vehicle interventions, and emergency response. In addition, the classroom allows officers and fire personnel to learn about legal issues, as well as vehicle dynamics.

Once on the track, theory is put into practice. The track surface allows officers and fire personnel to experience skids, evasive maneuvers, stopping distances from high speeds, reaction times, and anti-lock braking in a realistic environment. Officers drive at low speeds on the large concrete surface covered with water to practice recovering from skids they will encounter at high speeds during emergency driving events. A portion of the surface is dedicated to allowing officers to experience leaving the paved surface of a roadway and returning to it safely. Currently, these skills cannot be safely trained anywhere in Southern Arizona efficiently.

Other government agencies who currently utilize the facility, including Sun Tran, will be well served by the new driver-training track, skid pad, training room, and ramada. A new Driver Training Facility will strengthen our partnerships with these agencies and will demonstrate the City's commitment to the community and Southern Arizona.

3. Partnerships: Partners on the project include all law enforcement agencies and fire departments in Pima County, followed by those in Southern Arizona, and finally all those in the State of Arizona. Preferential scheduling has been offered to those agencies in Pima County for current facilities, a practice that will continue.

Current users of the existing facility include:

<u>FIRE AGENCIES</u>	<u>POLICE AGENCIES</u>
Avra Valley Fire District	ADOT Enforcement and Compliance
Drexel Heights Fire District	Arizona Department of Corrections
Green Valley Fire District	Arizona Department of Corrections - Tucson
Mt. Lemmon Fire District	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Picture Rocks Fire District	Arizona State Parks
Rincon Valley Fire District	Marana Police Department
Tohono O'odham Nation Fire Department	Oro Valley Police Department
Corona de Tucson Fire Department	Pascua Yaqui Tribal Police Department
Golder Ranch Fire District	Pima Community College Police Department
Mountain Vista Fire District	Pima County Sheriff's Department
Northwest Fire District	Pima Police Department
Pascua Pueblo Fire Department	Sahuarita Police Department
Raytheon Systems Co. Fire Department	Tohono O'odham Nation Police Department
Rural Metro Fire Department	Tucson Airport Authority Police Department
Three Points Fire District	Tucson Police Department
Tucson Airport Authority Fire Department	University of Arizona Police Department
Davis Monthan Fire Department	

4. **Other Funding Sources or Matches:** The Southern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Center (SALETC) has a current policy requiring that agencies fund the supervision of activities at the facility. Driver training is a high liability activity that requires close oversight to protect those involved in training, as well as the public investment in the facilities and equipment. A nominal charge is levied on agencies that utilize the facility to recover the cost of this supervision and light maintenance. The City of Tucson will provide the long term maintenance of the facility.
5. **Education and Workforce Training:** This facility is utilized by both fire departments and law enforcement agencies to complete initial recruit training as well as continuing education for the departments as well. Pima Community College utilizes the facility to educate and train students in their fire and law enforcement curriculum.
6. **Advances Board Adopted Principles of Sustainability and Conservation:** This project will improve safety during training, while allowing for the location of the facility among the prisons in the region allows for a productive use of the land, avoiding the use of land in areas with a higher use potential. Further, the current facility has an existing fueling facility, negating the need to build a fueling facility at another location.
7. **Previously Authorized Large-scale Bond Projects or Programs that are Now Short of Funding:** Not applicable
8. **Phasing of Large Projects:** Not applicable
9. **Impact on Operating and Maintenance Costs for Governments and Commitment to Fund These Ongoing Costs:** City of Tucson will cover operations and maintenance costs, which are estimated at \$20,000 per year.
10. **Project or Program is a Capital Improvement, Not a Repair or Maintenance Project:** The proposed bond project is a capital improvement, constructing new facilities rather than repairing existing ones. This facility will be positioned next to the existing resources, and will make use of the existing service facility.