



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 21, 2019

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Road Repair and Pavement Restoration for Roadways within the Unincorporated Area of Pima County**

In the budget, that will be forwarded to the Board for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019/20, a new line item will be included in the Department of Transportation (DOT) Budget. This line item is for road repair and pavement rehabilitation and titled *Pavement Preservation and Repair Contracts*. This is the first time this line item has occurred in the DOT Budget. Previously, road repair and pavement rehabilitation was included in the Maintenance Division Budget of the DOT or in the Capital Improvement Project fund, which made it difficult to see the amounts of transportation revenues (i.e., Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) and Transportation Vehicle License Tax (VLT)) that have been spent for this purpose. Including this line item will make it crystal clear as to how much money is actually being spent by the DOT for contracted road repair and rehabilitation.

In constructing the upcoming FY 2019/20 Budget DOT has included base expenditures of approximately \$15 million in this line item for contracted pavement repair and preservation. The revenues to support this expenditure comes from a variety of sources, including growth in HURF and Transportation VLT above initial forecasting and increments of reduced County HURF Bond debt repayment. In addition, operational savings will be realized due to gained operational efficiencies and by rightsizing the DOT – since the major capital program associated with the 1997 HURF Bond Program and the Regional Transportation Authority Capital Program are essentially complete for the unincorporated area transportation projects. This revenue for pavement repair and preservation is in addition to approximately \$19 million being programmed in the Maintenance Division Budget for routine maintenance such as filling potholes; fixing shoulders, guardrails, curbs and sidewalks; performing vegetation removal and storm clean-up; and maintaining and replacing signals, signage and striping.

Unfortunately, there continues to be misstatements and misrepresentations with regard to funding available to the County for the purpose of road repair and pavement rehabilitation. These statements occur despite the DOT efforts to increase the allocation of funds for repair and preservation, and even though I have stated that I may recommend a modest allocation of the General Fund for road repair and pavement rehabilitation on our arterial roadways that have a significant amount of city or town resident traffic occurring on them.

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
**Re: Road Repair and Pavement Restoration for Roadways within the unincorporated Area of
Pima County**
February 21, 20198
Page 2

It also continues to be suggested that the County should pay its Transportation staff salaries and benefits, equaling approximately \$16 million, from the County General Fund. This would be inequitable since these employees work almost exclusively on the roadways in the unincorporated area of the County.

It has been further suggested that the County should use its General Fund VLT revenues for road repair and pavement rehabilitation in the unincorporated area. I will not recommend that a portion of the General Fund VLT be used for this purpose, as it is also inequitable.

As I stated in a report first given to the Green Valley Council dated April 21, 2016, the County could and would repair our roads over time.¹ The upcoming FY 2019/20 Budget will see a significant County investment in road repair and pavement rehabilitation as described above. This is a significant step toward resolving the road repair needs and is but one of many to come in the future.

CHH/lab

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Ana Olivares, Director, Transportation Department

¹ Road Repairs in Unincorporated Pima County, by Chuck Huckelberry, April 21, 2016