



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 15, 2017

To: The Honorable Steve Christy, Member
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

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

Re: **South Houghton Road Community Meeting**

On February 2, 2017, there was a community meeting at Andrada Polytechnic High School regarding South Houghton Road. It was well attended by residents in the corridor – an estimated 120 people were in attendance. The attachment to this memorandum provides a summary of the comments and questions posed at the meeting. There were specific questions related to Houghton Road pavement conditions, congestion, roadway safety concerns and inadequate drainage facilities.

Other topics discussed at the meeting include:

- the status of the Wilmot Road project;
- the fatal crash and speeding issues, which were addressed by the Sheriff and Tucson Police Department (TPD); and
- the lack of edge control on the portion of Houghton Road in the City of Tucson.

In response to citizen comments at the meeting, Pima County Department of Transportation (DOT) will be undertaking the following immediate actions:

- Order new speed feedback signs: DOT will be ordering new signs to be installed on Houghton Road. DOT must first do a speed study to determine the optimal location of the sign(s); coordinate with the City of Tucson, TPD and Sheriff as applicable; purchase the signs through the County procurement processes and install the sign(s). It is expected these activities will take about four months.
- Review of the posted speed limits. DOT is conducting this investigation now and expects to have final recommendations and an Ordinance to the Board of Supervisors within three months. Please note that preliminary data shows the prevailing speed is 60 miles per hour (mph) or greater in many of the segments. The posted speed limits in these segments range from 45 mph to 55 mph. Thus, there is a high disregard for the posted speed. DOT's preliminary assessment is to reduce all of the 50 mph and 55 mph speed limits to 45 mph as a safety action to reduce crash and severity potential, which will be reinforced by the speed feedback signs and Sheriff enforcement. Changes to the posted speed limit will require Board action in the County portion of the road and City Council action within the City limits. Coordination has begun with the City of Tucson Department of Transportation on this speed reduction.

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- Review of the DOT's proposed expenditure of impact fees from the Southeast Benefit area to prioritize the improvements that correspond to citizen comments at the meeting. Proposed road improvements, including the turn lanes, may also address drainage issues along segments of Houghton Road. DOT is currently investigating these proposed improvements.
- Continue Sheriff's Department enforcement. The Sheriff has indicated they will step up enforcement activities along Houghton Road as discussed at the meeting.
- Review potential funding sources for correcting two dips on Sahuarita Road east of Houghton Road. Correction of these two dips will result in that section of Sahuarita Road becoming an all-weather access alternate to Houghton Road in the event of significant rain events. Preliminary cost estimates for this work are about \$500,000, and funding for such must be identified.
- Work with the City of Tucson on installation of widened paved shoulders at the curve near Andrada. This improvement may improve safety at the curve (location of recent fatality).

In summary, the Arizona Department of Transportation, City of Tucson and Pima County are committed to making improvements in the Houghton Road Corridor to enhance safety and will work together to implement appropriate modifications.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the above.

CHH/anc

Attachments

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Carmine DeBonis, Jr. Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Priscilla Cornelio, Director, Transportation Department
Rick Ellis, Deputy Director, Transportation Department
Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District
Aimee Trueblood, Pima County Sheriff's Department
Gerard Moretz, Pima County Sheriff's Department
Mike Holmes, Program Manager, Attractions and Tourism
Daryl Cole, Director, City of Tucson Department of Transportation

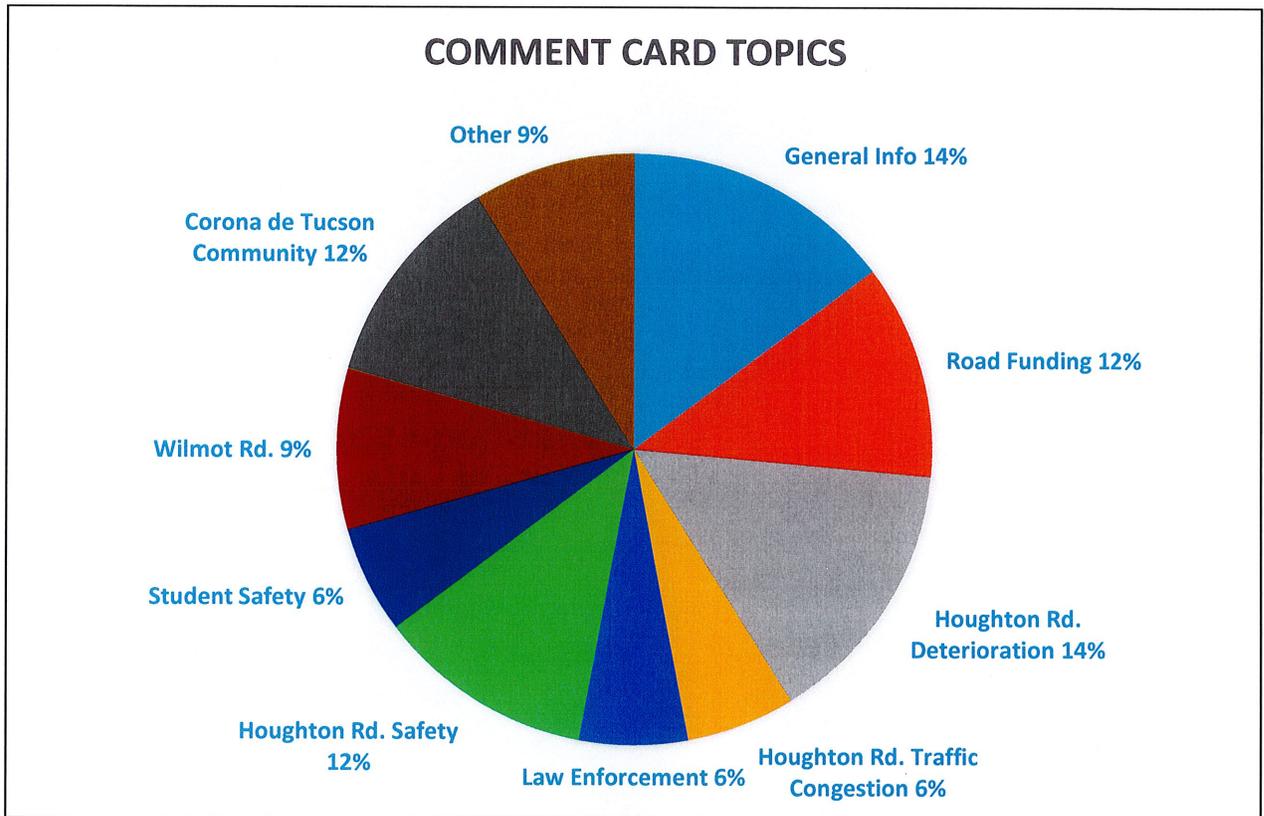
South Houghton Road Community Meeting Summary

February 2, 2017

Attendees who signed in: 88

Estimated number of attendees: 120

Total comment cards submitted: 34



Comment Card Topic Specifics

GENERAL INFO ABOUT ROAD PLANS (5/34)

- Where is location of Houghton Road/I-10 interchange?
- Clarification on “2-lane road is good until 2035” comment during speaking panel
- Will this change if private businesses invest in surrounding land?
- Was told that S. Houghton Road improvements are NOT on the RTA 20 year-plan, true?
- Project schedule for Houghton Road/ UPRR bridge
- Plans for a “clover leaf” at I-10/Houghton?

ROAD FUNDING (3/34)

- What kinds of funds are available to the County to help fix roads?
- Disagreement with comments about solving road funding problems through raising taxes
- Concerned about excessive cost (\$90 M) to make Houghton Road 4 lanes
- Why are builders not paying for road development N of I-10 and S on Harrison Rd?

HOUGHTON RD. DETERIORATION (5/34)

- What is the County’s plan for addressing deteriorating condition of Houghton Road pavement?
 1. No hard shoulders, edges of roadway crumbling
 2. Sides eroding, safety threat to cars pulling over and bicyclists
- Frustration over County’s pothole patching method rather than repaving
- Disagreement with comments from PCDOT, Houghton Road is in worse condition than other Pima County roads and needs more attention
- Houghton Road between I-10 and Sahuarita deserves maintenance priority, currently very dangerous

HOUGHTON RD. TRAFFIC CONGESTION (2/34)

- Houghton Road/I-10 intersection is very crowded in the morning, what does County plan do to relieve congestion?
- Get roundabouts at I-10 and Houghton

HOUGHTON RD. LAW ENFORCEMENT (2/34)

- Need more enforcement on Houghton Road

HOUGHTON RD. SAFETY (4/34)

- Consider pull-out areas on Houghton for safe passaging instead of 4 lanes
- Concerned about excessively slow drivers on Houghton, safety hazard
- Concerned about excessive speeding and passing in no passing zones on Houghton Road
- Increase Houghton Road speed limit to 55 mph to deter passing

STUDENT SAFETY (2/34)

- Student safety at Andrada High School

What does County plan on doing during school evacuations due to flooding/sink holes?

WILMOT ROAD (3/34)

- Wilmot Road

1. General status of project
2. Are there plans to pave from Sahuarita to prison area to alleviate Houghton Rd. usage?

CORONA DE TUCSON COMMUNITY (4/34)

- Concerned about flooding issues in Corona de Tucson
- Incorporating Corona de Tucson to take pressure off of the County

- Was told impact fees from Corona de Tucson were used for Colossal Cave Road improvements, why?
- Concerned about \$13 million collected from Corona de Tucson and used for Colossal Cave Rd.

OTHER (3/34)

- What is a DCR intersection and where are they located?
- Nascar track plans?
- Insurance company raised auto rates because area is "high risk," why?