



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

November 12, 2014

The Honorable Victor Mendez, Deputy Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Pima County Involvement with the Tucson International Airport through the Tucson Airport Authority and the Federal Aviation Administration

Dear Secretary Mendez:

It was a pleasure to see you recently, and I appreciate your comments about critical turning points regarding the future of transportation funding. I have been stressing this issue for the last two years in Arizona. Your comments are appreciated and confirm I am not "a lone voice in the wilderness" on this matter.

I would like to bring one of our projects to your attention and ask for assistance on another. As you know from our discussions, Pima County is involved in relocating Hughes Access Road, a road that today severely limits the operational flexibility of Raytheon Missile Systems, the region's largest private employer. The project and relocation is fully funded through actions of our regional Metropolitan Planning Organization. A portion of the right of way crosses land acquired by the Tucson Airport Authority (TAA) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); therefore, we are involved in an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the disposal of this property for which we fully expect to reimburse the TAA and FAA at market value. Time is a critical element in this transaction. Raytheon, for its own internal business purposes, needs to have the public highway relocated by December 2015. FAA staff has been helpful in guiding us through the EA necessary for the land or right of way transfer to the County. I wanted you to be aware of the cooperation and assistance we have received from your staff on this project.

Mr. Victor Mendez

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An area of more significant importance is our request to develop an auxiliary interstate highway connection between Interstates 10 and 19. We know the processes involved and have requested that Senator John McCain, in a future transportation funding legislation, assist us in obtaining an auxiliary interstate highway designation for the Sonoran Corridor. I am enclosing an informational brochure regarding this corridor and its importance and how it facilitates the integration of all transportation modes – surface, air and rail – to foster economic development. We understand there is presently an initiative related to this matter entitled *The Build American Transportation Investment Center*.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/anc

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
John Bernal, Deputy Pima County Administrator for Public Works
Dr. John Moffatt, Director, Pima County Strategic Planning Office
Bonnie Ally, President and CEO, Tucson Airport Authority