Department: County Administrator's Office
Date: 3/25/15

Future Pima County Bond Election Proposed Project

Project Name: Sonoran Corridor Highway Improvements between the Aerospace Parkway and I-10.

Location: Within the proposed Sonoran Corridor connecting Interstate 19 just north of the Pima Mine Road interchange to Interstate 10 at Rita Road; specifically along the Old Vail Connection alignment between the Aerospace Parkway and Rita Road.

Scope: This project will provide sufficient funding to initiate Phase 2 of the long-term interstate investment of an auxiliary interstate highway, also known as the Sonoran Corridor, connecting Interstate 19 just north of the Pima Mine Road interchange to Interstate 10 at Rita Road. Total costs of the project are estimated at $90 million. The proposal for this phase is for $30 million in County bond funding to (1) Initiate advanced planning including continuing existing coordination with potential funding partners, (2) Design the northern portion of the Sonoran Corridor from the Aerospace Parkway south of Raytheon to Rita Road and I-10, (3) complete right of way acquisitions between the Aerospace Parkway and Rita Road, and (4) if funds remain, construct the first phase of the Sonoran Corridor from Alvernon to Rita Road, which includes a two-lane highway with room for an adjacent UPRR rail connection. The remaining phase would be part of the larger transportation investment to be funded through both federal and state transportation related revenues.

Benefits: The project is part of a larger effort to increase import/export-based primary employment within Pima County in a location that has historically been the manufacturing and high technology job employment center of the region. This high speed connector will facilitate surface transportation mobility in this high tech and manufacturing center connecting the employment centers at the UA Science and Technology Park, now employing over eight thousand employees to the airport environs and aerospace and defense employment centers, employing over fourteen thousand employees. In addition, this surface transportation connection will facilitate the emergence of a major logistics center for the southwest where air, rail and surface transportation facilities are all combined to create logistics center advantages for employment growth. The facilities will interconnect the planned 2,400 acre Aerospace, Defense and Technology Research and Business Park. The primary export-based employment center is patterned after other successful job centers that exist in proximity to rail, air and freeway transportation capacity.

Total Cost Estimate: $90,000,000

Bond Funding: $30,000,000

Other Funding: Other funding will be necessary to complete the entire corridor.

Total Cost by Major Task: Planning $3 million; Design $3 million; ROW Acquisitions $4 million; construction (if funding remains)

Project Schedule by Major Task: Land acquisition at 30 months, planning and design at 24months, construction at 18 months.

Fiscal Year Project Start and Finish Date: FY-17

Project Management Jurisdiction: Pima County

Future Operating and Maintenance Costs: All State highways are maintained by the State.

Regional Benefits: The Sonoran Corridor is not only an economic driver for Southern Arizona, but all communities to the south, the State of Arizona and the Southwestern United States as the gateway to Arizona's largest trading partner and the rapidly expanding economy in Mexico.

Supervisor District of Project Location: District 2 and 4 – Ramon Valadez and Ray Carroll