



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 26, 2019

To: Ana Olivares, Director
Transportation Department

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Item 7 Regarding the Loop**

I assume this item has been placed on the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) agenda to discuss County expenditures related to the Loop and that, as an alternative to investing in the Loop, these same funds could be used for transportation purposes and/or road repair.

The agenda item is vague and it is difficult to understand its purpose. If the item does relate to funding and alternative uses of Loop funding for road repair, please inform the TAC of the following:

1. The Loop and riverpark system is funded by the Regional Flood Control District (RFCD). As major bank stabilization is built on our regional watercourses, the requirement to construct a riverpark system, including pathways, now known as the Loop, is a regulatory requirement of Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404. To construct bank stabilization and major flood control works, the County was required to obtain a CWA Section 404 Permit, which would have not been granted without the County agreeing to riverpark mitigation, including pathway development. Hence, the funding for the Loop is from the RFCD as a result of a regulatory requirement of the CWA.
2. The pathway system also provides two other very important functions for public safety and RFCD maintenance. Regarding safety, in almost every major flood event in Arizona there is news of an emergency rescue of an individual stranded in a wash or river. These rescues are performed by public safety agencies. The Loop system provides easy and continuous access on both sides of the major river systems for public safety organizations to perform emergency rescues during flood stages. In addition, these pathways form the basic maintenance and access pathways for major repairs or flood fighting activities of the RFCD.

Hence, even while the Loop is used almost daily as a recreational element, it also provides very important public safety and flood control system integrity.

If necessary, please share this communication with the TAC.

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District
Dr. Yves Khawam, Chief Deputy, Transportation Department
Andy Dinauer, Deputy Director, Regional Flood Control District
Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator