

October 10, 2017

Honorable Chair and Members

Pima County Board of Supervisors

130 W. Congress Street

Tucson, AZ 85701

**Re: Request for Board of Supervisors to Identify Adequate Funding for Road Repair Needs**

Dear Honorable Chair and Members,

The 13-member Pima County Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed by the Board of Supervisors to, among other things, provide a recommendation to the Board on the prioritization of road repairs using the approximately \$19.5 million from the recently enacted road property tax. The TAC has met four times since August 1, 2017 to receive information from the Pima County Department of Transportation and representatives from the other local jurisdictions in our region, and to gather input from the public. The TAC has reviewed road prioritization proposals from the Town of Oro Valley, Town of Sahuarita and the City of South Tucson, and has approved them for recommendation to the Board. Proposals from the Town of Marana and the City of Tucson are pending approval from the TAC.

In addition to these presentations, the TAC has received information from County staff on the condition of roads in the unincorporated area, various prioritization methodologies and a staff recommended approach for selecting roads to repair. At the September 26, 2017 TAC meeting, the Committee provided direction on the prioritization approach for unincorporated local roads. The direction included using the staff

proposed methodology of focusing on roads with a Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating of 5 (Poor) and prioritizing them based on traffic volume, with an allowance for subsequent committee adjustments to include roads with other ratings. A final TAC road prioritization recommendation will be submitted for Board consideration in December.

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At the same meeting, the TAC received a presentation by County staff indicating the total cost to bring all arterial, collector and local roads in the unincorporated area up to a Fair condition exceeded \$300 million. The TAC was also informed that when combined with the road repair needs of the City of Tucson, the total cost exceeds \$1 billion. The presentation included a summary of various potential funding options outlined in the County Administrator's September 19, 2017 correspondence to the Pima County Sales Tax Advisory Committee. Many of these options have the potential to generate significantly more revenue annually for road repair than the recently enacted road property tax.

Based on this information, the ensuing TAC discussion focused heavily on the shortcomings of the property tax transportation funding initiative generating approximately \$20 million per year, if approved as part of the annual budget, to address a regional road repair problem that exceeds \$1 billion. The TAC unanimously supported the position that the current property tax approach is severely inadequate to repair roads within any reasonable period of time. The likely outcome of the TAC's recommended list of roadways receiving the property tax revenues will result in a miniscule effort to improve the overall roadway network condition. Therefore, your constituents will be further frustrated with Pima County's inability to invest in the roadways of concern to them for many years in the future.

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As such, the TAC informs the Board of Supervisors that our assignment of distributing this fiscal year's property tax revenues for road repairs is a futile exercise. We are deciding the content of a two-year list of roadways to improve without having any assurance that property tax funding will be made available beyond the current fiscal year. We implore the Board to explore all possible road repair funding options and to unanimously enact funding solutions that will fully meet the identified needs.

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This request is respectfully submitted for your consideration and action.

Sincerely,

Lucretia Free

Chairperson, Pima County Transportation Advisory Committee

c: C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator  
Carmine DeBonis Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Ana Olivares, Interim Director, Department of Transportation