

(Revisions – Reggie Drout)

Honorable Chair and Members

Pima County Board of Supervisors

130 W. Congress St.

Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: Request for Board of Supervisors to Prioritize Road Repair and Road Maintenance in the Pima County Budget

Dear Honorable Chair and Members,

Through feedback from the public we have learned that many citizens, along with some members of this committee, believe that the road problems which currently exist in Pima County, especially Unincorporated Pima County (UPC) are not the result of a lack of funding, but rather a result of a lack of proper prioritization. That is to say that many believe that road repair and road maintenance are part of the basic services that tax payers expect from any city, county, or municipal government. Things like fire, police, sanitation, schools, and safe, maintained roadways are expected to be provided by the governing body in good faith return for the payment of annual property taxes. As one citizen put it, "I should be able to go to sleep at night confident that my wife and kids will have good safe roads to go to work and school on. Isn't that what our tax dollars pay these people to do?" These may not be the exact words but the sentiment is the same and judging by the applause from the crowd most people were in agreement. It seems that there are many issues of lesser importance that the county spends money on and then for some reason is unable to find money for roads. In short, it is a matter of prioritization that is the problem. Road maintenance and repair should be funded first and then it becomes a matter of finding money for the other issues.

Along with the above the following issues have come to the committee's attention:

First, the current property tax proposal would take approximately 35 years to address the needs of the local roads in UPC.

Second, it is likely that none of the failed and poorest roads in UPC (PASER 1-4) will be repaired in the near future.

Third, many home owners, HOAs, and subdivisions that have been waiting 20, 30, or 40 years for their streets to be repaired will remain without a satisfactory answer to their question: "When will my road be fixed?"

Therefore, given all of the above the PCTAC recommends the following:

1. "Road Repair and Maintenance" be addressed as a priority in the Pima County budget.
2. A 5 to 10-year plan be developed to bring all Pima County roads to a rating of "good" and following that, a program of continued maintenance and preservation to ensure all roadways are maintained in that condition.
3. The above plan be funded every year as a basic part of the annual budget priorities, like fire, police, first aid, sanitation, etc. Other funding options will be considered ancillary or secondary such as land for soccer fields, animal care facilities, sports facilities improvements, space ports, public building enhancements, etc. If other sources of funding need to be explored they will be with regard to the secondary issues but the priority issues will be fully funded first.
4. PCTAC will work with PCDOT to prioritize a schedule of local road repair and preservation based on individual districts where the district representatives will work one on one with PCDOT to determine the work to be done within the confines of each district's fiscal allotment.

The above recommendations are respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,

PCTAC