



DOT RESPONSE TO CALL TO THE AUDIENCE INQUIRIES

PIMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Meeting of April 27, 2021

- 1. Karen Christensen (01:29:00):** We live off Mile Wide Road, just east of Sandario. Mile Wide originates at the entrance to Saguaro National Park and Kinney Road. These roads are connector roads and are the northern entrance to the top tourist destinations of the National Park and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. The roads have mid-center pavement breaks and numerous potholes that, while repaired dramatically, create hazards for cars as well as the numerous bicyclists who share these roads for recreational purposes. We understand that the PCI index for this area is very poor (40). We request that repaving be made a priority in the 21/22 work plan. It is hard to imagine a more deserving roadway improvement, given the popularity of the Desert Museum, Saguaro National Park in Tucson Mountain Park – a return of investments made by the County already in expanding the parking area for the King Canyon Trail access from Desert Museum and the Ajo-Kinney-Bopp roads improvements currently underway in the Sandario Road repaving recently completed. Mile Wide and Kinney are critical components of this roadway complex and without improvement will detract from the usefulness of these recent County improvements. Thank you for your consideration of this request, which is supported by numerous area residents.

PCDOT Staff Response: *Mile Wide Road is not included in the upcoming program for Arterials and Collectors for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The PCTAC established roadway for the arterial and collector network is prioritized based on the greatest return on investment modeling. The Pavement Condition Index (PCI) for Mile Wide between Kinney Road and Sandario is 37, failed. The segment on Mile Wide from Sandario to Sanders is rated at a PCI of 66, good. Mile Wide from west of Sanders Road to Luckett Road is a 22, failed. It is possible this roadway could be part of the Arterial and Collector Program for the next Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. PCDOT will continue working with the PCTAC to coordinate the criteria for roadway repair to ensure all roadways will be improved to be in very good or better condition (PCI 80) by 2030. In the interim, we will schedule pothole repairs as they are needed.*

- 2. Larry Stapleton (01:31:40):** I wish to talk about Silverbell Road from Cocio to North Red Hill Road. This is the segment of the road running into the Ironwood Forrest National Monument. This stretch of road is desperate in need of replacement. The road has significant number of potholes and when I say significant, the potholes are such that there is not a 20-foot section. I say that again, there are two 20-foot sections in four miles that have at least 6 to 12 potholes. Pima County has patched the road many times. They patched it recently but this only lasts about one to two months. Before that, they are back. Even when they patch the road, it becomes a field of speed bumps. It goes from holes to speed bumps. The traffic on the road is unable to move at about 35 miles per hour without damaging the vehicles, the tires and suspensions. This has got to the point where most of the travelers on the road actually don't use the road. They drive on the curb of the road because the dirt is better than driving on the road. Currently, the PCI rating for this road is 35. I am not quite sure at how they arrived at that because I have seen other roads that are less than 35 and I doubt seriously if they are less. As a matter of fact, Pump Station Road, which is near, is rated at 40 and it's a dirt road. In addition to the road being dangerous and causing damage, the road is detrimental to all the property values and potential land sales and resales in the area. Realtors have told me that they have lost potential customers who want to buy in the region but do not because of the road condition. Silverbell is the main artery for 640 acres of private property within the 129,000 acres of Ironwood. Currently, there are approximately 50 to 70 houses in the area. That means that there are a significant number of undeveloped properties and this undeveloped property gives a great opportunity for the County to gain additional road impact fees because each house would go from vacant land to property that would increase property taxes, and the road impact fee is about \$7,000 for every house that goes in there. The Ironwood National Forest is a destination for tourism and local entertainment but according to those that have commented on the monument, the number one negative comment is about the rough road condition. I recommend to the members of the committee that they take a visit to the Monument, if you haven't already, and experience what the homeowners in the area experience every day. The bottom line is, if you go out there, I think that you will see what I am talking about. But one thing, don't take a cup of coffee in your hand when you go out there, it will not stay in the cup. If you wish, I have a video that I can send to anyone that maybe doesn't have the time and would wish to see what the condition of the road is. Again, thank you very much. I appreciate your attention to this and allowing me to speak.

PCDOT Staff Response: *Silverbell Road is not included in the upcoming program for Arterials and Collectors for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The PCTAC established roadway for the arterial and collector network is prioritized based on the greatest return on investment modeling. The Pavement Condition Index (PCI) for Silverbell Road between Cocio Road to west of Red Hill is 47, poor. The remaining of Silverbell Road east of Cocio ranges in PCI from 29-34, failed. It is possible Silverbell Road could be part of the Arterial and Collector Program for the next Fiscal Year*

July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. PCDOT will continue working with the PCTAC to coordinate the criteria for roadway repair to ensure all roadways will be improved to be in very good or better condition (PCI 80) by 2030. In the interim, we will schedule pothole repairs as they are needed.

- 3. Heather Hatfield (01:36:40):** Thank you all for your work for Tucson and Pima County. My neighborhood, Sabino Vista Hills on the north east side of Tucson, the roads are deteriorating and difficult to drive, walk or ride bikes. I feel it's dangerous for people to walk or bike along, specifically Larrea Lane, which is the most popular because of all the cracks, patches and reoccurring potholes. I believe the road should also be widened and redone because in my opinion, it has failed. I don't know the index but our neighborhood should be a welcoming and safe place for visitors, especially those who are visiting to participate in the swim team and other activities. There also are school buses and other recreational activities that the neighborhood offers. I just want to bring this to your attention to request that Larrea Lane would get redone and our neighborhood streets. My street, is s failed. I called and found out that it is a 39. I am hoping that it will be at the top of the schedule for the next fiscal year. I appreciate your time listening to my concerns.

PCDOT Staff Response: *Larrea Lane Road is not included in the upcoming program for Arterials and Collectors for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Larrea Lane has a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 36, failed. The PCTAC established roadway for the arterial and collector network is prioritized based on the greatest return on investment modeling. It is possible this roadway could be part of the Arterial and Collector Program for the next Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.*

Pima County Transportation Advisory Committee enacted the criteria to fix the worst roads first. The selection of roadways for local roads includes platted subdivisions that have one or more "trigger" roadways that have the lowest Pavement Condition Index (PCI). Currently, the lowest Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating for the pavement repair program is a 36 PCI.

There are several platted subdivisions in the Canyon Ranch/Sabino Vista Hills area. There is Canyon Ranch Hills Estates (1-19) with the lowest PCI rating of 49, poor on a portion of Fernhill Circle. Sabino Vista Hills (66-100) that has roadways rated poor and Fernhill Circle rated at PCI 37 – failed. Sabino Vista Hills (1-65) with the lowest PCI of 40, failed on Cresthill Drive. Sabino Vista Hills (101-158) has roadways with the lowest PCI rating of 38, failed on Crestwood Drive. Sabino Vista Hills (159-224) with PCI ratings of good.

As we move forward with the program, we will continue with the 36 PCI, then move on to 37 PCI and so forth. In the interim, we will schedule pothole repairs as they are needed.

PCDOT will continue working with the PCTAC to coordinate the criteria for roadway repair to ensure all roadways will be improved to be in very good or better condition (PCI 80) by 2030.

- 4. Jane Tarson-Peters (01:38:26):** Thank you for letting me be here and I too want to reiterate that I appreciate all the work that you and Board do on the Transportation Committee. I can say the same things really that Ms. Hatfield just said to you. I am also a resident of Sabino Vista Hills. Our roads were at one time, as you know, rated failed in many places and then re-rated after some new technology with laser beams went over our roads. You know, my car doesn't recognize that, and I'm sure many people in the community would say the same. Our roads have been in major disrepair. They haven't been repaved in 35 years or more. My concern is not just for safety, that is the number one priority for members of our community and a large number of people that travel through our neighborhood, because we are so close to Canyon Ranch, which is a beautiful place to walk, and so is our community. But I think that after 35 years and as I stated in my input letter, the amount of property tax that we contribute to make Tucson a beautiful place, that should be reflected in the condition of our roads. So, I along with other members in this community would hope that the Transportation Department would take another look at our roads and put us in priority in the next fiscal year. We were on a five-year plan and then that went away. I hope you'll just take another look and get us on the top of the list. Thank you so much and thank you again for all your work.

PCDOT Staff Response: *Please see response for #3.*

- 5. Joyce Christianson (01:41:10):** I am also in the Sabino Vista Hills neighborhood, as the two former people were. I agree with everything they said. I would just like to add that my understanding is that Larrea Lane from Cloud Road north was originally built to end before our subdivision was even built and before they acknowledged the amount of traffic that is currently on Larrea, and because of that, the foundation for the road wasn't design or built to handle the amount of traffic that the over 250 homes that are now in our subdivision and have been since 1975 carry. Because those roads were not designed that way - to carry that much, they failed and they continue to fail. The potholes are dangerous and constantly being filled but we need more than just paving. We need some strengthening of the base of the road. I agree that I would hope that...we appreciate all the work you have done but we hope that you will take a look at the road Larrea as it feeds into Sabino Hills and also into Canyon Ranch because there are two gates from our subdivision, off of Larrea into Canyon Ranch, which is a

substantial tax base as well and, they create more traffic than just our neighborhood traffic. I think that should also be considered. I appreciate your time. I appreciate learning what I've learned by sitting here for two hours and thank you very much for your work.

PCDOT Staff Response: *Please see response for #3.*

6. **Cristy Stagg (01:44:18):** Larrea Lane, the entrance to all of Sabino Vista Hills is covered with substantial potholes which have been temporarily patched routinely but are in desperate need of long term repair. These potholes have made the road treacherous for autos and pedestrians as the cars swerve across both lanes of the road trying to avoid damage to the vehicle. There is no bike lane or sidewalk on the road which places this high-foot traffic volume at risk of injury. Please provide a permanent solution for the auto and pedestrian safety risk on Larrea Lane.

PCDOT Staff Response: *Please see response for #3.*

7. **Amanda Paladini (01:45:31):** I am an HOA President for Riverside Crossing. We have our road, they are now fair to poor rating. They have been for the past ten years, I understand. I understand with the budget for April, that at this time River Road was going to be done, which is already done, thank you guys but we would like to really work on getting Riverside Crossing the roads paved and at least looked into so that we can have a timeline or something. It has been brought up in previous meetings as I understand for HOA and we are under the impression that in order for us to pave our roads, right now it is Pima County and in order for us to take over our neighbor Riverside Place, we would have to pay for it. So we would kindly ask if maybe we could look at a timeline for Riverside Crossing as we are in that fair range for the road repaving. If you have any consideration let us know as HOA President and Vice-President, we could understand what is going on.

PCDOT Staff Response: *Riverside Crossing subdivision is not included in the upcoming program for local roads for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Pima County Transportation Advisory Committee enacted the criteria to fix the worst roads first. The selection of roadways for local roads includes platted subdivisions that have one or more "trigger" roadways that have the lowest Pavement Condition Index (PCI). Currently, the lowest Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating for the pavement repair program is a 36 PCI. Riverside Crossing does not have any failed roadways at this time. The lowest PCI in the subdivision is a 48, poor.*

As we move forward with the program, we will continue with the 36 PCI, then move on to 37 PCI and so forth. In the interim, we will schedule pothole repairs as they are needed.

PCDOT will continue working with the PCTAC to coordinate the criteria for roadway repair to ensure all roadways will be improved to be in very good or better condition (PCI 80) by 2030.

8. **Robert Larson (01:47:27):** Larrea Lane – I don't understand why a road that gets so much traffic does not get redone while a road like Giaconda Way gets redone and seems to get less traffic.

PCDOT Staff Response: *Please see response for #3.*

9. **Kristine Morgan (01:48:12):** Thank you to all of you for working so hard and I had no idea this meeting would be so long. I too wrote about Larrea Lane. I recently joined the Board of Directors for Sabino Vista Hills. I've been living here since January 1989. The road, Larrea Road and also our subdivision roads have never been repaved to my knowledge. They have occasionally had some tarring and gravel turned down and they had potholes fixed but they're not fixed in any permanent or semi-permanent fashion and it's very unsafe for a family neighborhood like ours, with a swim team with over 100 kids and also Canyon Ranch and everybody who's a pedestrian. I agree with Ms. Christenson. It's not really enough to just repair it. It actually should be repaved and also bicycle lanes and things added. I've been calling for years to the roadway maintenance and they've told me there's no money in the budget to fix Larrea Lane and that it's not on the schedule. They've been telling us this 2019 to 2020 and 2021 that there is no plan to repair this road and that service is over 150 families as Canyon Ranch. As other people have expressed, we see a lot of minor roads that have been repaired including a couple in our subdivision, but why isn't Larrea Lane ever fixed? and why aren't all the roads fixed? and I know there's budgetary problems and you try to do main arteries but we have been very concerned about it.

What is the protocol to hear something more about it? A week before the next meeting.

I understand the budget is set for several years in advance, what is the protocol to change what the schedule is to actually respond to the people's concerns. I am a new Board member for our subdivision and we have a meeting tonight. I would be happy to carry information back to our HOA.

(01:51:41): Annabelle replied PCDOT is working on the list for Fiscal Year 21-22 which starts July 1, 2021. The list is expected to be published by April 30. You can contact us or we can contact you. We will have a schedule for

next fiscal year to see if the road is included. All other responses will be addressed at the Call to the Audience responses, as part of next meeting's material. Anything else that is specific or if you wish to speak with PCDOT management just contact directly and we will coordinate that.

(01:52:27): Ms. Morgan asked, "And to contact you directly, how do you do that?" Ms. Valenzuela replied, "I will send you a message in 'chat.'"

(01:52:36): Another question I had, when I had called to complain, I had requested something about a bicycle lane or a pedestrian pathway and paved bicycle lane and the people that I talked to in the roadway maintenance told me "absolutely not. Don't even dream of it." That that's not in the realm of possibilities and this is a road that connects family area and Fruchthendler Elementary is on Cloud and kids ride their bicycles in the midst of these potholes and that there is no shoulder at all on this road. It's desert.

(01:54:48): I had an engineer visiting me-a civil engineer-and he reminded me that these roads, as we let them go longer and longer and longer, the repair, the amount of money and the amount of effort to repair them, also goes up. So it's a cost vs time issue. These roads, as you've heard over and over again, in Sabino Vista Hills, Larrea Lane, it's been more than 35 years. Maybe we can save the County some money by looking at these roads now and repair those that need to be done. Really it's the entire community. Larrea Lane most importantly.

PCDOT Staff Response: *Please see response for #3.*

10. **Paul Henry** (01:53:20): Several days a week, I bicycle down Larrea Lane and I believe that the condition of the pavement makes the two-minute ride unsafe. The road is narrow and the margins of the road are so broken up as to be unrideable [*sic*] even at a slow speed. This is not a long road, it needs to be repaved before somebody is injured and sues the county. It has been in disrepair for years and that would make it negligence on the part of the county. Please repave this road.

PCDOT Staff Response: *Please see response for #3.*

11. **Ed Flores** (01:56:13): I appreciate this time. I want to add to Amanda Paladini's comments. She is the President of the HOA for Riverside Crossing. One thing I want to say is that I have been in contact with the representatives of the road department and they indicated half of our roads area in poor condition. Some of them are actually coming close to failing. The subdivision has been in existence for over 20 years and the roads are really bad. We have a lot of kids who can't ride their bicycles throughout the neighborhood because they're riding on the sidewalks rather than the road, because they can't ride their bikes. I am myself own a bike and I have to ride on the sidewalks myself because the roads are so bad. There are potholes that keep forming and keep being repaired and I would like to really see if we can get our subdivision looked at again. I know other people have been saying that on the eas side or whatever, but we are a community of elderly people and not just families here are 135 homes and we have a lot of people that walk with their kids. Kids can't play in the roads. It's just been a real nightmare. I really would like to figure out a way to see if we get them looked at and elevated. I know that there are a lot of roads out there but ours are in really poor condition. I really think that they're failing at the moment.

PCDOT Staff Response: *Please see response #7.*

Chair Free informed meeting attendees PCTAC cannot respond during Call to the Audience. However, she assured DOT would respond via email and post replies on the County's PCTAC webpage.