TO: Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
FROM: Lawrence M. Hecker, Chair
RE: State Audit of Pima County Bond Program
DATE: March 23, 2012

Despite the voluminous financial and other detailed reporting information concerning the Pima County Bond Program easily accessible to the public, the State Legislature appears close to passing a bill that will mandate an audit of the bond program. There is nothing wrong with transparency and openness. But there is something wrong with waste and redundancy.

The audit is expected to cost approximately $150,000. I was curious to see what other benefits $150,000 could bring to the people of Pima County so I asked the County Administrator how many potholes could be filled with this amount of money. This was his reply:

From: Priscilla Cornelio
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:09 PM
To: Chuck Huckelberry
Cc: John Bernal; Maura Kwiatkowski
Subject: State Audit of Bond Program – potholes

$150,000 pays for about 75 working crew-days of patching (based on $2000 per crew day).
For each day 8 tons is placed.
So we would predict that $150,000 would pay for:
75 days X 8 tons / day X 20 potholes / ton = 12,000 potholes.
The Bond Committee has been vigilant in carrying out its responsibilities and in overseeing the Bond program. Pima County has been aggressive in making as much information as possible concerning the use of bond funds available to the public: http://www.bonds.pima.gov/

The Committee is balanced, diverse and open-minded. Although I am not aware of any specific proposals to provide more oversight or reporting, knowing the Bond Committee as I do, I have no doubt that we would be supportive of reasonable measures to provide more stringent controls.