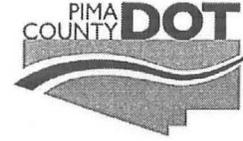




PIMA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
201 NORTH STONE AVENUE, FOURTH FLOOR
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1207



PRISCILLA S. CORNELIO, P. E.
DIRECTOR

(520) 740-6410
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August 10, 2012

The Honorable Steve Kozachik
Ward 6 Council Member
City of Tucson
3202 E. First Street
Tucson, Arizona 85716

Subject: Your Ward 6 Newsletter dated July 31, 2012

Dear Councilmember Kozachik:

We received and read your July 31, 2012 Ward 6 Newsletter and would like to take this opportunity to clarify some information.

River Road/Craycroft Development - The newsletter states that Pima County removed proposed improvements to River Road from the 2040 regional plan. That information is incorrect.

The 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) had an estimate of \$73.4 million for widening River Road between Pontatoc Road and Sabino Canyon Road to four lanes. This was only an estimate of probable costs and not a commitment of funding. The long range transportation plan is based on forecasts of money expected to flow into the region through the planning period. In reality, most of the projects identified in the RTP are unfunded and remain so until a specific funding source is identified. The only projects in the RTP that truly have committed funding are projects funded by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and that are included in the Transportation Infrastructure Plan (TIP).

The 2040 RTP has no specified roadway capacity improvements to any segment of River Road. The 2040 RTP Task Force recommended that River Road remain essentially as it is (four lane roadway from Thornydale Road to Alvernon Way and two lane road from Alvernon Way to Sabino Canyon Road) throughout the planning period. The recommendation was based primarily on the 2040 congestion index which showed the most severe congestion in the southern metro area. The 2040 RTP focused most of the listed projects on the most congested corridors. By not including River Road in the 2040 plan, the Task Force was simply reacting to changed conditions between the time the 2030 RTP was prepared and the preparation of the 2040 plan.

The Honorable Steve Kozachik
Subject: **Your Ward 6 Newsletter dated July 31, 2012**
Page 2

The Major Streets and Routes Plan does indeed show a planned right-of-way (ROW) on River Road of 150 feet, however only 100 feet of ROW was acquired as the adjacent subdivisions were developed in the section between Craycroft Road and Sabino Canyon Road. Widening the road to four lanes would require the acquisition of additional ROW for slopes and drainage, but the existing 100 foot wide ROW will still allow for spot safety improvements, widening for turn lanes and other improvements to help preserve capacity. These types of minor projects would be funded through the Safety and Intelligent Traffic Systems (ITS) program identified in the RTP.

Broadway Blvd: Euclid to Country Club Widening - The project budget as contained in the RTA plan is as follows:

- RTA: \$42 Million
- Pima County Bonds: \$25 Million
- Total: \$74 Million

The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City and County for this project was approved in December of 2004 and stated that \$1.5 million of the \$25 million bonds approved in the 1997 Bond Election were to be used for design and ROW acquisition. The remaining \$23.5 million are to be used for construction of the project. The IGA further states the construction fund amount will be provided upon the City's award of a construction contract for the project.

To date, \$1,347,247 has been provided to the City for ROW acquisition. These funds were provided in FY 2005-06, FY 2006-07, FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09. No further funds have been requested from the City since then.

In February 2010, Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT) sent Jim Glock, City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) Director a letter discussing the County's commitment to provide bonds for three City of Tucson projects. At that time, the City had requested \$8 million in FY 2014 for Broadway, and the remainder beyond FY 2015. The County's letter stated that based on current economic conditions and anticipated future revenues, PCDOT did not expect to be able to sell these project bonds within the next five years. (A copy of the letter is attached).

The County is committed to providing the remaining \$23.5 million for construction once the project has been bid and awarded. Pima County has been experiencing challenges with the decreasing level of funding from Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) but at this time we are optimistic we will be able to sell the remaining \$23.5 million in bonds to provide to the City after FY 2014.

The Honorable Steve Kozachik
Subject: **Your Ward 6 Newsletter dated July 31, 2012**
Page 3

The newsletter also indicated that the \$25 Million in funding from Pima County would be subject to a vote by the voters. Please be advised that no vote is needed. The funds have been allocated from the 1997 HURF bond elections and approved by the County's Bond Advisory Committee.

I will be attending your August 16, 2012 meeting on the River Road/Craycroft Annexation. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this information.

Sincerely,



for Priscilla S. Cornelio, P.E.
Director

PSC:nab

Attachment

c: C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator
John M. Bernal, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works
Benjamin H. Goff, Deputy Director – Transportation Systems, Support and Operations
Ana Olivares, Deputy Director-Infrastructure



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PRISCILLA S. CORNELIO, P. E.
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February 4, 2010

James W. Glock, P.E., Director
 Department of Transportation
 City of Tucson
 P.O. Box 27210
 Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

Dear Mr. Glock: 

Subject: County Highway User Revenue (HURF) Fund Bonds

Thank you for your letters of December 10, 2009, requesting County HURF Bonds for the City of Tucson projects at Kino and 22nd and on Houghton Road.

Pima County has previously committed to providing 1997 HURF bonds to the City of Tucson for three projects listed in the table below. Currently we have Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) for the first two projects detailing the funding commitments; however, to date, no IGA has been drafted for the Houghton project.

The current IGAs specify that Pima County will provide a maximum of \$1.5 million to the City of Tucson for planning and design activities for each of the Broadway Boulevard and 22nd Street projects. The remainder of the bond funds could be used only to reimburse construction activities. Information that we obtained from you previously indicated that you requested that these construction funds be available starting with the dates shown in the following table.

Project	Total Bond Dollars	Spent to Date	Construction Schedule*
Broadway Blvd.: Park to Country Club DOT 56 (FY 2004/05)	\$25 million	\$1,347,247	\$8 million in 2014, remainder beyond 2015
22 nd Street/Kino Overpass DOT 58 (FY 2004/05)	\$10 million	\$749,256	2012, 2013
Houghton: Golf Links to I-10 DOT 29	\$20 million	\$0	Beyond 2015

*These are the dates that reimbursements for construction would be requested.

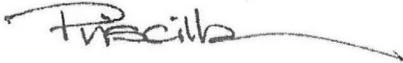
**James W. Glock, P.E., Director, Department of Transportation, City of Tucson
County Highway User Revenue (HURF) Fund Bonds
February 4, 2010
Page 2**

Your recent letters request funding for for 22nd Street/Kino in 2012 (\$4 million); and in 2013 (\$5 million). You also asked for allocations for the Houghton Road corridor beginning in Fiscal Year 2011. No additional funds have been requested for construction of Broadway Boulevard.

As you are aware, declining HURF revenues are adversely impacting all transportation agencies' budgets. Pima County's debt repayment is approaching \$19 million annually and the declining HURF revenues are forcing us to reduce our programmed budget expenditures to match the reduced funding amounts. Based on the current economic climate and anticipated future revenues, we do not expect that we will be able to sell the HURF bonds for the 22nd Street/Kino, Houghton and/or Broadway Boulevard projects within the next five years. Section 10a of our current IGA's states: "... County bond funds may be limited for City projects in any given fiscal year because actual revenues available to the County do not meet expectations due to a variety of reasons..."

Therefore, we cannot comply with your requests to program County HURF bond funds for the 22nd/Kino and Houghton Corridor projects as requested in your December 10, 2009 letters.

Sincerely,



Priscilla S. Cornelio, P.E.
Director

PSC:sap

c: C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator
John M. Bernal, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works