



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 10, 2013

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Pima County Contingency Planning Regarding the Widening of the Broadway Corridor**

On October 2, 2013, I directed the Pima County Transportation Department Director to begin contingency plans in case the City of Tucson opts not to widen the Broadway Boulevard Corridor. Additional context is appropriate.

As the Board no doubt recalls, voters in 1997 approved a series of projects designed to build additional capacity into the transportation system. Among the items in the package was the widening of Broadway Boulevard.

Pima County pledged \$25 million in Highway User Revenue Fund bonds to this widening project, even though the project falls within City of Tucson boundaries. The decision to participate in funding the project came after the Mayor of Tucson held a press conference in 1997 indicating that if the County did not provide sufficient improvements to City projects in a revenue bond election, the City – and presumably its voters – would not be able to support the election.

The project ultimately was folded into the 20-year Regional Transportation plan approved by voters in 2006, since the \$25 Million allocation was insufficient to fully fund the project. The language voters approved specifically calls for widening Broadway Boulevard, from Euclid Avenue to Campbell Avenue, to a 6-or 8-lane arterial with pedestrian improvements and dedicated bus/bike lanes.

Pima County has no position on whether Broadway should be widened. That is ultimately a policy decision for the City of Tucson and the volunteer taskforce that has been evaluating widening proposals.

Pima County, however, cannot fund a project that is outside the scope of what the voters authorized. There is nothing nefarious at hand; it is simply a reality that the County must adhere to the language contained in the bond ordinance.

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
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The County has an intergovernmental agreement with the City to provide a total of \$1.5 million in funding for design and right of way acquisition activities. The City of Tucson has already spent \$1.3 million of the County's portion of the project. If widening is no longer the path the City wishes to pursue, the County will seek reimbursement of those funds.

With approval from the Pima County Bond Advisory Committee and the Pima County Board of Supervisors, these revenues will instead be steered toward County priorities.

I have outlined the shortcomings in our existing roadways and the funding challenges we confront in addressing these needs. I have asked our Transportation Director to plan for that money to be allocated to pavement preservation projects if the City decides to not pursue the Broadway Corridor widening project.

CHH/mjk

c: Chair and Members, Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Priscilla Cornelio, Transportation Director