



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 18, 2005

TO: The Honorable Mayor and
Council Members

FROM: 
Michael D. Letcher
City Manager

SUBJECT: Attached Letter to PAG

As you know, we have recently had a series of meetings/discussions with parties and interested groups concerned about the future of Silverbell Road from Ironwood Hills Drive north.

I believe that the City, County, and Marana need to work cooperatively and collaboratively to address the issues and concerns which have been raised. Accordingly, I have sent the attached letter to the PAG director suggesting that consideration be given to programming a regional corridor study to develop a long term plan for Silverbell.

Please feel free to contact Liz Miller, Benny Young, or myself if you have any questions.

ML/ts

Attachment

c: Liz Miller, Assistant City Manager
Benny Young, Assistant City Manager
Karen Thoreson, Assistant City Manager
Todd Sander, Chief Information Officer



CITY OF
TUCSON

OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

January 18, 2005

Gary Hayes, Executive Director
Pima Association of Governments
177 N. Church Avenue
Suite 405
Tucson, AZ 85701

**Subject: 2005-06 Pima Association of Governments Overall Work Program
Silverbell Road Corridor Study**

Dear Mr. Hayes:

As the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) compiles the 2005/2006 Overall Work Program (OWP), the City of Tucson requests your consideration regarding a key regional project. We propose PAG include a transportation and land use corridor study of Silverbell Road as an element of your work program. Since this regional corridor encompasses multiple jurisdictions, it is proposed that PAG take the lead in the study and include it in your work program.

Attached is a draft problem statement, objectives of the study, and a draft scope of work of the elements to be involved in the study. It is anticipated the funding could be programmed over a two-year period since it is unlikely the study would begin before January 2006 and will take approximately one year to complete.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this request to begin defining solutions to transportation problems in this important regional corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Letcher".

Michael D. Letcher
City Manager

MDL:AE

Attachment

c: Benny J. Young, Assistant City Manager
Liz Miller, Assistant City Manager
Karen Thoreson, Assistant City Manager
Todd Sander, Chief Information Officer
Albert Elias, Urban Planning & Design Director
Jim Glock, Director of Transportation

Silverbell Road Corridor Study Ina Road to Grant Road

Statement of Problem: Silverbell Road is the only north-south arterial street between the Santa Cruz River and the Tucson Mountains that can provide for regional and local travel between the developments in the Tucson Mountains, Marana, and the City of Tucson. All development within unincorporated Pima County west of Silverbell must use the roadway systems within the proposed study area to access schools, jobs, and homes, with much of the traffic forced onto Silverbell to complete all or part of every trip generated by the development. Growth in the Town of Marana north of Sunset Road utilizes this regional corridor as the only transportation option. Development in accordance with approved plans within the City of Tucson east of Silverbell Road is adding to the traffic volume that currently exceeds 19,000 vehicle per day on the two-lane roadway. Arizona Department of Transportation is widening Interstate 10 to its full build-out of 8 lanes. By the year 2030 I-10 will exceed the design capacity of those 8 lanes of travel. To help maintain the integrity of I-10 for interstate travel, a safe and efficient regional arterial street network must be in place to handle the local and regional travel demands of the west-side residents. Silverbell Road serves as that key high capacity urban arterial, and needed improvements must be identified to maintain this critical link in the regional system

Objective: Develop a recommended roadway improvement program for Silverbell Road between Ina Road and Grant Road and connecting roadways east of Silverbell Road to I-10. The multi-jurisdictional study area is bounded by Ina Road, Interstate 10, Grant Road, and the Tucson Mountains within the Town of Marana, City of Tucson, and unincorporated Pima County. Study to be managed by Pima Association of Governments staff with technical assistance from the three jurisdictions.

Scope of Work:

- Inventory existing traffic conditions, accident data, access control, on-going development plans, environmental, historical and cultural sites, utilities, wash and other drainage conditions, and other existing conditions necessary to evaluate current conditions. Identify and collect needed traffic, accident, design data necessary to assess existing conditions. Regional 2030 forecasts of population and employment shall be used as base information for the study. Identify ongoing and committed transportation improvements in the region that will impact travel conditions in the study area.
- Include in the background research an analysis of existing planning documents including the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, Pima County Comprehensive Plan, Tucson General Plan, Santa Cruz Area Plan, Tumamoc Area Plan, Tucson Mountain Subregional Plan, Major Streets and Routes Plans, Scenic and Historic Corridor Plans, Marana General Plan, I-10 Corridor Plan, and any other land use, parks, trails, or transportation studies available from the jurisdictions.

- Identify potential future land use elements, build-out scenarios, model inputs and constraints needed to develop and analyze alternative roadway scenarios using the year 2030 as the design year for improvements. Identify and consider land uses and activity centers outside of the study area that may directly impact travel conditions within the corridor.
- Develop roadway improvement alternatives to handle future traffic and land uses for roadways within the study area, including new and existing connections to Interstate 10 and other arterial roadways within the study area. Analyze the accommodation of alternate modes of travel within the corridor including identifying potential for transit service between Marana and Tucson.
- Recommend an improvement program with appropriate time lines for needed improvements in the study area. Improvement program shall include treatment of wash crossings, wildlife corridors and any historical sites discovered during the study process. Pima County's Environmentally Sensitive Design Standards shall be used to evaluate and recommend design solutions for the transportation system in the study area.
- Provide 15% design plans for recommended improvements for Silverbell Road. Include all right of way requirements, access management recommendations, and cost estimates for improvements to Silverbell Road.
- Conduct a Title VI and Environmental Justice analysis on the preferred alternative network to identify and report on the potential benefits and burdens of the preferred as they affect the protected classes.
- Perform public outreach during the entire study period to receive public input on alternatives and options disclosed during the process through the use of public open houses, newsletters, web sites and the formation of a study advisory committee of interested citizens with the study area.
- Document a Final Report presenting summaries of recommendations related to multi-modal improvements in the study area.

Project Estimated Cost: \$500,000

Project Period : One Year