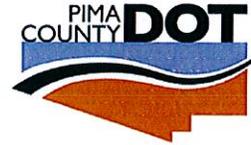




MEMORANDUM

Department of Transportation



DATE: August 17, 2012

TO: C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator

FROM: Priscilla S. Cornelio, P.E., Director of Transportation

SUBJECT: **Craycroft / River Road Intersection Operations**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Priscilla Cornelio", written over the printed name in the "FROM" field.

Last night I attended a neighborhood meeting sponsored by Councilman Steve Kozachik regarding the City of Tucson's recently annexed area of River Road and Craycroft. There were approximately 50+ people in attendance.

Panel participants included:

Supervisor Ann Day, District 1, Pima County
Valerie Samoy-Alvarado, District 1, Pima County
Jennifer Wong, District 4, Pima County
Councilman Steve Kozachik, Ward 6, City of Tucson
Councilman Paul Cunningham, Ward 2, City of Tucson
Richard Miranda, City Manager, City of Tucson
Andy McGovern, Department of Transportation, City of Tucson
Jim DeGrood, Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)
John Rourke, Neighborhood HOA
Lee Vliet, Friends of River Road
G.T. Alley, Developer

There was considerable concern expressed by the attendees regarding the congestion between 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. caused by the new BASIS School and the potential for additional congestion when the new QuikTrip opens and the remaining development occurs. Mr. DeGrood provided information on accident rate for the intersection stating that the intersection had a low rate of accidents but nonetheless he said the City of Tucson/RTA could use federal monies to do a Road Safety Analysis of the intersection.

There were requests that the City and County immediately put together a Citizen Task Force to explore the widening of River Road: Pontatoc Road to Sabino Canyon Road. Supervisor Day indicated that the County would participate in the costs of the future roadway widening. I noted that the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (RTP) does not include a project for widening River Road so the plan must be amended before the project can be programmed for funding. Mr. DeGrood explained that the RTP can be amended, and Mr. Miranda stated he will be touching base with Mr. DeGrood regarding the amendment process for the RTP.

The citizens also wanted some immediate action to be taken to mitigate the congestion. I indicated that Pima County had adjusted the Craycroft/River traffic signal timing Thursday morning providing more time to westbound traffic and there was an immediate improvement in traffic flow. I also stated we were working with the City on other measures to improve the traffic operations such as changing lane configurations on Calle Rosario.

C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator
Craycroft / River Road Intersection Operations
August 17, 2012
Page 3

I was at the intersection this morning at 8:00 a.m. to observe the traffic operations. There was no congestion and very few cars were present and circulation around the BASIS school operated smoothly. I traveled around the school and turned westbound from Calle Rosario with no problem at all. I shared my experience with City of Tucson Traffic Engineering and they agreed that things are improving and that the BASIS School committed today to fund the barricading needed to reverse the lane configuration along Calle Rosario. Beginning early next week there will be two northbound lanes along Calle Rosario to help with the egress distribution. This improvement will definitely alleviate any congestion.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

PSC:sap

c: John M. Bernal, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works
Diana Durazo, Assistant to County Administrator