

From: Ally Miller , District 1 Supervisor

Subject : \$5million road allocation for pavement preservation allocation

I would like to express my gratitude to the board and PCDOT for the allocation of \$1.9 million to District 1 arterial roads for FY 2014/15.

I had a conversation with PCDOT Director Priscilla Cornelio regarding whether any of the monies could be used for neighborhood roads and I was told "absolutely not."

This question arose after residents from Golden Heritage neighborhood and Sabino Town and Country estates (both on the plan for last year pavement preservation) presented a quote from Mr. Huckelberry reported in the Arizona Daily star on Feb 24, 2013 that there would be monies allocated to these roads in the next fiscal year.

I accepted the Pima County DOT Director's decision to utilize these monies for arterial roads only when I met with her .

See: Attached Arizona Daily Star Article with Chuck Huckelberry Quoted



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County road fund shift affects smaller streets

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February 24, 2014 1:00 pm • By Joe Ferguson

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One of the main reasons cited last week when county supervisors shifted \$872,000 in road work from **Ally Miller's** district to Colossal Cave Road was that the other work was for residential streets, benefiting too few drivers.

But that wasn't the only reason, as three other supervisors also got money for low-traffic neighborhood street work in their districts this year, public documents obtained by the Arizona Daily Star show.

The tipping point was political.

Miller charges the move was in retaliation for her \$100 million proposal to shift money away from other county projects to pay for roads, which brought the issue to a head last week. Other supervisors say it was Miller injecting politics into the decision about what roads get fixed when.

Vail School District officials complained to the board last Tuesday that Colossal Cave Road, the main road in Vail, was dangerous for students and staffers at the two schools along the road.

The other four supervisors opted to take money from road projects in Miller's district to improve safety along Colossal Cave Road, resulting in four road projects in Miller's north-side district being dropped.

Those four said Miller's district was not targeted for cuts due to her \$100 million plan, but rather because Miller broke an unwritten policy: Keep politics out of the decision on which streets to fix.

Supervisors usually let the county transportation staff decide which streets deserve a portion of the tightly controlled \$5 million countywide budget for street repair.

The four projects cut were among five in which Miller had

Supervisor Miller seeks police protection

Pima County Supervisor Ally Miller has asked for police protection, fearing a news story in which fellow Supervisor Ramon Validez mentioned her street in an interview with another news outlet jeopardized her safety.

Miller, a Republican, called the Pima County Sheriff's Department, saying she "felt threatened and intimidated" by the disclosure, records obtained by the Star show.

Validez, a Democrat, mentioned the street to illustrate how close Miller lived to a road project her office was successful in getting funded last year, at the expense of other road projects. A map, included as part of the online article, showed where Miller lived.

"She felt her life was in danger and that she would now be target at her own home," a report from the Sheriff's Department states.

Miller reported no threats have been received since the article was posted on Friday, and no suspicious activity had been observed, according to Chris Nanos, the Chief Deputy Sheriff, who indicated officers would perform periodic checks.

Elected officials' addresses are public record, in order to ensure they live within their district.

intervened in November to get the county transportation staff to take action on.

The only project that survived last week's cuts was a \$330,000 milling and paving project a block from Miller's home. It survived because the work already had started.

Miller denied any role in deciding which roads to fix, letting a staff member in her office make those calls based on complaints from residents and road conditions.

Miller has claimed political retribution for her continued criticism of county spending.

The road work Miller had lobbied the county staff to fix but were cut are:

- Paving a portion of the Golden Heritage Village neighborhood. The project, budgeted at \$167,580, covers portions of West Crown King Drive, North Fortuna Place, West Old Glory Drive and North Mowry Place.
- Paving a portion of the Sabino Town and County Estates. The project, budgeted at \$189,835, includes sections of North Stonehouse Place, North Coronada Place and East Coronado Road, as well as East Maguey Drive and North Maguey Place.
- Paving North Bowman Road between East Golder Ranch Drive and East Rollins Road at a cost of \$181,723.
- Paving a section of Thornydale Road between West Linda Vista Boulevard and Daphne Road at a cost of \$186,713, instead of a different section of the same road that was already in the plans.

The one project that survived the cuts was West Oasis Road between Camino de Oeste to the Marana town limits at a cost of \$330,789. This project is about a block away from Miller's home.

Miller reiterated that her complaint about the staff recommendation focused on a fog-seal treatment used on several roads that is mostly rated as good or fair.

The relatively inexpensive procedure puts a thin layer of rubberized asphalt over an existing street to keep the street from degrading further.

Miller's overall request to mill and pave the four areas outside of Thornydale was on four roads rated as poor or failing and was roughly \$100,000 less than the staff had authorized for District 1.

The three supervisors who had similar neighborhood streets paved were:

- **Sharon Bronson**
- , who has a \$541,635 project to pave streets in the Tucson Mountains neighborhood.
- , who has a \$37,023 project to pave streets in the Ventura subdivision.
- **Richard Elias**
- , who has a \$44,408 project to pave streets in the Mountain Gardens neighborhood.

All three projects were recommended by the county transportation staff.

There is some good news for District 1 residents, however. County Administrator **Chuck Huckelberry** said the road projects proposed by the staff would be part of the budget for the next fiscal year.

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