



NOV. 18th - Meeting .

Arizona Transportation Builders Association

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October 29, 2014

Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 W. Congress, 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Madam Chair,

On behalf of the Arizona Transportation Builders Association (formerly known as TUCA), I respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors place transportation infrastructure investment options on a future board agenda. We would like you to consider addressing the transportation projects that will move our regional economy forward as well as identifying both short and long-term pavement maintenance needed. The condition of our region's transportation infrastructure has become a detriment to our own image, safety, and ultimately the economy.

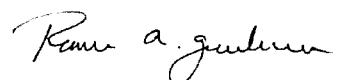
The region's roads continue to deteriorate unabated, with no preventative maintenance occurring except on a very limited and inadequate basis. Our public roads are our community's most valuable publicly owned assets, and their continuing deterioration will occur unless we increase public investment to change this trajectory. The potential direct loss to this community is staggering, and is compounded by the negative impression the condition of our roads leaves on visitors, potential investors, and our own self-image. Simply stated, if our community isn't willing to invest in itself, why should others?

Who should pay? We expect little relief from the federal government; even a significant increase in the federal gas tax would have little impact on local resources, and would be unavailable to address local road needs. In addition, it is unlikely we will see any support for solving our roadway condition problems from the State Legislature, ending HURF sweeps, for example, will not solve our long-term pavement maintenance issues. Our road condition problems are specific to our region, and are not shared with the federal, state and Maricopa County governments because their road conditions are relatively good. Their interest is in congestion relief and freeway expansion so we see little common interest. We would support Pima County in developing a strategy to address the critical funding shortfalls.

For these reasons, we believe it is imperative that the community, through the leadership of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, begin a frank discussion of the local options available to resolve this local problem, and determine if we value our community enough to invest in its future.

If you would like to discuss with me further, please contact me at ramon@movingoureconomy.org or 520.419.7466. ATB members are also available for any questions and will attend the board meeting when this item is placed on the agenda.

Respectfully,



Ramon A. Gaanderse
Executive Director

cc: Supervisor Ally Miller
 Supervisor Ramon Valadez
 Supervisor Ray Carroll
 Supervisor Richard Elias
 County Administrator Huckelberry