



MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 4, 2014

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: **Sunset Road, Silverbell Road to I-10; Request for Approval of Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report**

The Department of Transportation is submitting the Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report (EAMR) for this project, for your review and approval.

Project Limits

The Sunset Road project in east-central Pima County, Arizona, is divided into two segments:

- ✓ Segment I; Silverbell Road to Interstate 10 (I-10) Eastbound Frontage Road
- ✓ Segment II; I-10 to River Road

This specific document addresses Segment I, which includes approximately 2,960 feet of mostly undeveloped land. Segment II will be addressed in future documentation under a separate project effort.

Project Scope

The project is included in the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Plan approved by Pima County voters in 2006. The project was identified as Pima County Sunset Road: Silverbell Road to River Road (RTA 8). Project funding comes from the Pima Association of Governments RTA Plan and local funds from Pima County and the City of Tucson. The RTA Plan identifies funding in the amount of \$22,764,000 for Segments I and II. The estimated cost for Segment I is \$19,976,893, including design, environmental clearance, ROW, utilities, and construction. The RTA funding is expected to be available in Period 2 (2012–2016) and construction is planned to begin in fiscal year 2016. The future Segment II will be a jointly funded effort by the Arizona Department of Transportation, the RTA, Pima County, and the City of Tucson.

Project Purpose and Need

Sunset Road previously connected Silverbell Road to I-10 across the Santa Cruz River. In 1983,

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

RE: Sunset Road, Silverbell Road to I-10; Request for Approval of Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report

December 4, 2014

Page 2 of 2

severe flooding throughout the greater Tucson area destroyed the bridge over the Santa Cruz River at Sunset Road as well as a significant portion of the roadway adjacent to the river. No part of the old Sunset Road bridge remains. Due to growth in the northwest Tucson region, the connection of Silverbell Road to I-10 and ultimately to River Road is needed to improve operations, increase mobility, improve safety, and reduce congestion. The project purpose is to build a new bridged connection between I-10 and Silverbell Road to provide an alternative route during the upcoming reconstruction of the I-10 traffic interchanges, relieve traffic congestion, and improve travel safety during construction. This project will reestablish an important link between I-10 and Silverbell Road, providing additional capacity for existing and future travel needs. In addition, the new roadway will improve bike and pedestrian mobility to the Pima County Loop Trail (Loop Trail) and provide a bridged crossing of the Santa Cruz River.

Community Participation and Input

Through the development of this initial design phase, the project team has held two open house meetings to provide updates, share information, answer questions and solicit input and feedback. The responses from the public indicate overall support for the project and agreement with the various items and elements that have been included. A constant theme we have heard from residents and citizens is the desire to maintain the project schedule so that the Sunset Road connection can be made prior to the Ina Road or Ruthrauff Road Interchange projects closing access to I-10.

The department will continue to meet with the public and share information as the project progresses through the design phase and into construction.

I trust that this provides you with all the information you need. Should you have any further questions, or require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at 740-6410.

PSC:RE:dg

Attachment: EAMR

c: C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator
John M. Bernal, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works
Ana Olivares, Deputy Director – Infrastructure
Rick Ellis, Engineering Division Manager
Annabelle Valenzuela, Community Relations Manager

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Requested Board Meeting Date: December 16, 2014

ITEM SUMMARY, JUSTIFICATION &/or SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report (EAMR): Sunset Road, Silverbell Road to I-10. Project #4RTSUN

The project purpose is to build a new bridged connection between I-10 and Silverbell Road to provide an alternative route during the upcoming reconstruction of the I-10 traffic interchanges, relieve traffic congestion, and improve travel safety during construction. This project will reestablish an important link between I-10 and Silverbell Road, providing additional capacity for existing and future travel needs. In addition, the new roadway will improve bike and pedestrian mobility to the Pima County Loop Trail (Loop Trail) and provide a bridged crossing of the Santa Cruz River.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION(S):

Staff recommends approval of the EAMR for Sunset Road, Silverbell Road to I-10.

The Department of Transportation has followed the requirements in the Community Participation Ordinance, Chapter 10.56 and has responded to the concerns and requests of the public by either revising the design as appropriate, or providing justification for not making the desired changes.

CLERK OF BOARD USE ONLY: BOS MTG. _____

ITEM NO. _____

PIMA COUNTY COST: \$20,000,000 and/or REVENUE TO PIMA COUNTY: \$0

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

- 2006 Pima County Citizen-approved sales tax initiative (RTA)
- 12.6% Urban Highway User Revenue Funds (12.6% Urban HURF)
- Pima County Impact Fees
- City of Tucson Impact Fees

Advertised Public Hearing:

	X	YES		NO
--	---	-----	--	----

Board of Supervisors District:

1	X	2		3		4		5		All	
---	---	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	-----	--

IMPACT:

IF APPROVED:

If approved, Pima County Department of Transportation will proceed with the final design, including right of way acquisition, utility coordination and obtaining environmental permits, in preparation for construction targeted for fiscal year 2016.

IF DENIED:

If denied, the reconnection of Sunset Road will not be made.

DEPARTMENT NAME: Department of Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: _____ TELEPHONE NO.: 724-6410