



Southern Arizona Leadership Council

June 16, 2017

Chairwoman Sharon Bronson, District 3  
Vice Chairman Richard Elias, District 5  
Supervisor Ally Miller, District 1  
Supervisor Ramon Valadez, District 2  
Supervisor Steve Christy, District 4  
c/o Pima County Board of Supervisors  
130 West Congress  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The Southern Arizona Leadership Council (SALC), comprised of more than 140 CEOs, community and business leaders, has long felt that the quality and availability of infrastructure is the backbone of a region's ability to support business growth, increased trade and improved quality of life. Currently, our region's roadways are in need of significant care. Therefore, SALC encourages the Pima County Board of Supervisors to make investment in road repair and maintenance a priority.

Any proposal to raise taxes (at any level of government) must be met with a healthy dose of scrutiny. The current proposed 25 cent property tax dedicated to road repair and maintenance, when combined with property tax offsets in the first year, is a reasonable approach to put some much needed resources to work repairing our neighborhood roads. SALC encourages the Board to pass the road repair property tax as part of this year's budget and then begin a concerted effort to explore a continued source of increased revenues dedicated to road improvements. This effort should look both internally and externally to identify a means of further repairing our region's roadways. Consideration of continuation of the property tax or the use of a sales tax should be part of this exploration.

SALC is a staunch supporter of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). The RTA has been an effective, regional approach to ensure the investments as approved by voters in 2006 are becoming a reality. It is critical that decisions made today consider the need to reauthorize, and perhaps expand the RTA to include repair and maintenance, in advance of its expiration in 2026.

SALC encourages the Board of Supervisors and the county to continue working with all the municipalities and stakeholders in the region to ensure a cohesive effort to care for and expand our infrastructure. A regionally coordinated approach will be necessary for successful engagement locally and at the state level to secure quality infrastructure in the future.

Thank you for your continued leadership and service to Pima County and our communities. Your efforts to support investment in all infrastructure throughout the county will contribute greatly to a prosperous future and improved quality of life for all.

Sincerely,

Ted Maxwell  
President, Southern Arizona Leadership Council