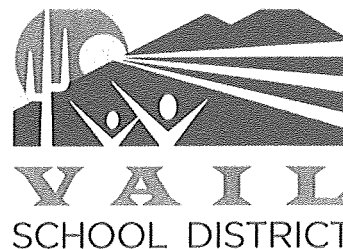


AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 1/28/24

ITEM NO. 12A11



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

13801 E Benson Highway • P.O. Box 800 • Vail, AZ 85641 • 520-879-2000 • FAX 520-879-2001

Date: January 22, 2024

To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors

Subject: Colossal Cave Road Improvements in the RTA Next Plan (01/23/24 Board Agenda, Item 11)

Dear Honorable Chair and Board Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Vail Unified School District to express support for the proposed improvements to Colossal Cave Road, extending from I-10 to Mary Ann Cleveland Way, as outlined in the RTA Next plan. The enhancement of this critical roadway is not just a matter of convenience but a necessity for the safety of our students and their families.

As the second-largest school district in Pima County, we are keenly aware of the transportation challenges faced in our area. Colossal Cave Road, being the sole north-south access route into Rincon Valley, bears the brunt of this challenge.

Significantly, Acacia Elementary School and Old Vail Middle School, which cater to approximately 1,600 students, are situated directly along this road. The current traffic volume, which includes the passage of over 30 buses daily along this 2.7-mile stretch, has become a major concern for parents. These buses serve not only Acacia Elementary and Old Vail Middle but also Cienega High School and Ocotillo Ridge Elementary. Moreover, with the construction of a new K-8 school in the Rocking K development set to commence this year, the urgency for road improvements is escalating.

Over the past two decades, Pima County has endorsed substantial residential development in Rincon Valley, notably with the Rancho Del Lago and now with the Rocking K project. The Vail Unified School District has worked hard to keep pace with the growth and we proudly serve the new families who move to this beautiful area. However, the district's efforts must be complemented by parallel enhancements in essential infrastructure, such as roadways, to sustainably support this growth.

Therefore, we urge the Board to consider the far-reaching benefits of the proposed Colossal Cave Road improvements, not only for the current residents but also for the future development of our community. Your support in this endeavor is vital for the safety and well-being of our students and their families.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing commitment to the welfare of our community.

Sincerely,

John Carruth
Superintendent
Vail Unified School District

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"Where Education is a Community Effort"

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