



PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISTRICT 1
130 WEST CONGRESS STREET, 11TH FLOOR
TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
(520)724-2738
district1@pima.gov
www.district1.pima.gov

ALLY MILLER
SUPERVISOR

MEMORANDUM

To: Robin Brigode

Date: April 8, 2015

Re: **Addendum item for April 14, 2015**
Board of Supervisors Meeting

From: Ally Miller, District 1, Supervisor
Pima County Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ally Miller", is written over the "From:" line.

Please place the following item on the **April 14, 2015**, Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda
Addendum:

Discussion and vote on the balance of \$5 million that was allocated for road repair in the FY 2014/15 budget.

APR 08 15 PM 04:50 PC CLK OF RD
AEB

Tucson International Mariachi Conference
33 Years of World Class Mariachi Entertainment
Join us as we celebrate Four days of Mariachi Music and Belle Folklórico, community events, and culture celebration.
The Celebration Includes: Mariachi Mass Featuring Liturgical Music
Led by Mariachi University of Texas Plus American • No Charge • Open to the Public
Saturday April 11, 2015 at 10am • ASA Amphitheater Centro del Sol Resort





More: [Business](#) [La Estrella](#) [Wildcats](#) [TV](#) [Real Estate](#) [Rentals](#) [Jobs](#) [Cars](#) [Events Calendar](#)

[Home](#) / [News](#)

State cuts put Pima County road work on hold

Respond: [Write a letter to the editor](#) | [Write a guest opinion](#)

April 03, 2015 7:51 pm • By Patrick McNamara

24

Nearly half of an extra \$5 million Pima County allocated for road repairs this year will not be spent.

"It's in limbo at present because of state budget cuts," County Administrator **Chuck Huckelberry** said.

The county has spent about \$2.8 million of \$5 million allocated from the general fund toward pavement preservation projects.

The work included 21 projects throughout the county totaling more than 31 miles of roadway. But now, eight of those projects could be canceled.

One major road project planned as part of the pavement preservation effort was a more-than-a-mile stretch of heavily trafficked North Silverbell Road between West Goret and Ina roads.

That work was to include a 2-inch asphalt overlay on the road, many sections of which have badly degraded over the years.

Transportation Director **Priscilla Cornelio** said the county will still seek to finalize intergovernmental agreements with Tucson and Marana in the event funding returns for the project because the section of Silverbell in question traverses all three jurisdictions.

Cornelio said the unspent \$2.2 million allocated for the projects will be returned to the county's general fund, which is used to pay for most of the county's daily operating expenses.

Dropping the Silverbell project is additionally troubling because Interstate 10 widening near Sunset Road, between Ina Road and El Camino del Cerro, is scheduled to begin in June.

The work likely will cause congestion on the freeway and frontage roads, pushing many drivers to seek alternative routes.

"People will be diverted onto Silverbell," Cornelio said.

County leaders had expected the Silverbell resurfacing to be done in time for I-10 work to begin.

"From my viewpoint, Silverbell is a major item and has to be dealt with immediately," Supervisor **Sharon Bronson** said.



Drivers make their way on Silverbell Road south of Ina Road. Much-needed repaving of Silverbell has been put on hold.

[Enlarge Photo](#)

Do you agree with the decision to cancel county road repairs?

☐ Yes. State cutbacks to the county leave us no other choice.

☐ No. The dilapidate state of our roads has gone on for too long. Enough, already. Find the money.

[Submit](#)

Bronson said the potential for increased traffic flows onto the road when the I-10 project starts makes Silverbell a priority project.

Other road projects put on hold include Sabino Canyon Road north of River Road; First Avenue, River to Ina roads; Thornydale Road, Rudolph Drive to Daphne Lane; La Cholla Boulevard, River to Magee; Aviation at Dodge; and the Palo Verde overpass.

Huckelberry said contracts for the projects won't be issued until the county has a better idea of the deficit it could face as result of the state budget.

Over the past month, Huckelberry has ordered county department heads to enact a hiring freeze, cut spending and take other cost-saving measures, all in response to what he has described as the state Legislature and governor forcing additional costs on the county.

For example, the budget that passed the Legislature and was signed by Gov. **Doug Ducey** last month includes a mandate that counties now reimburse the state 25 percent of the costs of housing juvenile offenders in state prison facilities.

County officials estimate that could cost \$1.8 million.

The biggest estimated cost shift comes from a law change that places on local governments the burden of covering a 1 percent property-tax cap.

The Arizona Constitution limits the total of all governmental primary property taxes that homeowners pay to 1 percent of a home's full cash value. Amounts in excess, primarily attributable to school property taxes, have been paid by the state since the law was approved in 1981.

Huckelberry said changes to the law in the just-finished legislative session will require the county to pay the excess amounts — totaling more than \$18.6 million.

When asked last week about the state shifting costs it has historically paid onto local governments, Ducey said, "We had a broken budget," noting the state faced a more than \$1 billion budget deficit at the beginning of the year. "When you have that big of a budget hole, it's necessary."

Ducey also said the state now has a structurally balanced budget for the first time since 2007, when the housing bubble burst and the state and country fell into recession.

"Everyone says they want the government to run like a business, until it does," the governor said.

Huckelberry said the county would know soon the full impact of the state budget now that the Legislature has adjourned.

As for the remaining road projects, he said the county must wait and see.

"It won't be contracted until I see how big our deficit is," Huckelberry said.

Contact reporter Patrick McNamara at 573-4241 or pmcnamara@tucson.com. On Twitter [@pm929](https://twitter.com/pm929)

Copyright 2015 Arizona Daily Star. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Tags Road Construction, Road Improvement, Budget, Pima County, Chuck Huckelberry, Doug Ducey, Silverbell Road
