

May 18, 2015

Honorable Chairperson Bronson and Board of Supervisors Pima County 130 W. Congress Street Tucson, Arizona 85701

RE: Co14-14-02, Pima County Major Streets and Scenic Routes (MSSR) Plan Amendment

Dear Chairperson Bronson and Supervisors:

The above referenced item, identified as Item 25 on the agenda, is scheduled for your consideration on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. As identified on the supporting staff report, this amendment will modify numerous major road segments on the Major Streets and Scenic Routes (MSSR) Plan within the plan boundaries.

Tucson Airport Authority (TAA) staff has been in communication with senior Pima County (County) staff with regard to two specific street segments proposed to be designated as "Major Streets." These two segments, Alvernon Road between Los Reales Road and Hughes Access Road, and Swan Road, between Valencia Road and Hermans Road, are of critical interest to Tucson International Airport (TIA).

In our most recent communication with your staff, TAA has reaffirmed the importance of protecting TIA's ability to expand over time to serve the community's economic growth needs. This TIA expansion will also provide for development opportunities in the areas surrounding the airport. Plans for this TIA expansion have been established for more than 30 years and have consistently been reflected on the airport master plans and the Airport Layout Plans (ALP), which direct the ultimate design of the airport as approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). TAA expressed this concern in 2008 to Pima County. It is important to emphasize that these documents guide TAA's short and long term planning, as well as the capital improvement planning for the airfield and surrounding land holdings. Federal grant assurances mandate that TAA make policy decisions consistent with the long term planning and use of airport property. The TIA Master Plan and City's Comprehensive Plan identify the roadway alignment as being built around the end of the future runway in a similar manner to how the County built Golf Links Road around the runway at Davis Monthan Air Force Base.

If the major roadway improvements occur consistent with the County's proposed plan changes, the roadways will bisect the future runway and, in all likelihood, make the construction of the future runway financially unfeasible. Additionally, it will significantly impact TIA's ability to respond to future aviation demand as well as preclude TIA from reaching its full potential as an economic driver in the region's growth - a goal included in Pima Prospers and shared by TAA.

TAA respectfully requests the County's consideration to postpone this change as TAA and the County have a meeting scheduled for June 1, 2015 and TAA would appreciate the opportunity to discuss roadway improvements to the region and still preserve the ability to further grow TIA into the economic asset the region needs to prosper.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. TAA looks forward to working with the County to make the Sonoran Corridor a reality and to promote the economic objectives of the County, while protecting the goals and objectives of TIA.

Sincerely,

Bonnie A. Allin, A.A.E.

President/CEO

Attachment

Cc: C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator

TAA Board of Directors

