



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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C. H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

September 16, 2009

Gary Hayes, Executive Director
Regional Transportation Authority
177 N. Church Avenue, Suite 405
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Re: Archaeological Mitigation Costs

Dear Gary:

It has been brought to my attention that certain Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Corridor projects may incur significant archaeological mitigation expenses. The present concern is related to the Silverbell RTA Corridor project. I have asked my staff to review the standards for archaeological mitigation being imposed and their anticipated cost.

It is my recollection that archaeological mitigation costs were not included in the RTA Corridor project cost estimates. Any significant archaeological costs will result in a potential imbalance in project funding and completion. Hence the need to have appropriate policy direction on this matter wherein archaeological mitigation costs, if they exceed a certain threshold, are a reimbursable project cost and increase the original RTA cost allocation.

This matter may be of sufficient concern to place on a future Technical Management Committee meeting agenda for discussion and direction, as well as recommendation to the RTA Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Huckelberry", is written over the typed name and title.

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk

c: James Glock, Transportation Director, City of Tucson
John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works
Priscilla Cornelio, Director, Department of Transportation



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 22, 2009

To: John Bernal
Deputy County Administrator - Public Works

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.H. Huckelberry", is written over the typed name of the sender.

Re: Coordinated Silverbell Corridor Planning

I believe the Transportation Department and staff of the City of Tucson, Pima County and Town of Marana are beginning to coordinate planning for the Silverbell Corridor. Improvements were authorized in the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Election improvements extending from Grant Road to Ina Road, with a Sunset Road connection. RTA funding has been allocated at \$43 million for Silverbell, with the Sunset component being \$12.7 million. These routes also have different local contributions and differing implementation period schedules.

Given the overall continuity of the corridor, I believe it is appropriate that planning for the corridor be conducted at one time. I would suggest that this planning be taken further for archaeological mitigation and environmental mitigation associated with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Linda Mayro will be preparing a report indicating how significant the archaeological features of Silverbell Road are for the archaeological, historical and cultural knowledge of the region; hence, the need to carefully review and understand the archaeological impacts of the roadway corridor improvement. I expect this endeavor to cost more than normal archaeological clearance, and we should jointly, with other jurisdictions, request that the RTA fund the archaeological clearance for the entire corridor as an added project expense.

I also believe that formal clearances and CWA Section 404 permits should be obtained for the entire corridor, which may require additional design efforts over the planning for the project areas influenced with drainage crossings. In fact, given the location of Silverbell Road adjacent to the historical long-term floodplain of the Santa Cruz River and the beginning foothill environment, it may be more cost effective to span the hundred year floodplain of each wash crossing, thereby eliminating upstream and downstream drainage and flood control improvements. If such would be more environmentally sensitive and economical, a full span wash crossing should be pursued along the entire corridor for each wash crossing.

Coordinated Silverbell Corridor Planning Memorandum
September 23, 2009
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Please ask our staff to review these issues in detail with the overall corridor implementation multi-jurisdictional team.

CHH/mjk

c: Gary Hayes, Executive Director, Regional Transportation Authority
Jim DeGroot, Director of Transportation, Regional Transportation Authority
Jim Glock, Transportation Director, City of Tucson
Andy Dinauer, Engineering Administrator, City of Tucson
Barbara Johnson, General Manager – Public Services, Town of Marana
John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works
Priscilla Cornelio, Director, Department of Transportation