

**Open Response
to public comments received
for the 2007 – 2011
Transportation Improvement Program**

Introduction:

Public comment is solicited as part of the development of the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Four open houses were conducted in connection with the 2007-2011 TIP: July 20, 2006 in central Tucson; July 25 in Green Valley/Sahuarita and southern Tucson; and July 27 in northwest Tucson. The program, various informational presentations and comment forms were made available at all meetings; a Spanish translator was on hand for meetings on July 20 and at the southern Tucson meeting July 25; and Spanish language printed materials also were available. The program also was made available on line at www.pagnet.org, and at the jurisdictions.

This "open response" is the region's mechanism for providing responses for those comments that require a response. This response will be updated on-line to respond to new comments periodically until the 2007-2011 TIP is adopted.

How Public Input is used:

The comments received during the Open Houses and the comment periods are forwarded to the TIP subcommittee for review before its recommendation of a final "recommended" TIP to the Regional Council for adoption. The TIP sub-committee may adjust a project's funding or schedule based on the comments received if the group believes changes are appropriate.

The comments also are included in the review materials the Regional Council receives prior to its adoption of the TIP.

Format:

The comments received at the Open Houses will be grouped by question number with accompanying responses as appropriate. Additional comments received through the web site or other means during the 30-day comment period will be added and responded to on a comment-by-comment basis.

**2007-2011 TIP Public Comment Sheet – Summary
From the July 2006 Open Houses**

Question 1. What specific comments do you have about the proposed 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program?

Comments-

- Good. Get them done.
- Appears very weighted towards the NW side.
- None so far – Need more time to digest information presented.
- By and large, well balanced.
- None I can think of at this time.
- I'm glad to see that bike paths & pedestrian paths are included.
- High Importance – Consulting local neighborhoods during design. Example: work to lessen loss of businesses (illegible word) on Grant Road work.

Response –

Thank you for your comments. The TIP subcommittee reviewed these comments, and they were interpreted as not requiring a specific response.

Comment/Question -

- Please add restriping and repaving of Mountain Avenue bike lane north of Fort Lowell. Very bumpy with potholes, major cracks, etc. Very hazardous for bicycles. I know of one broken collarbone suffered due to poor road/bike lane conditions which occurred in last 3 months.

Response –

Thank you for your comment. It was forwarded to the City of Tucson for their consideration and they provided the following response.

City of Tucson response: The subject project is an active and funded TDOT improvement project. The project will consist of the installation of roadway, bikeway and drainage improvements (similar to those previously installed south of Ft. Lowell). The project is anticipated to commence construction in spring of 2007.

- Is funding (project cost) adjusted for proposed inflation/increased cost of building materials? Locations o.k.

Response –

Thank you for your comment. Most all of the costs are based on estimates that are adjusted for inflation and increased materials costs. On occasion, the actual project bids come in over the estimate in the TIP – at that time the responsible jurisdiction will amend the TIP to provide for that funding. For example, the additional funding may come from another source such as a project that has had its schedule delayed.

Question 2. In what way do you feel the proposed 2007-2011 TIP project (s) might affect your or your immediate neighborhood either positively or negatively?

- Best to plan projects for major work in spring, summer and fall.
- Houghton and Valencia improvements will greatly reduce congestion.
- Need more time to digest info.
- (Projects) For (the) better, with bus improvements & safety (pedestrian) crosswalks.
- Transportation alternatives (bus, bike ways, etc) reduce exhaust from internal combustion engines which reduces gases that cause greenhouse effect. Every little bit helps.
- Don't know.
- By and large, Tucson grid needs to be improved while not degrading NE4RBC (as written) stores & residences. So need high neighborhood –gov't interaction in design. Make grid work without degrading Tucson pattern of extended living-working.
- Houghton Rd corridor is in urgent need of improvement. Golf Links south!!!

Response –

Thank you for your comments. The TIP subcommittee reviewed these comments, and they were interpreted as not requiring a specific response.

Question 3.:The Transportation Improvement Program is a financially constrained program, where the cost of the projects cannot exceed the available funding. Federal regulations require that you have an opportunity to comment on this 5-year financial plan explained in the Draft 2007-2011 Pima Association of Government's Transportation Improvement Program in Appendix 2. This section is labeled "Fiscal Constraint Analysis" and shows a year-by-year comparison of available

funds, allocated to PAG for the Transportation System. Please provide any other comments or questions you may have regarding the financial plan.

- While not ideal, it will work.
- Don't know.
- Is funding (project cost) adjusted for proposed inflation/increase in cost of building materials?

Response –

Thank you for your comments. The TIP subcommittee reviewed these comments, and they were interpreted as not requiring a specific response.

Comment/Question -

- I've noticed Green Valley projects are put on "back burner" until costs are so high the projects are impossible, like 1997 bond for E. Frontage Rd.

Response –

Thank you for your comment. It was forwarded to Pima County for their consideration and they provided the following response.

Pima County Response: To the contrary this project has not been put on the back burner. We have already gone through the design consultant selection process and are currently developing a detailed project scope. Once the scope is completed, the consultant's contract will be finalized and the design process will begin. This will occur within the next few months. MMLA/PSOMAS has been selected as the prime design consultant. The project does have several elements that may stretch out the total design/construction schedule. These include the environmental permitting process and coordination/approval from ADOT and FHWA for any modifications in the vicinity of the interchanges. However, the proposed schedule accounts for the efforts needed to complete these processes and we are working closely with ADOT, and the Green Valley community in order to address the biggest issues as the highest priority. Please be assured that we will advance the schedule as best possible whenever we have the opportunity.

Question 4.: Given the region's limited funding for transportation, please rate the relative importance of the following factors if you were making decisions about which transportation projects to fund in the next five years:

Improve safety:	9 participants rated this as more important 1 participant rated this less important
Provide air quality benefits:	6 rated this more important 1 rated this at middle importance 1 rated this just below the middle

Relieve congestion:	6 rated this more important 3 rated this of middle importance 1 rated this of less importance
Maintain/preserve. . Infrastructure	3 rated this as more important 5 rated this at middle importance 2 rated this at less important
Support economic ... development	Nearly even responses for all levels.
Distribute funds evenly among the jurisdictions	2 rated this at more important 4 rated this at middle importance 3 rated this at just below middle importance
Provide opportunities for. alternatives modes of Transportation:	7 rated this as more important 2 rated this at middle importance 1 each rated this as less important
Widen roads to gain cap. From existing System:	5 rated this as more important 3 rated this at middle importance 3 rated this as less important
Use technology to gain. capacity from existing system:	7 rated this as more important 1 rated this at middle importance 2 rated this as least important
Solve specific probs. in my neighborhood:	6 rated this as less important 1 rated this at middle importance 2 rated this as more important
Solve major probs. on a regional level:	8 rated this as more important 1 rated this as least important
Provide improves. That benefit the greatest number of people:	6 rated this as more important 2 rated this at middle importance

1 rated this as less important

Question 5.: Please provide any other comments or questions you may have regarding the 2007-2011 TIP or TIP planning process.

- If possible, nighttime and/or 24-hr construction to speed completion.
- GSI at Valencia and Kolb.
- Impressed (and somewhat overwhelmed) by the range of information presented.
- After all the work, “changes” would be counterproductive.
- Wonderful presentation, very informative.
- Would love to see light rail service to Phoenix from Tucson.

Response –

Thank you for your comments. The TIP subcommittee reviewed these comments, and they were interpreted as not requiring a specific response.

Additional information:

Please provide your five digit zip code (home):

85711, 85712, 85714, 85716, 85730, 85747, 85749.

Do you work in transportation planning?	2	yes	8	no		
Did you find the information you expected at the Open House?	10	yes	0	no		
Did you receive adequate answers to your questions?	8	yes	1	no	1	n/a

Can you suggest ways we might improve the Open House next year?

- More notice. I saw an article in the AZ Daily Star on Tuesday.
- Provide a key to acronyms? (Appx. 2, Financial Constraint Analysis) seems particularly rich in them.
- Better planned and more organized discussion (e.g. less idle talk).
- Morning session in Tucson.
- Great cookies – nice water! Thanks!