

## PIMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 201 NORTH STONE AVENUE, FOURTH FLOOR TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1207



PRISCILLA S. CORNELIO, P. E. DIRECTOR

(520) 740-6410 FAX (520) 740-6439

July 30, 2010

Jean Gorman 1651 West Thunder Road Vail, AZ 85730

Subject: Bicyclist Memorial Trailhead

Dear Ms. Gorman:

I wanted to give you an update on the status of the memorial trailhead project. As you know, we had an informational public meeting on May 24, 2010, to obtain community feedback regarding the proposed memorial trailhead to be located at McDonald Park. This meeting was well attended by neighbors and bicyclists and we received approximately 35 written comments, in addition to the comments we heard at the meeting. There was no clear consensus on the best location for the memorial trailhead although there was support for installation of bicycle lanes along Harrison Road. Some attendees (yourself included) indicated that if bike lanes were installed along Harrison, the McDonald Park location would be more acceptable.

After our review of the information received at the public meeting, we submitted an application for federal Transportation Enhancement monies through the Pima Association of Governments. These funds could fund the construction of bike lanes along Harrison Road thereby meeting the desires expressed by several of the surrounding community and meeting attendees. We recently learned that Pima County Department of Transportation is in the top three (3) for receiving Transportation Enhancement monies for the bike lanes along Harrison Road. With this high ranking, Pima County is almost assured of receiving the needed funding which the department felt was contingent for the selection of McDonald Park as the location for the memorial trailhead.

The department is now proceeding with implementation of the proposed memorial trailhead project located at McDonald Park. The scheme we are finalizing is based on the concept that had been developed with your assistance for the memorial trailhead located on Catalina Highway near Spruce Lane. It includes construction of a ramada on a concrete pad, a memorial, commemorative pavers, bike rack, benches, drinking fountain and addition of trees. Attached is a copy of the concept we intend to construct. This version is slightly different from the one presented at the meeting because it includes a paved bike connection to Prospect Lane to facilitate travel north and eliminates the parking area over the volleyball court and the sidewalk.

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The department is committed to construction of the memorial trailhead and your past efforts to advance this project are appreciated. We are completing the construction documents and expect to start construction in the early fall. We are confident that once bicyclists become aware of the location of the facility it will be supported by the bicycling community. We also intend to meet with the members of the Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee to identify strategies we can utilize to achieve this goal.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Priscilla S. Cornelio, P.E.

Director

PSC:sap

Attachment

c: The Honorable Ray Carroll, Board of Supervisor, District 4
 C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator
 John M. Bernal, Deputy County Administrator
 Carlo DiPilato, Division Manager, Natural Resources Parks and Recreation
 Annabelle Valenzuela, Community Relations Manager

