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GET READY TO LAUNCH THE LOOP ON OCTOBER 22

Pima County, Ariz. – Join hundreds of Pima County residents and visitors who enjoy the safety and the scenery when they walk, run, skate or bike on **The Loop**, 55 miles of car-free paths being developed around metropolitan Tucson, with links to Marana and Oro Valley.

Launch The Loop on Oct. 22 and celebrate the connection of the pedestrian and bike paths through the Santa Cruz and Rillito river parks.

The 23-mile path from West Silverlake Road to North Craycroft Road is the longest completed, continuous segment of The Loop.

If it doesn't have a motor, it's good to go on The Loop.

The Loop:

- will connect multi-use paths along the Santa Cruz River, Rillito River, Pantano River and Julian Wash with a greenway along Harrison Road. Eventually paths will be added on both sides of each riverbank to provide more than 130 miles of continuous off-street or shared-use paths. Nearly half of the 130 miles of paths are in place.
- will connect to local parks, trailheads, bus and bike routes, workplaces, schools, restaurants, hotels and motels, shopping areas, and sports and entertainment venues.

More than 38 percent of the metropolitan population lives within one mile of The Loop.

Pima County and Marana are working now to extend the Santa Cruz River Park path to and through Marana. The County and Oro Valley have partnered to create multi-use paths along the Cañada del Oro that will extend from the Santa Cruz River nearly to Catalina State Park. The newest 2.4-mile segment of the Pantano River Park was dedicated this month.

To join the Oct. 22 celebration and get free T-shirts, water bottles, backpacks, bike helmets for kids, and safety gear while supplies last, register from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at:

- Flowing Wells District Park, 5510 N. Shannon Road.
- Christopher Columbus Park, 4600 N. Silverbell Road.
- Crossroads at Silverbell Park, 7548 N. Silverbell Road.

Walk, ride, run or skate from the registration sites directly to the 10 a.m. Dedication Celebration on West Sunset Road, west of Interstate 10. Or register early at Flowing

Wells Park and participate in a 22-mile bike ride to the University of Arizona campus and back before the Dedication Celebration.

New Loop bike jerseys will be available for sale at the event.

Go to www.pima.gov/TheLoop for more information and the latest Loop news, maps and events.

Event partners include Pima County, Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, the Northwest YMCA and the Pima County Health Department's Healthy Pima program.

Pima County has partnered with Tucson, South Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Regional Transportation Authority and others on the existing paths. Federal and state disaster assistance funding for bank stabilization, federal grants and County bond funds financed the work.