Pima County Passes ‘Landmark’ 10-Year Policy to Repair Roads Over Next Decade

Source: Tucson.com

The Pima County Board of Supervisors last week approved a “landmark” policy for funding capital infrastructure projects, which will primarily be used to improve roads in unincorporated Pima County over the next decade.

The supervisors unanimously passed the pay-as-you-go policy, or PAYGO, which officials estimated will generate $387 million total to help offset more than $778 million in needed priority capital improvement projects of county infrastructure through fiscal year 2030. The money comes from a percentage of the secondary property tax and a portion of the taxes no longer needed to pay off bonds.

The bulk of that money — an estimated $220 million — will be used for road repairs, giving the county a total of $526 million for road repairs over the next decade, officials said.

That will allow county roads to reach a rating of 80 on the network pavement condition index, which on a 100-point scale is considered “very good.”

“This is a landmark action by the board to fund a 10-year plan to get all the paved roads in unincorporated county up to that very good condition,” Carmine DeBonis, deputy county administrator, told the Star.

The PAYGO policy was crafted over the course of this year after voters rejected a $430 million bond for road repairs last year. The county considered funding the projects through a sales tax, or changes in the gas tax, DeBonis said. They opted for PAYGO, which is similar to a policy crafted by Maricopa County, as well as one that will continue to be used in Pima County by the library and flood control districts — where portions of their taxes are dedicated to pay for capital improvements.

The amount of money needed to pay off the county’s bond debts is expected to decline significantly as the county uses the PAYGO system, officials said, so the tax revenues needed to pay off debts can be reduced year-over-year, declining to zero in 10 years.

County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry called it a “win-win.”

“This PAYGO plan will provide us the funding to make sure our critical infrastructure is maintained and that we’re meeting the needs of a growing population, while at the same time providing tax relief to county taxpayers,” he said in a statement.

DeBonis acknowledged that the funding through PAYGO could fall short of expectations, should tax revenues be negatively affected by a recession. But he added that the policy was crafted to allow flexibility to those circumstances, as the specific projects are set each year. He added that the county has already identified what road projects the money will be used for during fiscal year 2020.

Read more here.
Arizona senior Sen. Kyrsten Sinema helped secure $24 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the City of Phoenix to advance the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport Northside Rail Expansion.

“As the Phoenix region continues to grow, Sky Harbor Airport must keep up with increased demand. Today’s funding announcement will create jobs in Phoenix, improve local infrastructure, and ensure Sky Harbor continues to be an economic driver for Arizona into the future,” said Sinema.

“The trenching of the Union Pacific railroad track on the north side of the airport is essential to our Airport Development Plan and the expansion of the Air National Guard at Sky Harbor. Sky Harbor is an economic engine for our city and our state. We appreciate the support of our Congressional delegation and the US Department of Transportation on this project,” said Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego.

In July, Sinema led the Arizona Congressional delegation and wrote to Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao urging the Department of Transportation to approve the City of Phoenix’s grant application for Sky Harbor’s Northside Rail Expansion project. Today, Secretary Chao called Sinema to announce the Department had fulfilled the City’s request.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is the largest economic engine in Arizona. Each year, more than 44 million passengers travel through Sky Harbor, driving $38 billion in statewide economic activity and sustaining 58,000 jobs. The Phoenix metro area is one of the fastest growing regions in the country and Sky Harbor needs to expand to accommodate increased demand. The Northside Rail Expansion project, funded today, will help address increasing passenger, cargo, military, and general aviation growth."

Source: IRS.gov

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service today urged taxpayers to act now to avoid a tax-time surprise and ensure smooth processing of their 2019 federal tax return.

This is the first in a series of reminders to help taxpayers get ready for the upcoming tax filing season. To that end, a special page, newly updated and available on IRS.gov, outlines things taxpayers can do now to prepare for the 2020 tax season ahead.

Adjust Withholding; Make Estimated Or Additional Tax Payments

The IRS urges everyone to use the Tax Withholding Estimator to perform a paycheck or pension income checkup. This is even more important for those who received a smaller refund than expected or owed an unexpected tax bill last year.

It’s also a good idea for anyone who had a key life event, such as getting married, getting divorced, having or adopting a child, retiring, buying a home or starting college.

If the Tax Withholding Estimator recommends a change, an employee can then submit a new Form W-4, Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate, to their employer. Don’t send this form to the IRS.

Similarly, recipients of pension or annuity income can use the results from the estimator to complete a Form W-4P, Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments, and give it to their payer.

Taxpayers who receive a substantial amount of non-wage income should make quarterly estimated tax payments. This can include self-employment income, investment income (including gain from the sale, exchange or other disposition of virtual currency), taxable Social Security benefits and in some instances, pension and annuity income. Making estimated tax payments can also help a wage-earner cover an unexpected withholding shortfall.

Estimated tax payments are due quarterly, with the last payment for 2019 due on Jan. 15, 2020. Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals, has a worksheet to help figure these payments. Payment options can be found at IRS.gov/payments.

Read more [here](#).

Small Business Owners Should Find Out if They Can Benefit From Claiming this Deduction

Source: IRS.gov

The home office deduction can help small business owners save money on their taxes. Taxpayers can take this deduction when they file their taxes if they use a portion of their home exclusively, and on a regular basis, for any of the following:

As the taxpayer’s main place of business.

As a place of business where the taxpayer meets patients, clients or customers. The taxpayer must meet these people in the normal course of business.

If it is a separate structure that is not attached to the taxpayer’s home. The taxpayer must use this structure in connection with their business.

A place where the taxpayer stores inventory or samples. This place must be the sole, fixed location of their business.

Under certain circumstances, the structure where the taxpayer provides day care services.

Deductible expenses for business use of a home include:
- Real estate taxes
- Mortgage interest
- Rent
- Casualty losses
- Utilities
- Insurance
- Depreciation
- Repairs and Maintenance

Certain expenses are limited to the net income of the business. These are known as allocable expenses. They include things such as utilities, insurance, and depreciation. While allocable expenses cannot create a business loss, they can be carried forward to the next year. If the taxpayer carries them forward, the expenses are subject to the same limitation rules.

There are two options for figuring and claiming the home office deduction.

Read more [here](#).
DBE Supportive Services Program

Business & Industry Events  
November 21, 2019

November

14  The Art of Influence and Negotiation  
Location: 4855 E Broadway Blvd., Tucson  
Time: 11:00am

14  November CSI Meeting: Intro to Lean Construction  
Location: 320 N 44th Street, Phoenix  
Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm

14  APWA West Side Mixer  
Location: 6751 N Sunset Blvd., Glendale  
Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

15  Valley Partnership Nov. Friday Morning Breakfast  
Location: 2901 N 7th Street, Phoenix  
Time: 7:00am - 9:00am

16  ASPE Joint Bid Simulation @ U of A  
Location: 1500 E University Blvd., Tucson  
Time: 9:00am - 1:00pm

19  APWA Northern Branch Prescott Valley Luncheon  
Location: 11901 Highway 69, Dewey  
Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm

20  ABA Fall Mixer  
Location: 5870 E Broadway Road, Tucson  
Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

20  APWA November 2019 Luncheon  
Location: 5668 E Orange Blossom Lane, Phoenix  
Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm

20  Southern Luncheon: Development “Bear Down”  
Location: 2200 E Elm Street, Tucson  
Time: 11:00am

21  PMI Project Management Soft Skills  
Location: 1633 S Highway 92, Sierra Vista  
Time: 11:00am

21  SMPS Finance Matters  
Location: 320 N 44th Street, Phoenix  
Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm

21  APA Housing Summit  
Location: 6225 N 24th Street, Phoenix  
Time: 8:00am - 12:00pm

**ATTENTION TO ALL FIRMS**
Need help preparing DBE Affidavits?  
Please see our tutorial video below:  
“Preparing DBE Affidavits”

ADOT DBE & SMALL & SMALL  
BUSINESS TRANSPORTATION EXPO  
March 12, 2020  
at the Glendale Civic Center

ULI: What Can We Learn from Past Recession?  
Location: 2575 E Camelback Road, Phoenix  
Time: 8:00am - 9:30am

ASPE 11th Hour Bid Simulation  
Location: 2112 S Huffer Lane, Flagstaff  
Time: 9:00am - 1:00pm

DBE TASK FORCE

REGISTER HERE

SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 12, 2020
GLENDALE CIVIC CENTER
ADOT DBE & SMALL BUSINESS TRANSPORTATION EXPO

REGISTER HERE
project opportunities

November 21, 2019

Links

- ADOT Current Advertisements
- ADOT Engineering Advertisements
- ADOT Public-Private Partnership Initiatives
- ADOT Advertised Alternative Delivery Projects
- Bidding Opportunities Around the State

Did You Know?

Local public libraries are an untapped resource to connect employers to job seekers in the community. This is especially important to construction companies who would like to hire workers near their job sites. Many libraries offer employer meet-and-greets, job fairs, application assistance, public access computers, and job boards. Contact the libraries near your projects next time you post your open positions and inquire how they can support your hiring efforts.

For examples of services available through libraries, click below:
- Phoenix Public Library Job Help Resources - https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/phoenixworks/job-help-resources
- Pima County Library Job Help - https://www.library.pima.gov/resources/job/

Featured Federal-Aid Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Project Valuation</th>
<th>DBE Goal</th>
<th>Solicitation / Project Number</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Project Owner and Description</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/22/19</td>
<td>$1.7M</td>
<td>5.81%</td>
<td>STBGP-PPN-0(214)T; T005601C</td>
<td>IFB</td>
<td>ADOT - Construct Roadway, Germann Rd to Ironwood Dr, Pinal County. The work consists of constructing roadway &amp; reconstruction of an existing water retention pond, including excavating &amp; lining the extended portion of the evaporation pond, pipe culverts, placing aggregate base, asphaltic concrete pavement, signing &amp; pavement marking.</td>
<td>Contact: Vian Rashid, Engineering Specialist, at <a href="mailto:VRashid@azdot.gov">VRashid@azdot.gov</a> or Micah Hannam, Construction Supervisor, at <a href="mailto:MHannam@azdot.gov">MHannam@azdot.gov</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/22/19</td>
<td>$1M</td>
<td>4.44%</td>
<td>HRRRP-SSC-0(204)T; SS99801C</td>
<td>IFB</td>
<td>ADOT - Intersection Improvements, Rio Rico Dr &amp; Pendleton Dr, Rio Rico. The work consists of installation of a new traffic signal &amp; widening of the intersection to accommodate the inclusion of left turn lanes &amp; exclusive right turn lanes, as well as drainage improvements, signing &amp; striping.</td>
<td>Thomas Mowery-Racz, Engineering Specialist, at <a href="mailto:tmowery-racz@azdot.gov">tmowery-racz@azdot.gov</a> or Chris Page, Construction Supervisor, at <a href="mailto:cpage@azdot.gov">cpage@azdot.gov</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/6/19</td>
<td>$3.6M</td>
<td>5.66%</td>
<td>STBGP-180-B(208)T; H893901C</td>
<td>IFB</td>
<td>ADOT - Bridge Deck Rehabilitation, Jim Camp Wash Bridge #1602 &amp; Cottonwood Wash Bridge #1603, Holbrook-Springerville Hwy (US 180). The work consists of milling, concrete bridge deck replacement, &amp; new guardrail on the existing bridges.</td>
<td>Sarker Rahman, Engineering Specialist, at <a href="mailto:SRahman@azdot.gov">SRahman@azdot.gov</a> or Randy Routhier, Construction Supervisor, at <a href="mailto:RRouthier@azdot.gov">RRouthier@azdot.gov</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11/19</td>
<td>$450K-$550K</td>
<td>7.71%</td>
<td>20PB016</td>
<td>IFB</td>
<td>City of Scottsdale - Retaining Wall (Gabion) Replacement, Shea Tunnel Access Shared Use Pathway. The work consists of removing &amp; replacing the north gabion retaining wall.</td>
<td>Karie Ingles, Bid &amp; Contract Specialist, at 480-312-5744 or <a href="mailto:kinges@scottsdaleaz.gov">kinges@scottsdaleaz.gov</a>.</td>
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