



Arizona Department of Transportation State Transportation Board

206 South Seventeenth Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3213

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

John S. Halikowski
Director

William J. Feldmeier
Chairman

Bobbie Lundstrom
Vice Chairwoman

Felipe A. Zubia
Victor Flores
Stephen W. Christy
Kelly Anderson
Hank Rogers

June 27, 2011

Tim Ernster
City Manager
City of Sedona
102 Roadrunner Drive
Sedona, AZ 86336

Re: State Route 89A

Dear Tim:

The State Transportation Board and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) have been cooperatively working with the City of Sedona since 2006 to address nighttime pedestrian safety issues along State Route 89A. The State Transportation Board and ADOT have shown good faith throughout the evaluation of safety issues and reached agreement on a route transfer.

During its June 17th meeting, the State Transportation Board received public testimony from former police chief Joe Vernier and read a letter signed by former mayors Alan Everett, Anita MacFarlane and Pud Colquitt into the record during the comment period. ADOT staff also provided an update regarding two items for SR 89A in Sedona.

SR 89A Roadway Ownership

This item addressed the route transfer agreement and the local referendum. The State Transportation Board members listened, but took no action regarding this item.

The route transfer agreement contains a clause that immediately terminates the agreement on June 30, 2011, if the city does not receive payment from ADOT in exchange for the transfer of roadway ownership and operational control. The city informed ADOT that it could not fulfill the terms of the route transfer agreement even if payment was received by June 30. The agreement could not be amended to extend the deadline as the city opined that such action would be subject to a possible referendum.

Due to the city's inability to fulfill the terms of the agreement, the current route transfer agreement is set to terminate on June 30, 2011.

The State Transportation Board and ADOT respect the referendum process and the community's right to determine the city authority and approval process for negotiated route transfer agreements through a community vote at a future date.

Conducting the community vote on the city's approval process for a route transfer agreement is critical. Local ownership and operational control of SR 89A in Sedona continues to be a valid question, vital to transportation and land use planning decisions. However, a city election date for this important issue has yet to be set.

After the community vote, city officials may wish to approach the State Transportation Board and ADOT to determine if a new route transfer agreement can be negotiated.

SR 89A Highway Improvements

This item addressed the status of the pavement preservation and Andante traffic signal construction projects as well as the implementation of safety improvements. Action was taken on this item.

The State Transportation Board voted unanimously to increase the budget of the currently advertised construction projects by \$2.3 million to fund highway safety measures along SR 89A between Dry Creek Road and Airport Road.

With the approval of funding, ADOT was directed by the State Transportation Board to issue a construction bid addendum to add the continuous roadway lighting system to the pavement preservation and Andante traffic signal construction projects on SR 89A. The type of lighting system to be installed was approved by the Sedona City Council in February 2010. ADOT will uphold its commitment to install specialized lighting fixtures and pay for the costs of operation.

ADOT will amend the SR 89A construction projects in July or August. The State Transportation Board will consider awarding the construction contract for the SR 89A improvements this fall. Once a contract is awarded, ADOT will communicate with the city regarding the start of construction activities and keep city officials informed as work progresses.

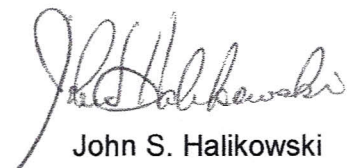
The action to fund highway safety measures along SR 89A was taken in the interest of improving public safety and reducing liability to Arizona taxpayers.

Out of respect for the referendum process, no action was taken to resolve local ownership and operational control of SR 89A in Sedona. Setting the election date and expediting the vote to determine the city's authority and approval process on a route transfer agreement remains essential.

Sincerely,



William J. Feldmeier



John S. Halikowski

cc: The Honorable Mayor Rob Adams
Bobbie Lundstrom, Vice-Chairwoman
Felipe Zubia, Board Member
Victor Flores, Board Member
Steve Christy, Board Member
Kelly Anderson, Board Member
Hank Rogers, Board Member
John McGee, Executive Director for Planning and Policy