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Quarterly Gold Canyon Community, Inc. (GCCCI) Transportation & Safety Update

The GCCCI Transportation & Safety Committee, working with our Pinal County and ADOT partners, have made significant improvements in 2022, based on Gold Canyon residents' feedback. Thank you for your positive feedback and as a result, please take a look at our **2022 accomplishments** to improve our local infrastructure:

- Paving was completed on US-60 portion along the length of Gold Canyon
- Safety improvements and signal synchronization was implemented at the four Gold Canyon US-60 intersections
- The Mountainbrook Village intersection signal was changed to a single-phase crossing to improve two-way US-60 traffic flow
- Brush and right-of-way clearing provided improved visibility along this corridor
- Pinal County paving and restoration programs took place in Gold Canyon communities and along Kings' Ranch Road.
- GCCCI supported the approved Pinal County 5-year County transportation program

Unfortunately, Proposition 469 was not voter approved, therefore, funding for Gold canyon and Pinal transportation projects is limited. **GCCI had fully endorsed this ½ cent retail tax** to provide hundreds of million dollars for expansion and maintenance of our rapidly deteriorating regional transportation system. As a result, Gold Canyon is now vying for our share of a much smaller allotment. Hopefully, when this bill is reintroduced in 2024, the tax measure will be supported County-wide.

1. Planning:

One of the transportation priorities identified in the soon to be released ***Gold Canyon Community Plan***, is the need for a local **comprehensive transportation study**. Coincidentally, Pinal County is in the final stages of approving this study and it is expected to start next quarter. The transportation experts will highlight existing issues and longer-term growth plans for our region. The results of the survey will provide a ***prioritized blueprint for Gold Canyon's transportation future*** and will become part of the Gold Canyon Community Plan.

In the near term, GCCI is actively involved with our two District 5 transportation planning members, Lisa Bradford and Maxine Brown. In their role, Lisa and Maxine assist in prioritizing County-wide transportation projects for the County's 5-year Transportation Plan. One of the largest TAC supported projects – the **paving of Peralta trail to the new Regional Park and the Peralta trailhead, is on track.**

In addition, GCCI is collaborating with ADOT to provide safer **eastbound left turn lanes at Superstition Mountain; Mountainbrook and Kings' Ranch Road intersections.** This will be a combination of longer turn lanes and the addition of a second left turn lane on eastbound US-60.

More future planning is at the conceptual stage is a plan to **widen Kings' Ranch Road northward beyond Alhambra** to provide a safer flow of traffic and upgrade the link to Don Donnelly. In parallel, the wide sidewalk on the west side would be extended to the northern end of Kings' Ranch Road to expand our walking and trail system.


A major planning effort that GCCI actively supports, the **proposed Route 24 to connect US-60 south of the Renaissance Festival property to Ironwood.** Planning for this highway has gained executive support and Pinal County start-up funding between Ironwood and the proposed North-South corridor has started.

The next stage in ADOT planning is to **obtain funding for the design.** GCCI is providing Gold Canyon input, through a survey, and requesting these projects be included in the ADOT 5-year plan. As you can imagine, we are in a long line of funding requests. To that end, GCCI will be working on your behalf with our County legislators to obtain their support.

2. Seasonal Transportation Peaks

Last year's changes in US-60 signals were targeted to improve the weekday winter peak traffic flow and improve safety in Gold Canyon intersections from October to May with the arrival of visitors, tourists and seasonal homeowners.

Traffic management of the weekend surges during the Renaissance Festival, Lost Dutchman Marathon and the LPGA. Managing these traffic loads continues to be a top priority for senior ADOT leaders. As you may have seen, the **on-site State Troopers manned our four US-60 signals.**



3. Local Gold Canyon Items

The 2022 decision to open up **Peralta Canyon Way** for public vehicle access created controversy from neighboring homeowners. The Pinal engineers are reviewing traffic counts and will be preparing their Sleepy Hollow safety recommendations in the coming months.

A **right-hand turn lane off Kings' Ranch Road to Sleepy Hollow** is entering the design stage to increase safety.

A new pedestrian – activated signal and crosswalk is in the final stages. The crosswalk will be installed **between the United Methodist Church and their Mission Center** and Food bank on Kings' Ranch Road.

As traffic along Peralta Trail continues to increase, the County is considering re-establishing the **traffic calming speed bump** in front of the school.

The site plan for a new **Maverik service station** at the corner of Kings' Ranch Road and US-60 is under site review. This new business will have a very large traffic impact at this intersection. A second lane will be added northbound on Kings' Ranch Road, starting at Walgreens. More details will follow as the detailed plans are finalized.

Please reach out to me or any member of the GCCI Board of Directors if you have any questions or traffic and safety issues of concern.

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