



City of Flagstaff

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 1, 2020

Arizona State Transportation Board
Board of Directors

Greetings Board Members,

On April 28, in a special telephonic meeting, the matter of the ADOT bridge project on RT 66 (Rio De Flag Bridge) was discussed. As you know, this project was slated for construction this fiscal year, and is integrated with the Rio De Flag Flood Control project being delivered by the Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the City of Flagstaff. The decision was made to defer the bridge project until the Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

The City, together with MetroPlan, would like to emphasize the significance and the urgency of the Rio De Flag Bridge project. The City of Flagstaff and ADOT entered in to an IGA to deliver these important improvements to the community. We are currently performing the necessary utility work that was to precede the Bridge replacement, with significant capital being expended (\$1.3M for city utility relocations and \$678K for rock over-excavation). The City's Rio De Flag stormwater project, in its entirety, is the most significant capital undertaking by our community, and is urgently needed to address flood mitigation in the core of our City. The project, upon completion, will protect property, the traveling public and associated infrastructure, enhance our economy and ensure the safety of our residents who reside in the flood plain. While the City supports the stated purpose by ADOT to defer the Rio De Flag Bridge replacement (safety concerns in response to issues relating to COVID-19), we would respectfully ask that ADOT be mindful of the public safety component of our Rio De Flag project and ensure that the bridge replacement project is not deferred beyond the Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

These are the comments that would have been advanced if the City had the opportunity to speak at the April 28 special meeting. We thank you for your consideration of these comments and concerns, and we look forward to our continued partnership with ADOT.

Sincerely,

Coral J. Evans, MBA
Mayor, City of Flagstaff, AZ

Jeff Meilbeck
Executive Director, MetroPlan