



---

# MEMORANDUM

---

Date: June 25, 2007

To: Chair and Members  
Pima County Bond Advisory Committee

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator 

Re: **Length of Bond Program Implementation**

As Bond Advisory Committee members, you may hear questions raised by the public regarding the length of time it takes the County to implement bond programs approved by the voters. The 1997 General Obligation and Sewer Revenue Bond Program approved on May 20, 1997, is a 10 year program. The 1997 Highway User Revenue Fund (Transportation) Bond Program approved by voters on November 4, 1997 is a fifteen year bond program. The 2004 General Obligation and Sewer Revenue Bond Program approved by voters on May 18, 2004 is a 12 year bond program. The 2006 General Obligation Bond Program approved by voters on May 16, 2006 for Psychiatric Facilities is a 5 year bond program. These are the number of years that were included in the bond ordinances adopted by the Board prior to the elections. This means that the County told voters that the projects included in those bond programs would be accomplished in this time frame.

There is a reason these bond programs take so long to complete. In order to keep the tax rate below the threshold pledged by the Board, bonds must be sold over several years, versus selling them all at one time. Therefore, some projects are funded and completed in earlier stages of the bond program, and others in later stages. As well as including the length of the overall bond program, the bond implementation plan ordinances also include specific implementation periods for each project. If a project is to be delayed more than 12 months beyond the specific implementation period listed in the bond ordinance, an amendment to the bond ordinance is to be taken to the Bond Advisory Committee for recommendations to the Board, and the Board is asked to consider the amendment after a public hearing and public notice in the newspaper.

Although this is communicated to the public in the bond ordinance, which is published on the County web site [www.bonds.pima.gov](http://www.bonds.pima.gov) before and after election, it is understandable that many people are not aware of it and may therefore express concern over why a project they voted for is not yet built. I expect to hear more questions like this from the public as we continue the planning process for the 2008 bond election, and I expect you will to. We will continue to educate staff that work frequently with the public on bond projects about the bond financing process, and the resources available on the County's web page regarding ongoing bond program implementation and the future bond election planning process.

Thank you for your continued service to Pima County regarding these bond programs.

CHH/dr

c: Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator