




---

# MEMORANDUM

---

Date: March 14, 2017

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator 

Re: ***The Loop Brochure***

We continue to receive numerous requests for information regarding *The Loop* from individuals within the community, as well as several organizations in communities outside Pima County. We have produced another brochure; and in this effort, the most striking comparison is the extent of *The Loop* in 2005 compared to 2017 and the number of people living within a one-mile buffer of the existing Loop.

As you can see, nearly half of our urban population lives within one mile of *The Loop*, which greatly increases accessibility for residents who use *The Loop* for leisure or business. Economic studies have confirmed *The Loop* provides a significant return on investment.

The attached brochure was designed to emphasize the business advantages to *The Loop*.

CHH/lab

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Nanette Slusser, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works  
Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District  
Chris Cawein, Director, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation















John Pineiro trains for running events on The Loop.

## FACTS...

For the price of a single mile of a four-lane urban highway – approximately \$50 million – dozens of miles of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure can be built.

Continued from Page 7

it so much that one month became two, then three.

In 2015, the couple bought a condo just off the path and plan to live in Tucson four to six months a year, operating their respective consulting businesses out of their

home. The Loop helped seal the deal, Dylla said.

“While we really enjoy Tucson overall, I suspect we would not have come back to Tucson every year if not for the Loop.”

•••

John Pineiro moved to Tuc-

son from southeastern New Mexico and – like Dylla and his spouse – chose his home for its proximity to The Loop.

As a runner, Pineiro uses The Loop to train for events. He’s close enough that he can get in a quick run before work, but says he also uses

## NUMBERS HELP TELL THE STORY

The Loop’s effect on the region was shared when the county released “The Loop – Economic, Environmental, Community, and Health Impact Study.” Among the findings:

- The National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Home Builders found that residential properties increase 10 to 20 percent in value the closer they are to green space.
- Homeowners are willing to pay a premium of \$9,000 on houses that are within 10,000 feet of bike paths.
- Home in Indiana sold for at least 10 percent more when located near a trail, while ones near a scenic trail in Ohio sold for \$7 more for every foot closer the property was located to the trail. In Pima County that would create an additional \$300 million for homes adjacent to The Loop, which in turn creates in excess of \$3 million in property tax revenue.

the pathway when he travels to restaurants, grocery stores, or “any local event that would be hard to find parking or would be difficult to bring a car,” Pineiro said.

He and his spouse also use The Loop to commute to work and to take leisurely

walks and rides on weekends.

“We take out-of-town visitors on it as an area attraction. They are always impressed and wish they had something similar in their town,” Pineiro said.

•••

Community is the word that comes up time and again when Annie Todd talks about The Loop.

She and her spouse also made proximity to The Loop a priority when they bought their home along the Pantano River Park in October 2013. He’s an avid cyclist and she’s a walker and aerobic exerciser, so a good public walking path was at the top of her list.

“I wanted to be able to walk someplace where I could feel safe, come to know familiar faces on my daily walks, and eventually build a social community. We both decided The Loop was the answer,” Todd said.

She loves The Loop’s proximity to parks and businesses as well as its ability to serve as a focal point for fundraising events.

“The Loop is used by so many people! Every day, all day long. The Loop literally brings Tucson together!!”



The Zugerms have seen a steady flow of business, thanks to The Loop.

Continued from Page 9

Establishing the Hop Shop at Metal Arts Village was no accident, Zugerms said.

“We knew that cyclists would be a huge target demographic for our business, and so proximity to this major cycling artery was cornerstone in finding a location for Tucson Hop Shop. We feel so lucky to have found a spot less than a mile from the Loop entrance at Dodge Boulevard,” she said.

The location has been key to the success of the shop, which opened in October 2015. Zugerms said, “Business is great and continues to grow.” December 2016

was their best month to date.

The Tucson Hop Shop regularly sponsors events like a drop-in film festival featuring bikes, brews and food trucks. Patrons also are encouraged to visit fellow tenants of Metal Arts Village, which includes metal workers, sculptors, a stained-glass artisan and a tattoo artist.

The Zugerms are such fans of The Loop that they purchased a home along the Rillito River Park west of First Avenue, which gives them an easy three-and-a-half-mile commute to work by bike along The Loop.

“We are a very active family, and love the urban, car-free

network that The Loop connects us to. The appeal of being able to ride our bikes to grocery stores, parks, farmers markets, and local businesses SAFELY was a huge draw,” in where to buy a home for her spouse and two young daughters, she said.

Zugerms is optimistic about The Loop’s future.

“We strongly feel that The Loop has the potential to really become a nationally ranked alternative transportation route, alongside the Cape Cod Rail Trail, the San Antonio Riverwalk, and the Willamette River Bike Path, and we’d love to be around when that happens.”





IBM employees Mike McIntosh (left) and Kevin Kartchner have commuted by bike for years.

# Loop commuters extol benefits of bicycling

More than five dozen area businesses are partnering with Pima County's Department of Environmental Quality on a campaign to "Use The Loop for Your

Commuter." Cycling to work saves employees' money, helps the environment and means businesses have healthier employees. DEQ partnered with the Pima

County Department of Transportation, Pima Association of Governments (PAG) and the City of Tucson to promote the effort. To date, 62 major employers (those

employing at least 100 people) at 76 separate locations within approximately half a mile of The Loop are promoting its use to their employees.

The companies are handing out The Loop pocket maps and regional maps, promotional fliers and "Healthy Air is in Our Hands" drive-less pledge cards.

Mike McIntosh has been commuting to work at IBM on his bike since 2008. For years, 90 percent of his riding was along Kolb Road, but when the Julian Wash opened, he was able to hop on The Loop for part of his commute. When the Harrison Greenway opened in 2016, he eliminated all Kolb riding and takes The Loop almost all the way from the University of Arizona Tech Park.

"The Harrison route added another mile to the total distance, but it's much safer and more scenic, so well worth it," McIntosh said.

Fellow IBMer Kevin Kartchner has been commuting by bike to work since 2001.

"The advantages (of The Loop) far outweigh the extra mileage and time," he said.

McIntosh encourages county residents to stop seeing bike commuting as either impractical or unsafe. With the proper clothing, equipment and mindset, anything is possible, he says.

"At some point you have to suspend your disbelief and just try it for a while. At least some who do will find the sheer pleasure of riding more than makes up for any extra time and effort. I sure did."

## FACTS...

Nearly half of urban household trips in America are two miles or fewer – about a 20-minute bike ride. Communities with safe bicycling and walking options promote a richer and denser mix of residences and businesses.

## Upgrade fills gap, aids Davis-Monthan

In May, County officials celebrated completion of yet another section of The Loop along the Pantano River Park and Harrison Greenway.

The project completed the Harrison Greenway portion by filling a 3.2-mile gap between Irvington Road and Mesquite Elementary. Project funding came from several sources, including Department of Transportation Highway User Revenue Funds, a Military Installation Fund Grant, and 2004 General Obligation bonds. The Harrison Greenway

also provides a buffer to the adjacent Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (DMAFB), a key employer in southern Arizona and a critical component of the region's aerospace and defense industry. This path shifts future residential development from the DMAFB fence while also protecting the Base's only shooting range. Preserving this open space near DMAFB also benefits the community by reducing or eliminating long-term exposure to high noise levels and the risks associated with Base operations.



Pathway construction is preserving important open space near Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

### 17 BUSINESSES USING THE LOOP FOR COMMUTING

**Julian Wash:** Avalon Southwest Health and Rehabilitation • Banner University Medical Center South • Community Food Bank • Hensley Beverage Co. • Pueblo Magnet High School • R & R Products • Sears Holdings Corp. • SI Inc. • Southwest Gas Corp. •

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System • Sun Van PTM Paratransit of Tucson. **Harrison Greenway:** Arizona Canning Co. • Citi • IBM • OptumRx • Raytheon Missile Systems • Target.com



The manager of the Holiday Inn Express along the CDO says dozens of guests each week use The Loop.

# Loop service, anyone? Hotel touts path's use

The Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Oro Valley sits near the northernmost reach of The Loop, along a stretch of the Cañada del Oro River Park about a mile south of the Oro Valley Marketplace. The

pathway's proximity to the hotel makes it a very convenient and attractive amenity for guests. "It's used quite often," said the hotel's General Manager, Frank Quijada. "Once they know they've

got it handy, their first questions are: 'Where does it take you; how long is it?'" Quijada and his staff let guests know there's a lot to see within just a few miles of the hotel. "And,

## 12 BUSINESSES USING THE LOOP FOR COMMUTING

Costco Wholesale - Northwest • Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis • Home Depot - Marana • Home Depot - Oro Valley • Honeywell Aerospace Tucson - Oracle • Omni Tucson National Golf Resort and Spa • Oro Valley Hospital

obviously, (the path) goes quite a bit further." Dozens of the hotel's guests use The Loop each week, according to Quijada. Most of them are on it for exercise — either walking or jogging — but many also follow the path to nearby restaurants or local attractions such as Historic Steam Pump Ranch, just a quarter-mile south along the east bank of the Cañada del Oro. His guests' interest in The Loop has prompted Quijada to ask the County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program to keep replenishing his supply of Loop maps.

Among the visitors who enjoy having The Loop is Dorothy Peters, who came to Pima County on vacation from the Kansas City area. She checked out The Loop in January, walking about a mile in either direction from the hotel.

"It's nice to have a place to walk. It's nice that it's easy to get on and get off," she said, adding she especially enjoyed the scenic views offered by the CDO River Park and the large amount of wildlife - particularly the birds. She planned to recommend the experience to

friends and family because they have nothing similar to The Loop back home. A few hotel guests ride bicycles and go much farther afield. Most of them use their own but a few arrange rentals to be dropped off at the Holiday Inn. Enough have done that to prompt Quijada to explore the idea of buying a set of bikes for the hotel to offer them as a regular service. "I've been considering the possibility of buying a couple of beach cruisers, just to have them out here," he said. "I've brought it up to hotel ownership to buy them, have them on-site."

It's not just hotel guests who use The Loop. Quijada said at least one staff member, an assistant GM who lives nearby, regularly uses the path to commute to work — either by foot or bicycle — depending on time and the weather.

Quijada would like to see the pathway become more accessible to his guests. Currently, the easiest access path is on the north end of the hotel property, at the opposite end from the main entrance. He hopes someday to see one more dedicated entry nearer to the lobby.

# Construction adds 1.6 miles to path

The 2016 construction completed 1.6 miles of river park pathway between La Cholla and La Cañada. It connects the existing 2.68 miles of river park on the east bank of the CDO from La Cañada to First Avenue in the Town of Oro Valley with 3.05 miles of the Loop river park on the east bank of the CDO from Thorny-

dale to Hardy Road. The 1.6-mile link creates a continuous 10.9 miles of Loop path along the CDO. That construction has completed what many call the most beautiful sections of The Loop. The more ambitious riders now can pedal from downtown on the Santa Cruz River Park all the way to Catalina State Park.



Upgrades have created a continuous 10.9-mile path along the CDO, one of the most beautiful sections of The Loop.

## FACTS...

Providing safe alternate transportation modes can reduce roadway congestion, which ultimately reduces future transportation costs.

Pima Community College Northwest Campus • Securaplane Technologies • Simpleview • Ventana Medical Systems • Wal-Mart - Oro Valley



For these siblings, Loop rides offer family bonding time.

# Voices from The Loop: Walkers, riders share stories

Regina Suitt and her twin brother, Rod Navin, used to have trouble connecting for weekend bike rides. He lives near Orange Grove and Shannon Roads in northwest Tucson and she's at Magee Road and La Cañada Drive. Both had to drive with their cars to a central meeting

spot to jump on The Loop. But now that the section of the CDO River Park between La Cholla Boulevard and La Cañada has been completed, the two can more easily access The Loop. The rides, said Suitt, who works in the Adult Basic Education Program at Pima Community

College, provide far more than exercise. "We are twins and have always been close, but we could never seem to find more than a bit of phone or text time every week to connect," she explained. "We started riding four years ago as something fun to do, get

a bit healthier perhaps, but what it's turned into is real quality therapy time for just the two of us. "We have biked through health issues, career worries and both parents passing," she continued. "It is three dedicated hours that just the two of us have to ride and

talk and laugh and cry."

Her brother had a knee replacement two years ago, which limited some of their riding, but the twins trained on The Loop for the 28-mile El Tour de Tucson ride held each November. Next year, Navin said they hope to up it to 38 miles.

Part of their training is exploring different parts of The Loop, he said. The siblings have ridden from the Pima County Jail, where Navin works as an intake support specialist, north along the Santa Cruz River to Marana, along the entire CDO River Park to Catalina State Park and along the Rillito river path from Orange Grove down to Craycroft.

"We also hope to ride the new path from the jail south towards Valencia," Navin said. "We both also love The Loop because you can ride many miles and not have to worry about vehicle traffic."

And that lack of traffic makes their bonding time safer, and more special.

"I really miss it," says Regina, "when something conflicts."

•••

At 73 years old and several years into retirement, Rick Metcalf has no plans to slow down and settle into a sedentary lifestyle.

"Every year I try to set some goal for myself in physical



Rick Metcalf spent 2016 walking every mile of The Loop.

activity," Metcalf said.

Often times, Metcalf's goals focus on one of his favorite pastimes: Walking.

For instance, Metcalf set out to log 10,000 steps daily – covering nearly 4 and half miles each day for a year. Another year, he sought to locate and photograph 100 public art installments.

A longer-term goal was to trek the highest point in each of 50 states. To date, he's summited 16 high points.

"That's a long-term life goal," he said, adding that he hopes to reach at least half of the high points in his lifetime.

In 2016, Metcalf decided

to add The Loop to his list of goals.

"I've spent a lot of time walking The Loop over the years," he said.

Despite having walked many stretches of Pima County's multi-use trail, Metcalf knew there were many portions of The Loop he hadn't reached.

In addition to his daily step count, Metcalf decided to walk every section of The Loop in 2016.

His spouse, Kris, walked many portions of The Loop with him. On others, Kris drove Metcalf to his starting point and met with him later at his destination.

In 53 trips, averaging a little more than 2 miles each, Metcalf completed his urban adventure.

Along the way, he kept a journal of the days, locations, distances and wildlife sightings. On a map of The Loop he highlighted each section he completed.

Metcalf's appreciation for The Loop as a public amenity grew with each new leg of his journey.

Portions of The Loop on the southeast side were particularly enjoyable, Metcalf said.

"I think it's a wonderful idea, and it's so well-maintained," he said. "It's just extraordinary."



The Loop is a key amenity that helps attract and retain high-wage employers, improves the value of adjacent lands, and enhances the quality of life and health for our community.

It generates revenues, promotes tourism, and improves the tax base, providing a growing source of income for the entire region. The Loop connects people and communities to the places where we live, work, shop, learn and play.



**Board of Supervisors**

Sharon Bronson, *Chair*, District 3  
Ally Miller, District 1  
Ramón Valadez, District 2  
Stephen W. Christy, District 4  
Richard Elías, District 5

**Pima County Administrator**  
Chuck Huckelberry