



The Coalition of Greater Scottsdale

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To: Scottsdale City Council

Re: 5 July 2016 Agenda Item--TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

COGS Position regarding the 128th Street Preserve Closure

Issue: Should 128th Street be improved to the level necessary to carry heavy construction traffic on to Ranch Gate Road? The past recommendation from both the Transportation Department and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission was to only allow emergency traffic on 128th Street from Jomax to Ranch Gate because this section goes through the major wildlife migration route in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

Position: COGS supports the Transportation Department's recommendation to complete the connection of 118th Street from Jomax to Dynamite Blvd. as soon as possible, as the second route into the area around Ranch Gate, and NOT to improve 128th Street to provide a temporary route for construction traffic that MAY be necessary sometime in the future but only if 118th Street isn't improved and connected to Dynamite Blvd.

Rationale: Improving 128th Street, so it is capable of carrying construction traffic, will be very difficult because of the terrain and be very expensive. It will ultimately be unnecessary when 118th Street is completed. It is recognized that 128th Street will eventually be only an emergency route and will not carry regular traffic, so to spend scarce city money trying to make it capable of carrying construction traffic now, would be a waste of money.

Action COGS supports: 118th Street must be completed and paved from Jomax to Dynamite Blvd as soon as possible. This street project will save the money that would be spent on a temporary 128th Street project. Also the timing of ANY construction in this entire area is not known. There is NO immediate development pressure anywhere in this location, which provides even more time to complete 118th Street improvements.

Thank you for your careful deliberation.

For the COGS Board of Directors (The Coalition of Greater Scottsdale)

Sonnie Kirtley, Chair