

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR  
**ALTON JOE SHEPHERD**  
APACHE COUNTY DISTRICT 2

"BETTER ROADS, BETTER COMMUNITIES"



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## APACHE COUNTY FUNDING-GAP



Supervisors attending House Transportation Committee



Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd Testifies

**Arizona State Capital** – On January 29, 2020, Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd provided testimony to the House Transportation Committee on Apache County's funding-gap for County roads and bridges. The County Supervisors Association (CSA) and Representative Noel Campbell, Chairman of the House Transportation Committee coordinated to have Counties advocate and present on shortfalls for infrastructure improvements. Supervisors from across the state provided a priority project funding-gap list to State leaders. Supervisor Shepherd stressed the struggles with deferring maintenance costs by the County and safety concerns with deteriorating roads.

Due to lack of available funding and the need to prioritized preserving the existing road system, Apache County is examining all options to identify funding sources which include State appropriations. Chairman Campbell is creating a greater visibility to the needs of Arizona's transportation infrastructure in advance of introducing his bill to increase revenue. The bill is anticipated to be a three-pronged approach to the issue; phasing in an eighteen-cent per gallon charge to existing fuel taxes, indexing the per gallon charges for inflation and assessing comparable taxes and fees for alternative fuel vehicles. Through the state's current long-range plan, ADOT estimates an underinvestment of at least \$1.2 billion a year for the foreseeable future which will only address about 43% of the state system's needs. County and municipal roads heavily dependent on state gas tax revenues and the current structure needs examination for innovative solutions.

County Manager Ryan Patterson and County Engineering Ferrin Crosby communicated with Supervisor Joe Shirley, Jr., Supervisors Travis Simshauser and Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd on priority roads within their Districts for inclusion in the packet of gathered information. Apache County identified and submitted 10 priority roads totaling \$32 million; District 1 – 1 project = \$2 million, District 2 – 2 projects = \$1.7 million and District 3 – 7 projects = \$28 million. While Governor Doug Ducey, State legislators and state officials seek long-term solutions, all three Apache County Supervisors are positive and hopeful the State legislature and the Governor approve a short term solution with this allocation of funds for County roads and bridges.