

A report from the City of Peoria to its citizens and friends

# Local Transportation Sales Tax Proposed to Meet Peoria's Traffic Challenge

*Proposition 300 would provide dedicated transportation funding for the next 20 years*

Traffic is the top concern of Peoria residents. In the city's biannual citizen satisfaction survey (last conducted in October, 2004), traffic was cited by Peoria residents as their number one concern, over growth, crime, schools and the environment. Of course, this comes as no surprise to those of us driving city streets. It's getting more and more crowded out there. Not only are more people calling Peoria home, but our neighbors – Glendale, Phoenix, Surprise, and the Sun Cities – are all growing too. All of these people driving to and through Peoria every day means that the city's streets are becoming more and more congested, and wearing out more quickly.

Proposition 300, which will go before the city's voters on September 13, is a dedicated local transportation sales tax aimed at funding Peoria's transportation needs. It is part of an overall plan that would provide \$891 million to improve and maintain Peoria's transportation infrastructure over the next two decades.

In November 2004, voters across Maricopa County approved part of that plan by extending the countywide ½-cent sales tax for regional transportation. These funds build regional transportation projects such as freeways and major

arterial streets. In and around Peoria, this county fund will provide \$546 million towards projects like the Beardsley Connection at Loop 101 (currently being designed), adding lanes to Loop 101, and completion of the Loop 303 freeway, as well as improving and expanding the regional bus system that serves Peoria. (Local matching funds are required, however, to take advantage of this funding.)

In May 2005, Peoria voters approved the second part of the plan – a \$286 million city bond package that included \$109 million for street projects like widening Deer Valley Road from 91st to 83rd Avenue; improving Thunderbird Road from 83rd Avenue to Loop 101; and improving Lake Pleasant Parkway from Deer Valley Road to Jomax.

Proposition 300 is the remaining piece of the transportation puzzle. Even with these funding sources adopted by voters in 2004 and 2005, a significant gap between Peoria's transportation infrastructure needs and the funds available to build them remains. About \$200 million in necessary – but unfunded – street, intersection, and bus system improvements have



**Prop. 300 would help Peoria deal with growing traffic congestion.**

been identified, and this is the gap Proposition 300 would address.

In the summer of 2004, a Citizen's Transportation Committee appointed by the Mayor and City Council worked with city staff to review, prioritize and explore funding options for Peoria's unmet transportation needs. After surveying how other cities have dealt with this same gap – more transportation needs than money to pay for them – the committee recommended a .3% (three-tenths of one percent) sales tax increase dedicated to funding transportation projects and services.

In March 2005, the City Council unanimously adopted the Citizen's Transportation Committee recommendation and placed a proposed .3% dedicated local transportation

sales tax – Proposition 300 – on the September 13th city ballot.

If approved by voters, Proposition 300 is expected to generate about \$10 million per year that will be used exclusively to widen and maintain roads, improve intersections (including adding turn lanes and turn signals), add fixed route bus lines, and increase access to the regional freeway system. (For a listing of some currently unfunded projects that could be funded if Proposition 300 were adopted, see the graphic below). The proposed tax contains a sunset clause – it would expire in twenty years unless re-approved by the city's voters.

**For additional information on Proposition 300, including a fact sheet, transportation needs map, and a short video, visit [peoriaaz.com/election05](http://peoriaaz.com/election05)**

**Prop. 300's Potential Impact:** Some unfunded projects that could be funded if Prop. 300 were approved

**WIDER ROADS – additional travel & turning lanes**

- Union Hills Dr., 83rd Ave. to 91st Ave.
- Peoria Ave., 67th Ave. to 91st Ave.
- Thunderbird Rd., 67th Ave. to 83rd Ave.
- 83rd Ave., Deer Valley Rd. to Happy Valley Rd.

**IMPROVED INTERSECTIONS – turn lanes & signal improvements**

- 67th Ave. & Happy Valley Rd.
- 75th Ave. & Cactus Rd.
- 91st Ave. & Union Hills Dr.
- 91st Ave. & Northern Ave.
- 75th Ave. & Thunderbird Rd.
- 91st Ave. & Olive Ave.

**BETTER FREEWAY ACCESS to Loop 101:** Local matching funds for regionally-funded Beardsley Connection at Loop 101.

**INCREASED STREET MAINTENANCE:** Additional \$1 million per year dedicated to ongoing street operations & maintenance

**ACCELERATED PROJECTS:** Accelerating the extension of Happy Valley Road from 67th Avenue to Lake Pleasant Parkway

## Peoria's Field of Dreams

Diamondback Charities has chosen the City of Peoria as the newest recipient of a 'Field of Dreams' baseball field. The Field of Dreams Program is one in which a premier youth baseball field, just like the ones the professionals use, is re-created locally in the community with the help of donations from baseball players and local companies.

"I'm happy to say that Varney Park, at 81st Avenue, just south of Cactus Avenue, was selected as the location of the new Field of Dreams, to be named for Diamondback slugger and

outfielder Shawn Green," said J.P. De la Montaigne, Peoria Community Services Director.

The Field of Dreams Program will replace an old deteriorating field on the north side of Varney Park. The city will also fund further improvements to the surrounding site as well as an upgrade to the south field. These projects will be the capstone to the renovations that were dedicated in November 2004.

The completed Field of Dreams has a value of \$300,000, and will feature a lighted scoreboard, bleachers, stadium seating, lighting, backstops

and fencing. The installation of the field has begun and a dedication ceremony has been scheduled for August 25.

The fields will be predominantly used for youth baseball and softball league play of the Peoria Sweetwater and Mountain View Little Leagues for their fall and spring/summer programs.



**For more information, contact the Community Services Department at 623-773-7137 or visit [www.peoriaaz.com/parks](http://www.peoriaaz.com/parks)**

# CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## April

- Amended the city's zoning ordinance to enhance citizen participation by requiring rezoning applicants to provide a citizen participation plan and increasing the area around rezoning cases where resident notification is required. (For more information, see the article in this issue of FOCUS).
- Approved a memorandum of understanding with the Arizona Diamondbacks Charities for the development of a "Field of Dreams" at Varney Park. (For more information, see the article in this issue of FOCUS).
- Postponed the extension of Happy Valley Road, from 67th Ave. to Lake Pleasant Pkwy., due to shortage of funding. Acquisition of right-of-way is funded and will start this fiscal year; construction is postponed until the outcome of the September transportation sales tax election (Prop. 300) is known. (For more information about Prop. 300, see the article in this issue of FOCUS).

## May

- Authorized a development agreement for 190,000 sq. ft. of new office and "flex" industrial space, located near the southwest corner of Olive Avenue and Loop 101. The project is expected to generate 450 new jobs.
- Awarded a \$100,000 construction contract for landscaping improvements to the south bank of Skunk Creek, from 75th Ave. to 83rd Ave. The project was fully funded from a Maricopa County grant.
- Approved the revised design and \$10.2 million budget for the Peoria Performing Arts Center, scheduled to begin construction at the southeast corner of 84th Ave. & Peoria Ave. this fall.

## June

- Authorized \$153,000 in matching funds for an Arizona State Parks Trails Heritage grant for the development of a pedestrian bridge and multi-use path at the Greenway Channel and New River, north of Rio Vista Community Park.
- Adopted the Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan, a \$752 million plan for city facility and infrastructure construction projects.
- Adopted the Fiscal Year 2006 City Budget of \$431 million, comprised of an Operating Budget of \$177.5 million, Capital Budget of \$188.4 million, debt service of \$36.1 million, and a contingency appropriation of \$29 million.

## July

- Approved a development agreement for Parke West, a 56-acre mixed use "lifestyle center" development at the northwest corner of Loop 101 and Northern Ave. The project will include 360,000 square feet of retail shopping and restaurants, 70,000 square feet of office, 250 luxury apartments, and possibly a hotel. Once completed the project is expected to create over 1,200 new jobs and generate \$50 million in city sales tax and revenues over twenty years.
- Approved a lease agreement to redevelop five properties in Oldtown Peoria to create retail and residential uses, and to complement the new Performing Arts Center.
- Approved an \$11.2 million contract for construction of the two southbound lanes of Lake Pleasant Parkway from Dynamite Boulevard to Williams Road.

## Mayor's Report

Like all Peorians, I am concerned with the growing traffic congestion in the city. I am fully aware of the need for transportation improvements, and also of the financial constraints that currently limit the city's ability to build and maintain roads and improve intersections. The recent voter approval of the regional half-cent transportation sales tax (November 2004) and city bonds (May 2005) are addressing part of the need, but a significant amount of necessary roadway improvements remain unfunded.

The revenues – current and projected – available to the city to build and repair roads are simply not adequate to maintain acceptable traffic conditions on the city's roadways. With more cars traveling on aging city streets, traffic congestion in Peoria will only increase without additional funding to widen roads, improve intersections, and increase access to the regional freeway system. This gap between the city's transportation needs and the funding available to build and repair roads is about \$200 million – the proposed transportation sales tax (Proposition 300 on the September 13, 2005 ballot) would fund the majority of the projects in that gap.

In summer 2004, a Citizen's Transportation Committee worked with city staff to review and prioritize transportation related projects including streets, pavement maintenance, and transit operations. After surveying how other cities have dealt with the challenge of transportation funding and weighing alternatives, the committee recommended a 0.3% sales tax increase dedicated to funding transportation projects and services.

This transportation tax would generate about \$10 million per year that would be used to build and maintain roads and provide transit and transportation services in Peoria. Specifically, the committee recommended three focus areas: wider roads with additional travel and turning lanes; improved intersections – turn lanes and signal improvements; and better freeway access to Loop 101.

What would approval of Proposition 300 mean to Peoria? It would mean that additional road projects to ease congestion on city streets could be funded. Projects like accelerating the completion of Happy Valley Road from 67th Avenue to Lake Pleasant Parkway; widening significant sections of Union Hills Drive, Cactus Road, Olive Avenue, Peoria Avenue, Thunderbird Road, 83rd Avenue, and Deer Valley Road; and improving intersections to add dedicated turn signals and capacity. The additional funding could also provide the local matching funds for regional projects that benefit Peoria – most importantly the Beardsley Connection to Loop 101.

Why is sales tax the preferred solution? Part of the reason that Peoria's roads are more and more congested is the increasing number of people from all over the Valley who drive to and through Peoria every day. With the transportation sales tax, everyone who shops, eats, stays in Peoria hotels and visits Peoria attractions – whether they reside here or not – will be paying for a portion of the city's transportation system. That's why other Valley cities – including Scottsdale, Phoenix, Tempe and Glendale – have also adopted dedicated local transportation sales taxes to fund transportation improvements and services in their communities. If Proposition 300 is approved, Peoria's sales tax rate will still be equal to or below our West Valley neighbors Glendale, Phoenix, Surprise, Avondale, and Goodyear.

Study the issue and vote on September 13. Additional information on Prop. 300 is available online at [www.peoriaaz.com/election05](http://www.peoriaaz.com/election05) or by calling 623-773-7000.

**Mayor John C. Keegan**

## CITY COUNCIL District Roundup



Contact the Mayor and Council by calling 623-773-7306.

Council Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Peoria City Council Chamber, 8401 West Monroe Street

Call the City Clerk's Office at 623-773-7340 for agendas or more information.

Council agendas, meeting minutes, district maps, and other information are also available on the city web site at [www.peoriaaz.com/council](http://www.peoriaaz.com/council)

### Acacia District – Councilmember Vicki Hunt

Downtown Peoria is beginning to take on a new look. A pedestrian-friendly environment and traffic plan will help connect activity centers on both sides of Grand Avenue. Phase one, to begin by September, will bring needed improvements to the railroad crossings at 83rd and Peoria Avenues. The follow up phases will enhance pedestrian access in the area with new sidewalks and landscaping and widen Peoria and Grand Avenues.

### Ironwood District – Councilmember Bob Barrett

The Peoria Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee is helping military folks transition from overseas duty. "Our Ticket to Freedom, Welcome Back Luke Heroes" gift bags can be given to military personnel to help them transition back into local lifestyles. Donations from individuals and businesses of gift cards and dinner or movie certificates are being accepted by the Chamber of Commerce. Contact Pat King at (602) 336-8311 (extension 203) to get involved.

### Mesquite District – Councilmember Cathy Carlat

To improve the flow of information between residents and the city regarding neighborhood issues, the city has created a new Neighborhood Services Office to provide a two-way communication link between neighborhoods and City Hall. If you are a member of an HOA or know of any neighborhood groups in your area, please contact Millie Peterson, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, at 623-773-5140, or you may register on-line at [www.peoriaaz.com](http://www.peoriaaz.com)

### Palo Verde District – Vice Mayor Pat Dennis

Supporting the local economy is something that we can all do. When you make purchases in Peoria, your sales tax dollars go right back into your community. Another way that the City of Peoria supports local businesses is to make purchases from Peoria vendors as well as encourage local businesses to bid on city projects. If you own or know someone with a business in Peoria, log onto the city's web site at [www.peoriaaz.com](http://www.peoriaaz.com) for information on how to become part of bid notification lists.

### Pine District – Councilmember Carlo Leone

Even as summertime wraps up, remember to keep kids safe around water. I hope that you'll really take this message to heart and take responsibility for the prevention of a child drowning – as adults, it's our responsibility to look out for our kids and keep them safe . . . As always there are plenty of road construction projects happening around Peoria. For information on these, visit [www.peoriaaz.com/roadclosures](http://www.peoriaaz.com/roadclosures) or call the Traffic Engineering Division at 623-773-7394.

### Willow District – Councilmember Joan Evans

Traffic safety should be of foremost importance for all of us. The beginning of school is just around the corner, and it's very important that we take the extra minute to think about our responsibilities. Buckling up should be a way of life by now. Allow plenty of time to reach your destination so that speed limits can be regarded, and so as to avoid the danger of pushing red lights. Peoria is one of the safest communities in the Valley of the Sun, and we want to keep it that way!

## Building Permits Keep Homes Safe & More

Most people don't give much thought to building permits – it's a process that is out of sight and out of mind unless someone is remodeling or making additions to their home. While a home (or school, or business, or other building) is being built, city building inspectors conduct regular inspections to ensure that the construction is completed in accordance with stringent requirements aimed at keeping the building safe and strong. But the building inspection and permitting process is important for other reasons, too.

After initiating a permit, a building inspector with training and certification in a specialized trade will evaluate the project for compliance with building codes and ordinances. This provides the homeowner peace of mind in knowing that the project meets minimum safety codes.

Many people are refinancing their mortgages during these times of historically low interest rates. Financial institutions often want to know what improvements were made to the property – and if those improvements were made with valid permits. Also, when a potential buyer considers making an offer on a home, it is common practice to ask the seller for records of permits and inspections for any improvements made to the property. The permitting and inspection process provides these documents.

Permits protect the homeowner's investment. If something goes wrong, like a fire or accident that is covered by homeowner's insurance, some insurance companies will not insure or replace improvements that were not constructed under a valid building permit. Permits also



**Peoria's building inspectors are there to help ensure that every project - large or small - gets built safely.**

protect neighborhoods. Obtaining permits before making improvements contributes to safe neighborhoods by ensuring compliance with zoning ordinance provisions and minimum life safety codes – this is important both for homeowners making improvements and for those living around them.

Many people don't realize what they need building permits for. Permits are required for remodeling projects, home additions, and many repairs. For example, a new room or patio cover, a factory-built or masonry fireplace, a swimming pool or spa all require a permit. So does a new air conditioning unit, a new furnace or water heater, or any other change or repair made to an existing electrical, mechanical, or plumbing system. Remember, it's all about making your home and neighborhood as safe as it can be - if you are not sure whether you need a permit, please ask!

**For more information, contact the Building Safety Division at 623-773-7225 or visit [www.peoriaaz.com/building](http://www.peoriaaz.com/building)**

## New Ordinance Helps Residents Stay Informed About Rezoning Cases

Understanding how important it is to have public involvement as early as possible in rezoning cases, the Peoria City Council has adopted an ordinance that requires early notification and neighborhood meetings between potential developers and residents in the vicinity of proposed rezoning projects.

Developers are now required to submit a "Citizen Participation Plan" to the city as part of any request for rezoning. This plan requires those requesting rezoning of property to do at least three things. First, they must identify and notify residents and property owners that may be affected by the proposed rezoning. Second, they are required to open a dialogue and hold public meetings to discuss the proposal with area residents and seek their comments. Third, they are required to submit a report that describes their public involvement process and its results prior to any hearings on the proposal.

"Some developers are very conscientious about getting out to the surrounding neighborhoods,

letting them know what's proposed and working on any areas of concern," according to Debra Stark, Peoria's Community Development Director. "Others simply aren't. This ordinance makes our expectations for public involvement clear to developers and makes sure that each neighborhood gets equal treatment from those proposing rezoning of property."

The ordinance also expands the required notification area. Previously, the requirement for all rezoning notifications was 300 feet. The new requirement allows for notification of more residents and property owners and is graduated according to the size of the development. Rezoning up to 40 acres requires notification of all property owners within 300 feet. Proposed rezoning of 40 to 420 acres requires notification of all property owners within 600 feet, and proposed rezoning over 320 acres requires notification of all property owners within 900 feet of the proposed project.

**For more information, contact the Community Development Department at 623-773-7200.**

## Census 2005 – Stand Up and Get Counted!

In September 2005, the City of Peoria will participate along with other cities and towns throughout Maricopa County in a mid-decade Census Survey. The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting the 2005 Census Survey through the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) at the request of the Valley's cities and towns, which need updated information in order to receive a fair share of state funding.

Unlike the nationwide census conducted each decade, this census is a survey – meaning only a handful of households (pre-selected as representative of the entire community) will participate. You may not be one of those households selected to be sampled, but if you are, it's very important.

By answering your 2005 Census Survey, you are ensuring that Peoria receives its fair share of state and federal tax dollars that help pay for services such as police and fire, parks, libraries, recreation facilities, senior centers, road improvements, and schools. Each year the State of Arizona returns nearly \$1 billion to cities and towns from the income tax, sales tax, and vehicle license fees collected by the state. The amount of money each city, town, or unincorporated area receives is based on its population. For example, based on Peoria's population estimates over the past four years, the City of Peoria could receive an additional \$2.19 million annually.

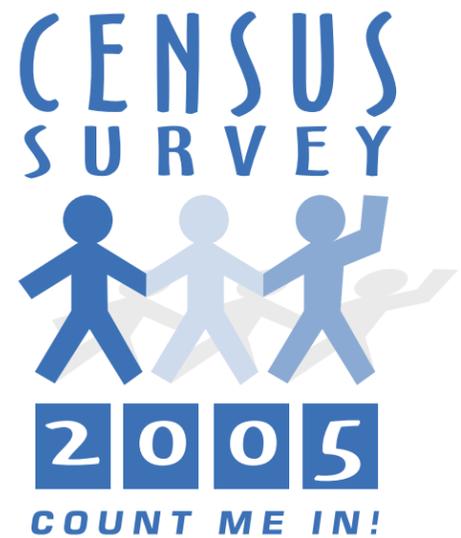
It is important to note that it is your address, not you personally, that may be chosen as part of a scientifically-determined sample. If your address is selected, you will

## Eliminate Mosquitoes to Prevent Spread of West Nile Virus

With the Arizona monsoon season upon us, it's important to revisit the subject of West Nile Virus and how it can be prevented. West Nile Virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito and can infect people, horses, many types of birds and other animals.

While rare, West Nile Virus (WNV) is a potentially serious illness. Less than 1 percent of people who are bitten by mosquitoes develop any symptoms of the disease and relatively few mosquitoes actually carry WNV. However, about one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. People over the age of 50 are more likely to develop serious symptoms of WNV if they do get sick and should take special care to avoid mosquito bites.

There are several measures that can be taken to safeguard your family and home against mosquitoes. Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Stop mosquitoes from multiplying by regularly draining water from outside pet dishes, flower pots, wading pools, birdbaths and other objects that can collect water. Also make sure to properly treat water in pools and home ponds. By denying mosquitoes their



receive a letter in the mail from the U.S. Census Bureau Director notifying you that the survey is on its way. About one in every 13 households throughout Maricopa County will receive the short survey (less than 10 questions) to fill out and return.

The information you provide to the 2005 Census Survey is safe and confidential. By federal law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share your responses with others, including welfare agencies, immigration authorities, Internal Revenue Service, courts, police and other law enforcement agencies – in fact it is illegal for these agencies to obtain confidential information from the census.

The Census Survey will be mailed to Maricopa County residents on August 30, 2005. Those receiving the survey will be asked about the number of people living in their households as of September 1, 2005. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the short survey – Peoria is counting on you!

**For more information, visit [www.census2005.com](http://www.census2005.com), e-mail: [census@mag.maricopa.gov](mailto:census@mag.maricopa.gov) or call 602-256-3225.**



breeding grounds, a big dent can be made in the risk of people contracting the West Nile Virus.

Of course, mosquitoes can't be completely eradicated, so it is important to take precautions against mosquito bites. Avoid going outdoors at dusk, dawn and other times of heavy mosquito activity when possible. If you must be outdoors during these peak mosquito feeding hours, wear long sleeves, long pants and socks. Use an insect repellent with DEET when you are in areas where mosquitoes are present.

Maricopa County is the lead agency in dealing with West Nile Virus countywide. For general information and fogging schedules, or to report chemical sensitivity, mosquitoes, dead birds and green pools visit [www.maricopa.gov/wnv](http://www.maricopa.gov/wnv) or call the Maricopa County West Nile Hotline at 602-506-0700. To report standing water in Peoria call the City of Peoria West Nile Hotline at 623-773-7310 or e-mail [codecompliance@peoriaaz.com](mailto:codecompliance@peoriaaz.com).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

**Aug 18** Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.  
**Aug 23** City Council Study Session, Pine Room, City Hall, 4 p.m.  
**TV** Special City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.  
**Aug 27** Qwest Family Movie Night @ the Peoria Sports Complex. Movie schedule & info: [peoriaaz.com/events](http://peoriaaz.com/events)  
**Sept 1** Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.  
**Sept 5** Labor Day, City Offices Closed, Holiday trash pickup schedule  
**TV** **Sept 6** City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.  
**Sept 13** Special Election. Info: [www.peoriaaz.com/election05](http://www.peoriaaz.com/election05)  
**Sept 15** Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.  
**Sept 19** City Council Study Session, Pine Room, City Hall, 4 p.m.  
**TV** Special City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.  
**Sept 24** Qwest Family Movie Night @ the Peoria Sports Complex. Movie schedule & info: [peoriaaz.com/events](http://peoriaaz.com/events)  
**TV** **Oct 4** City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.  
**Oct 6** Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.  
**Oct 8** Qwest Family Movie Night @ the Peoria Sports Complex. Movie schedule & info: [peoriaaz.com/events](http://peoriaaz.com/events)

**Oct 15** 2005 Peoria Public Safety Night, Peoria Sports Complex, 4-6 p.m. Info: [peoriaaz.com/events](http://peoriaaz.com/events) or 623-773-7099  
**Oct 18** City Council Study Session, City Hall, Pine Room, 4 p.m.  
**TV** City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.  
**Oct 20** Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.  
**Oct 29** Peoria's Halloween Monster Bash & Balloon Illumination, Peoria Sports Complex, 5-9 p.m. Info: [peoriaaz.com/events](http://peoriaaz.com/events) or 623-773-7198.  
 \*Council Study Sessions are held as needed. Call the City Clerk's Office at 623-773-7340 to confirm meeting times and for agendas, or check the web at [www.peoriaaz.com/council](http://www.peoriaaz.com/council)  
 ‡Call the Planning Division (623-773-7200) or check [www.peoriaaz.com/planning](http://www.peoriaaz.com/planning) to confirm meeting times and for agendas.  
 City Hall and the City Council Chamber are located at the City of Peoria Municipal Complex, 8401 West Monroe Street.  
**TV** City Council Meetings are broadcast live on Peoria's Channel 11 (on Cox & Qwest cable), and re-broadcast each night through the following Sunday.  
 Check the complete city meeting and events calendar online at: [www.peoriaaz.com/events](http://www.peoriaaz.com/events)  
 Event hotline: 623-773-7198

**PEORIA'S HALLOWEEN MONSTER BASH AND BALLOON ILLUMINATION**  
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 5-9 PM  
 PEORIA SPORTS COMPLEX  
 INFO: 623-773-7198  
[WWW.PEORIAAZ.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.PEORIAAZ.COM/EVENTS)

*"Where the Rubber Meets the Road"*

## ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**Cactus Rd. Widening - 89th Ave. to 91st Ave.**  
 This project will widen this section of Cactus Road to five lanes and provide dedicated right-turn lanes from westbound Cactus to northbound Loop 101 and from northbound 91st. Ave. to eastbound Cactus. Resurfacing of the roadway, street lighting, sidewalks and under-grounding of overhead utilities are included.

**83rd Ave. & Union Hills Dr. Intersection Improvements**  
 Improvements include: one additional through-lane on the north side of Union Hills Drive from the Loop 101 to 84th Avenue; a dedicated right-turn lane from Union Hills onto a dedicated lane on northbound 83rd Avenue (not subject to the intersection traffic signal); an additional right turn lane eastbound on Union Hills Drive to southbound 83rd Avenue; and one additional through-lane on the south side of Union Hills from 84th Avenue to 83rd Avenue. Work also includes drainage system adjustments, widening of the existing bridge over the New River at Union Hills Drive and traffic signal and street lighting modifications. Two travel lanes will be maintained during daylight hours, projected construction time is six months. Project hotline: 602-264-6416.

For more information on these or other road construction projects in Peoria, contact the Engineering Department at 623-773-7210. For a current list of major road closures and lane restrictions, visit: [www.peoriaaz.com/roadclosures](http://www.peoriaaz.com/roadclosures)

## ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE!

For more information about or to register for these programs visit [RECREATION.PEORIAAZ.COM](http://RECREATION.PEORIAAZ.COM) or call 623-773-7137

**AM/PM BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
 The perfect solution for working parents, AM/PM offers K-6 grade children a well-rounded program in a secure environment, located at all elementary schools within Peoria. State licensed with DES funding available for qualified families.

**LIL' LEARNERS AND LIL' LEARNERS II**  
 Learning and fun in a supervised and secure environment for children ages 4-5. Sunrise Family Center, 6 am. - 6 pm. year round. Lil' Learners II is weekdays during the school year from 8:30 am to 11:30 am at the Peoria Women's Club. State licensed with DES funding available for qualified families.

**NEW YOUTH KICKBALL LEAGUE!**  
 Two league divisions for boys & girls ages 3-8. Games on Sunday mornings, Oct. 1 - Nov 19. Registration \$40 for residents, \$50 for non-residents. More info: 623-773-7117 or register @ [recreation.peoriaaz.com](http://recreation.peoriaaz.com)

**FALL RECREATION CLASSES**  
 From Magic to Microsoft classes, Rock Climbing to Reflexology, Dutch Oven Cooking to Dog Obedience, we have a class to fit your interests! Visit [recreation.peoriaaz.com](http://recreation.peoriaaz.com) to register.

RECREATION.PEORIAAZ.COM

City of Peoria Telephone Numbers		ALL NUMBERS ARE IN THE 623 AREA CODE	
AM/PM Program	773-7137	Library (Sunrise Mountain Branch)	487-5150
Building Inspections	773-7225	Mayor and Council Offices	773-7306
City Attorney's Office	773-7330	Parks and Recreation	773-7137
City Clerk's Office	773-7340	Peoria Job Hotline	773-7105
City Manager's Office	773-7300	Peoria Municipal Court	773-7400
Code Compliance	773-7162	Planning and Zoning	773-7200
Community Center	773-7436	Police (non-emergency)	773-8311
Community Development	773-7200	Solid Waste Billing	773-7160
Dial-a-Ride	773-7435	Solid Waste Collection	773-7431
Fire Department (non-emergency)	773-7279	Street Maintenance	773-7432
Graffiti Hotline	773-7094	Water Billing / Service	773-7160
Library (Main)	773-7555	Water Leaks	773-7433

**electronic news**  
[www.peoriaaz.com/e-news](http://www.peoriaaz.com/e-news)

Get the latest city news delivered via e-mail. Sign up for Peoria Snapshots, the city's electronic newsletter, at [www.peoriaaz.com/e-news](http://www.peoriaaz.com/e-news)

# PEORIA FOCUS

## Summer 2005

is produced by the City of Peoria Communications and Public Affairs Department for more information, e-mail: [information@peoriaaz.com](mailto:information@peoriaaz.com), call 623-773-7000, or visit us on the web at [www.peoriaaz.com](http://www.peoriaaz.com) or [www.ci.peoria.az.us](http://www.ci.peoria.az.us).  
 ©2005 City of Peoria

<b>POSTAL CUSTOMER</b>	PRSRT STD ECRWSS US POSTAGE <b>PAID</b> PEORIA, AZ PERMIT NO. 44
------------------------	---

City Of Peoria Fiscal Year 2006

# Budget *in* Brief

This Budget in Brief provides an overview of the city's financial plan. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 City of Peoria Budget maintains existing programs, services, and service levels. The budget is balanced with projected revenues to support all projected expenditures. The city continues to maintain strong reserves.

The total FY 2006 Budget (which covers July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006) is \$431 million, an increase of 15% over last year. Much of this increase is a result of growth in the capital budget. The proposed Operating Budget totals an estimated \$177.5 million, which is an increase of 7.2% over last year. Given the continued commercial expansion, population growth, and inflationary pressures, this increase is reasonable and necessary to maintain service levels and to remain responsive to customer needs.

In preparing this budget, the staff worked hard to reflect the priorities of the City Council. The main focus in this budget is the Police Department, where the growth in calls-for-service and overall activity levels warrants a big push in staffing. Thus, the proposed Police Department budget calls for 24 new full-time positions, 18 of which are sworn law enforcement officers.

Overall, there are 49.50 new FTE (full-time equivalent) staff positions in the proposed budget (compared with 79 FTE positions

approved last year). In addition to the 24 positions recommended in Police, 25.50 additional FTE are also recommended throughout the various operating departments. Only 12 of these other positions require support by General Fund revenues – the other 13.50 FTE are fee-supported or funded by outside revenues.

No new taxes or tax rate changes are proposed in the budget. The city property tax rate will remain at \$1.59 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Sales tax rates will also remain constant.

January, 2006. The proposed \$.53 per month increase would set residential rates at \$14.71. Small increases are also slated for commercial sanitation. No adjustments are proposed for water rates. However, a wastewater rate increase is required (in January) to help fund a number of large system capital projects.

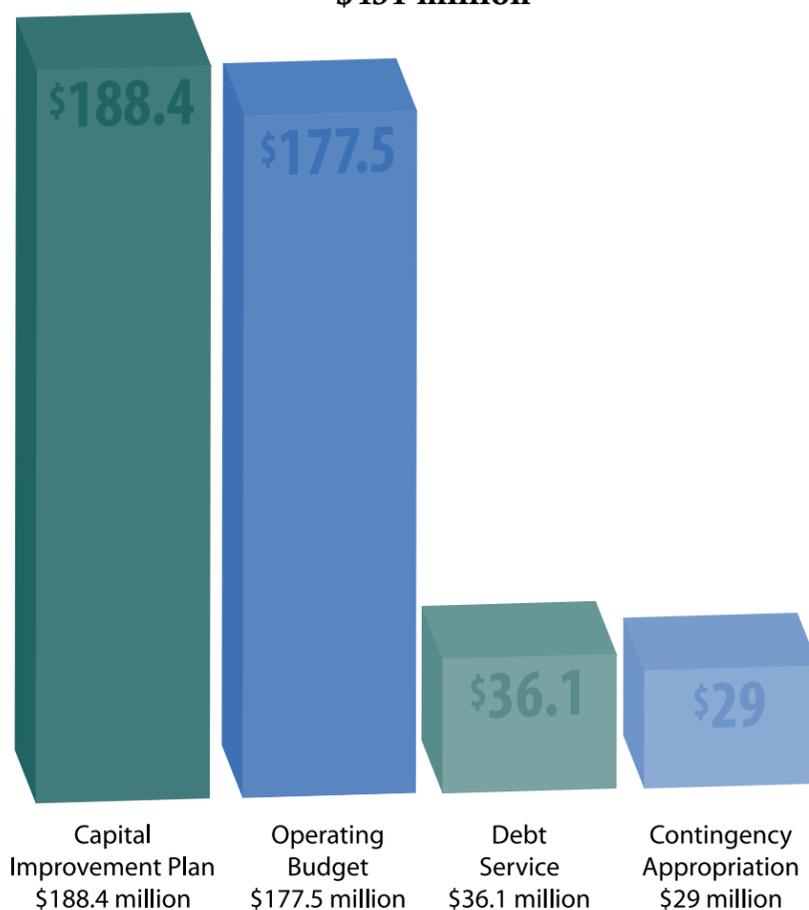
The budget conforms to the Council's adopted "Principles of Sound Financial Management," and all recommendations regarding operating funds have been based on

long-term financial forecast models. Other forecasting tools, such as the Peoria "TAPE MEASURE" process (Trend Analysis and Planning with Effective Measures), are designed to identify and provide "early warning" signals for longer-term financial trends and problems. Following these policies and monitoring the results ensures the continued financial strength of the City of Peoria.

Peoria continues to be in sound financial condition. City programs and services are consistently rated as excellent by residents, and Peorians get good value for their

tax dollars. The biggest challenge Peoria faces this year is to contain the rate of budget growth, so that future projected revenues are not outrun as the city works to meet the service needs of a dynamic and expanding community.

## Fiscal Year 2006 Total Budget: \$431 million



As previously approved by the City Council, the city will enact a \$.25 increase (to \$.50) to the storm water management fee – to respond to the federally mandated (and unfunded) storm water management program.

Rate increases are expected to be necessary in Sanitation starting in



# Budget Highlights



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Law enforcement is the number one priority in the proposed budget. A total of 24 new positions, including 18 sworn officers, are proposed.

Seven new police officer positions (\$825,754) are recommended to handle increasing numbers of calls for service. These field positions will improve the amount of available patrol time for officers throughout the city, allowing them more time for proactive patrol.

A new Commercial Community Policing Team (\$692,548) will concentrate police resources on the “entertainment district,” in the vicinity of the Peoria Sports Complex and Arrowhead Fountains Center. With five additional officers (and a sergeant), an enforcement team can be dedicated to this high activity area. Creating this special team will avoid the need to divert police from other beats to respond into this area.

Two new police detective positions (\$271,167) will handle growing case loads within the Criminal Investigations Bureau. One detective will be assigned to the Family Crimes Unit that deals with domestic violence cases and sex offender notifications; a second detective will be assigned to the Property Crimes Unit to respond to the growing case load in identity theft and fraud.

Three new Police Services Officers (\$254,380) will handle prisoner transportation and processing – thus relieving police officers from these duties.

An additional \$105,600 has been earmarked for enhancements to the Police Department communications system, including an alarm monitoring system - to minimize the time needed to correct radio system failures.



**Among 18 new Police Officers funded in FY2006 are a team of 6 Community Commercial officers who will work in the area around the Peoria Sports Complex.**

## CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

An Assistant City Prosecutor has been included for \$113,859 to maintain current legal service levels and keep up with the growing activity in the City’s Court.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

A part-time maintenance worker (and equipment) have been included for \$68,330 to conduct the maintenance of the new Terramar Neighborhood Park. Maintenance needs in the Paseo Verde and Skunk Creek Channels (\$37,750) are also addressed; \$30,000 is budgeted to pay for electricity and water at Rio Vista Park, due to the high level of daily usage.

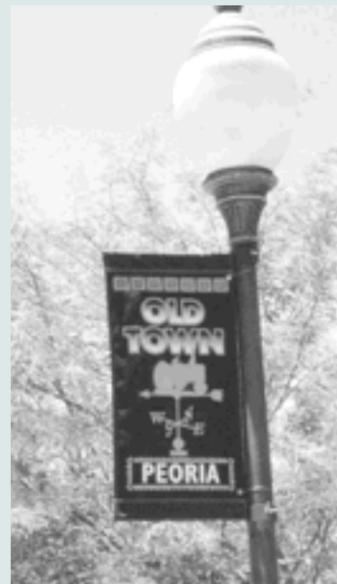
The City’s nationally acclaimed recreation programs continue to expand in response to growth and popularity with our citizens. Within the AM/PM after school youth program, funding is provided to open a new school site. Five part-time water safety instructors are funded for \$39,939, so that new swim classes can be offered at Sunrise Mountain High School Pool.

The Parks Maintenance Division will receive \$110,000 for playground improvements and court resurfacing projects at several neighborhood parks.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

To keep pace with commercial construction, a new Senior Building Inspector and vehicle (\$96,884) is proposed. This new position will focus mainly on complex non-residential construction projects.

A \$60,000 allocation will fund a detailed master plan (and work program) for the Historic Square area of Oldtown.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The budget includes \$206,000 for the Economic Development Reserve to replenish this “sinking fund” back to its original level of \$500,000.

## ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

A proposed Transportation Planning Engineer (\$102,780) to support the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program and to fully implement and manage the pedestrian/bicycle program.

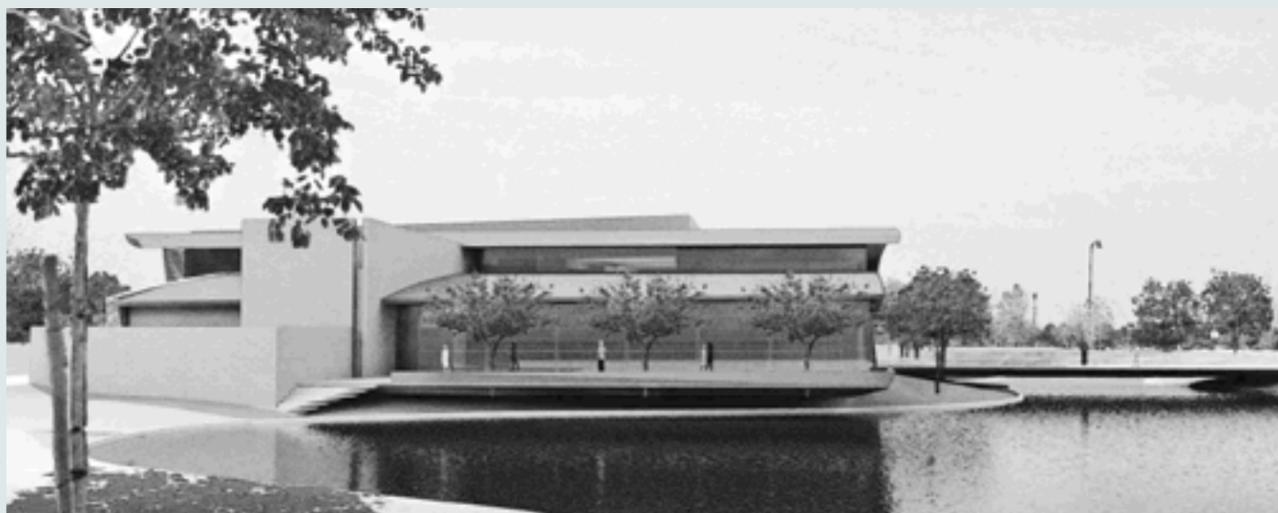
Completion of the adopted annual Capital Improvement Program is the focus of this budget, including the hiring of a Senior Civil Engineer (\$100,784), a Property Management Agent (\$76,763) and two Engineering Offsite Inspectors with vehicles (\$216,328). The costs for all of these positions will be paid through chargebacks to the capital projects involved.

For engineering contract inspection services, \$260,000 is proposed on a one-time basis. This will ensure quality and timely inspection of both public and private development.

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

As a result of an independent study regarding the City’s cash handling procedures, a new Customer Service Representative/ Cashier position will be funded for \$47,714, to provide a dedicated cashier for collection of permitting and development fees.

A new Payroll Specialist position (\$57,132) is essential to help prepare the City’s payroll.



**The Fiscal Year 2006 Capital Improvement Plan includes \$15 million for Phase II of Rio Vista Park, including a Community Recreation Center.**

# CITY OF PEORIA FISCAL YEAR 2006 Revenues & Expenditures

The economic climate in Peoria continues to mirror trends at the state level. Strong statewide gains in job growth and personal income have contributed to a favorable economic climate in Arizona. The most recent indicators of consumer confidence are somewhat mixed, and energy prices continue to create inflationary fears at the national level. Yet in Peoria, the city continues to experience fast-paced residential growth, coupled with expanded commercial development. Quickly rising commodity prices, along with land cost escalation, will need to be monitored in the future for their impacts on the city.

Given the projected economic outlook, the city has estimated increases to key revenues as part of the financial forecast. Sales tax collections are estimated to increase by nearly 6% next year, generating approximately \$45 million total for the city's operating funds. The largest component of these sales tax collections are from retail activity, including auto sales, large retailers and grocery stores. Continued commercial and residential construction has also generated strong sales tax on contracting activities.

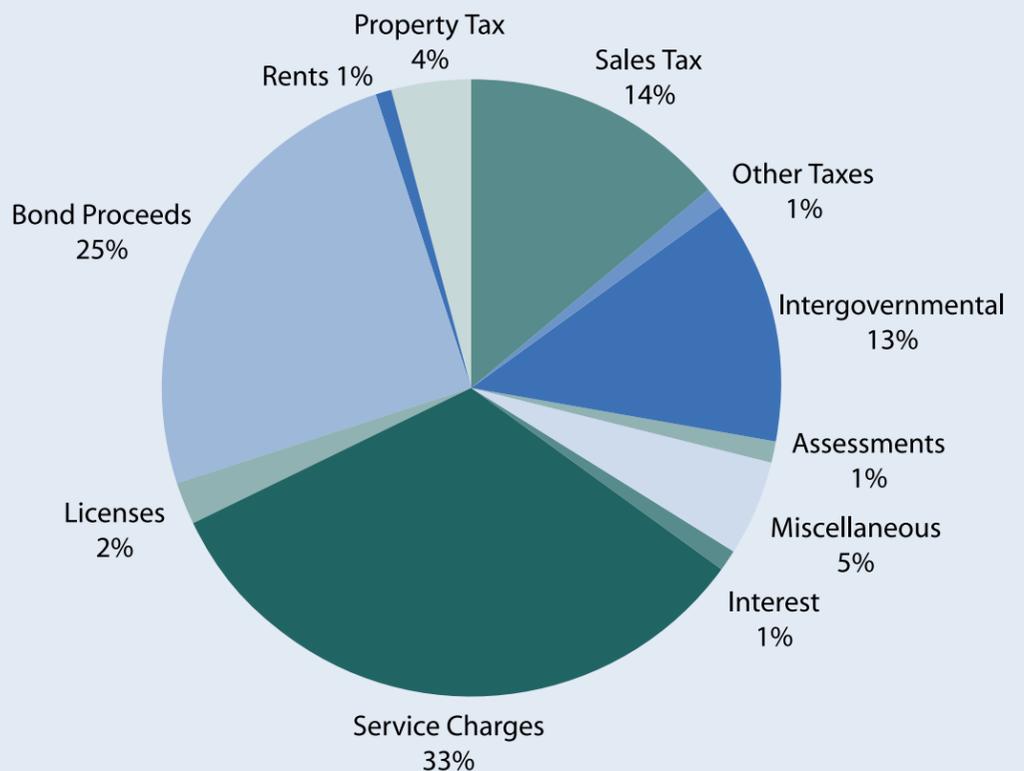
This past year, the city continued to attract new business and industry. Much needed employment-generating office space has been added, including Peoria Crossings Center, Arrowhead Corporate Center, Thunderbird Office Park at the 101, and Arrowhead Business Park. Restaurants, retail and entertainment continue to grow in the popular Peoria Sports Complex and Arrowhead Fountains area, including the development of the West Valley's first dinner theater. Rapid residential growth in northern Peoria has also resulted in the start of neighborhood retail commercial development.

Another important revenue source for the city is state-shared revenues, which include a portion of state income tax, sales tax, and motor vehicle registration fees. These are collected by the State of Arizona, and distributed to cities and towns on a population-based formula. The state also shares gas tax revenues with cities (termed the Highway User Revenue Fund), to address transportation needs in the city. Growth in state-shared sales tax revenue is expected to be strong, although somewhat less than FY 2005. Continued population growth and rising personal income are expected to generate at least a 13% increase in state-shared income tax revenues.

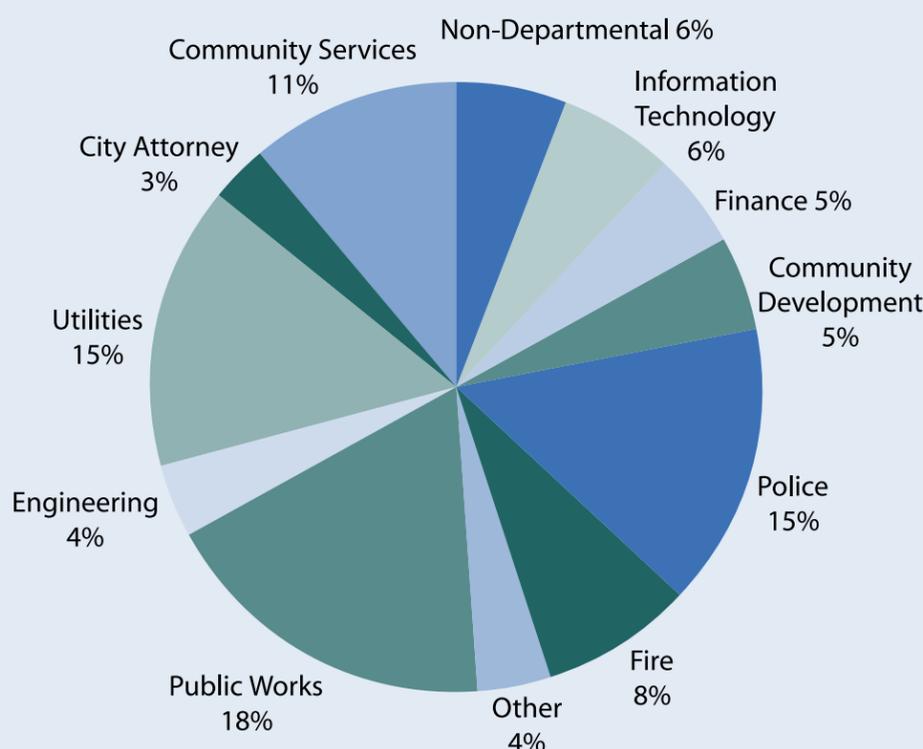
The City of Peoria collects property taxes to help support general city operations, and to finance its capital program. The Primary property tax is the smaller portion, and is used to support general city operations. The Secondary property tax is larger, and pays the debt from voter approved municipal bonds for large capital projects. At \$1.59 per \$100 of assessed valuation, the City's property tax rate represents only 12% of the total average homeowner property tax bill, with the balance earmarked for schools, Maricopa County, and special purpose districts. Because of new residential and commercial development over the last year, combined with appreciation of existing properties, the expected property tax collections will likely increase next year by over 15%. The financial impact of this is significant, as the City will receive an additional \$345,000 per year in the General Fund from the primary property tax, and \$1.8 million per year for the Capital Improvement Program from the secondary levy.

While the revenue numbers are encouraging, the city is faced with a number of serious financial challenges in this budget. The city must absorb significant cost hikes in health care and pension costs, wages, and costs for certain commodities used in operations (e.g. fuel). All of these expenditure areas are growing faster than the rate of inflation, and once funded, become part of the ongoing overhead of the city. These basic "cost of doing business" factors were incorporated into the proposed budget before any new staffing requests were considered. Inflationary pressures in these expenditure areas are expected to continue into the foreseeable future.

**Fiscal Year 2006 Total Revenue Sources**  
\$347 million



**Operating Expenditures by Department**  
\$177.5 million



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

A new Fire Training Captain is proposed for \$124,881 to ensure the highest level of readiness for our firefighters to meet the ever increasing complexities of the Fire Service.

Approximately 83% of all calls to the Fire Department are emergency medical responses. A new Emergency Medical System (EMS) Coordinator position (with vehicle and equipment) is included for \$108,849 to help manage the EMS program quality assurance, records management, and training programs.

A new Plans Examiner position with equipment - \$85,135 is needed to keep up with the Fire Prevention Division's workload in new development permitting.



**The Fire Department will hire a new a new Training Captain and a new Emergency Medical System Coordinator with funding in the FY2006 budget.**

# Capital Improvement Program Highlights

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is the city's budget for financing large capital projects. This is an essential part of the city's plan to extend services and facilities to a growing community. This ten-year funded program is closely aligned with the city's General Plan, and integrates many specific facility and infrastructure master plans.

The Ten-Year CIP totals \$752.4 million; the Capital Budget for FY 2006 totals \$188.4 million.

The following are highlights of a few projects slated for completion in FY 2006:

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- 1 New Jomax Fire Station 197** - in the northeast section of the city. Preliminary planning and land acquisition - \$683,500 (total cost \$5.1 million, including vehicles)
- 2 New Vistancia Fire Station 196** - Construction - \$3.2 million (total cost \$3.4 million)
- 3 Records Management/Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System** - \$175,800 (total cost \$500,000)

## ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES

- 4 Development Services Building** - \$8.3 million initial construction costs and design (total project cost \$19 million)

## PARKS

- 5 Phase II of Rio Vista Park** - Including construction of a recreation center - \$15 million
- 6 Branch Library** - Land acquisition and design costs-\$803,000 (total cost \$7 million)
- 7 New River Trail** - \$4.5 million - three separate trail sections in this project
- 8 Peoria High School Pool Improvements** - \$535,000

## STREETS

- 9 67th Avenue Widening and Improvements** - \$565,000 (total cost \$6 million)
- 10 Lake Pleasant Parkway** - \$20.13 million (total cost \$33 million)
- 11 Happy Valley Road Land Acquisition** - \$6.5 million
- 12 Thunderbird Road Widening and Reconstruction** - Loop 101 to 95th Avenue - \$1.8 million for engineering and design (total cost \$10.6 million)

## STORM DRAINAGE

- 13 Channel Improvements - 83rd Avenue from Williams to Calle Lejos** - \$2.9 million (total cost \$4.8 million)
- 14 Pinnacle Peak Channel Improvements - 87th Avenue to the Agua Fria** - Design costs \$513,000 (total cost \$7.1 million)
- 15 Rose Garden Lane Channel Phase I** - \$1.6 million for land acquisition & design (total cost \$8.2 million)
- 16 Sweetwater Storm Drain** - Loop 101 to 83rd Avenue - \$2.8 million

## WASTEWATER

- 17 Construction of Operations Building at the Beardsley Water Reclamation Facility** - \$2.4 million
- 18 Butler Drive Water Reclamation Facility** - \$700,000 for design related costs (total future costs for the complete facility and transmission system is estimated at \$80 million)
- 19 Expansion of Jomax Wastewater Reclamation Plant** - to 2.5 million gallons per day - \$3 million (total project cost \$6 million)

## WATER

- Water Well Arsenic Mitigation (various locations) - \$550,000
- Data Network for Remote Utility Facilities (various locations) - \$202,000 (\$833,100 total)

