

July 12, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao - Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Chairman's Circle and Board of Directors of Sun Corridor Inc. (SCI), I am writing in support of Pima County's application for the BUILD grant. SCI is a transformative economic development organization representing one of the most dynamic and growing major business centers in North America. Our organization has helped to drive significant business investment into the Tucson and Southern Arizona region through primary job creation, resulting in an economic impact of \$22.5 billion.

Pima County recently acquired approximately 500 acres south of Raytheon Missile Systems and now position the land as the Aerospace Research Campus (ARC). World View Enterprises located their international headquarters in the ARC and other companies we have held discussions with have also expressed interest in locating within the ARC. Pima County is pursuing the BUILD grant to add yet another beneficial component, in the form of rail service, to land that is already entitled and attractive to companies looking to expand or relocate in our region. Once fully developed, our most recent economic impact analysis projects the value of this project to the region at \$3.2 billion.

Within the State of Arizona, few development opportunities exist with large parcels of vacant land being served by rail and near large employment centers. To meet this demand, Pima County and Union Pacific Railroad began to coordinate a rail siding that could serve the ARC and other large parcels to the east. It was through this effort that the idea of realigning the Nogales Line through the ARC was born. Upon closer examination, the benefits of adding a bypass route became apparent:

- The bypass route would reduce the impacts at 18 at-grade crossings where approximately 306,000 cars cross daily according to PAG statistics. Currently, these crossings contribute significantly to east-west traffic congestion.
- The proposed line's proximity to the Port of Tucson, the region's only intermodal facility in Arizona, will encourage continued logistics' growth through certified direct delivery and origination of international containers.
- Pima County's vision for the ARC and the Nogales Line Bypass are closely tied to the State's goal of supporting economic growth and enhancing the "State's global competitive

position through strategic rail initiatives”, with inbound and outbound rail freight projected to double by 2030 and triple by 2050 (Arizona State Rail Plan, 2011).

Sun Corridor Inc. fully supports Pima County’s application for the BUILD grant and I thank you for your consideration of our support.



Regards,
Joe Snell
President & CEO