



PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

130 WEST CONGRESS STREET, 11 FLOOR
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1317

TELEPHONE 520-724-8094
E-MAIL: district4@pima.gov

Stephen W. Christy
Supervisor, District 4

July 3, 2018

Ms. Elaine Chao
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Rail Expansion and Bypass Project

Dear Ms. Chao:

I am writing to express my strong support for the BUILD grant application that will support the analysis and planning of an auxiliary network extension of the Union Pacific Nogales Line. Having the privilege to represent the citizens of Pima County Supervisorial District 4, I believe this new line will provide numerous benefits to my constituents, Pima County, and the State of Arizona as a whole.

Specifically, I support this effort due to the economic development, safety, and environmental benefits that it will provide. A few of these benefits are:

- With the goal of creating a regional employment center, Pima County is developing the Aerospace Research Campus (ARC), 500 acres of land near the Tucson International Airport, Interstates 10 and 19, and the Union Pacific Railroad Nogales Line. The bypass route will provide ARC residents with direct rail access.
- The proposed bypass route will allow Union Pacific Railroad direct access to the Port of Tucson, the only intermodal facility in Arizona. This will not only open the area surrounding the Port to future development, but will also allow trains from Mexico to enter the Port, avoiding Union Pacific's Tucson Yard, resulting in increased speed and efficiency.
- Approximately 300,000 vehicles cross the 22 at-grade crossings along the current route. In addition, the trains typically carry hazardous materials, limiting the speed by which the trains can travel through the residential neighborhoods. The bypass route would not only reduce the vehicle traffic delays, resulting in decreased pollution from idling vehicles, but will allow Union Pacific to operate their trains at higher speeds along the proposed route, increasing efficiencies and, thereby, reducing fuel consumption.
- In addition to the economic development opportunities and environmental benefits that will be provided as a result of this bypass route, of even more importance is the increased safety to drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. The existing route, with 22 at-grade crossings, intersects residential neighborhoods, creating impediments to pedestrian and bicycle traffic and creating traffic delays.

In summary, I am pleased to support this grant application as I believe that, in addition to supporting Pima County's efforts to encourage economic development, it will as improve the public safety and environmental quality of the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen W. Christy".

Stephen W. Christy
Supervisor, District 4