



May 23, 2018

Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator
130 W. Congress, 10th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: Union Pacific Nogales Subdivision Safety Study

Dear Mr. Huckelberry,

We are in receipt of Mr. Michael Ortega's letter to you of May 15, 2018, where Mr. Ortega expresses his support for your plan to apply for a CRISI grant to begin developing the rail bypass concept along the future Auxiliary Interstate Highway through the planned Aerospace Research Campus (ARC) south of the Tucson International Airport.

We confirm the availability of the remaining Nogales Rail Crossing Safety Study Funds (approximately \$50,000) from the completed Nogales Subdivision Rail Safety Study (RTA #39). We support the use of the remaining RTA funding as local match to a Federal Railroad Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant to perform the infrastructure planning work, as the potential relocation of freight traffic to a new route that more directly connects to the Port of Tucson via new grade separated crossings will improve both public safety (through reduced rail traffic on existing at-grade crossings) and improve rail access opportunities for regional economic development.

If PAG/RTA can be of further assistance in the development of your CRISI grant application, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Farhad Moghimi
Executive Director

cc: Micheal Ortega, Tucson City Manager
Jim DeGrood, Deputy Director