April 1, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to you today regarding Pima County’s application for $15 Million in Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant funding for The Sunset Road: Silverbell to River Road project.

The project is a cooperative effort between Pima County, Arizona Department of Transportation, Pima Associates of Governments (PAG), The City of Tucson, and the Town of Marana. It is the last phase of connectivity for Sunset Road between Silverbell Road and River Road, two heavily traveled roads with average daily travel (ADT) of 10,479 and 18,600 total vehicles, respectively, across significant travel barriers including the Santa Cruz River, the I-10 interstate, the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Sunset Line, and the Rillito River.

Of the seven interchanges on I-10 between Ina Road to the north and Grant Road to the south, only three currently cross all these barriers to fully connect the northeast to northwest metropolitan Tucson area. Constructing the new project bridges to the east of the Sunset Interchange will increase this number to four fully connected east-west routes, greatly improving travel times, connectivity and reducing emissions. This provides better system continuity and a new alternate route should there be a significant impact on one of these arterial roads.

As the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law continues to be implemented, we will keep working across the aisle in the United States Senate to promote economic well-being for all Arizonans. In accordance with all existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, we respectfully ask that you give this proposal full and fair consideration as you make this important funding decision.

Sincerely,

Kyrsten Sinema  
Mark Kelly  
United States Senator  
United States Senator