April 14, 2022

The Honorable Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for Sunset Road: Silverbell to River Road RAISE Proposal

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Town of Marana ("Town"), I am writing to express the Town’s collaboration with Pima County to extend Sunset Road, from Silverbell to River Road. The Town fully supports the County’s grant application for the Fiscal Year 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. This project has local and regional significance to make our transportation and economic infrastructure safer, more accessible and sustainable.

Sunset Road, I-10 Interchange to River Road

The Town of Marana consists of 126-square miles, strategically located between Phoenix and Tucson. It has 17 miles of both Interstate highway and railroad mainline, providing tremendous opportunities to attract business and industry. It is one of Arizona’s fastest growing communities, with diverse opportunities for housing, recreation and employment.

The Sunset Road extension would provide more convenient east-west connectivity at the Town’s southern end. This will help Marana drivers avoid I-10 and other heavily travelled north-south routes as they access the metro area’s employment centers. It could spur expanded transit options for our residents, especially those that might not have access to automobiles. It will also provide Town residents with easier access to important development opportunities that are located in the region just east of I-10, including better access to important health care assets that are now difficult for Town residents to access. It will help facilitate access to the proposed Sunset Innovation Campus, which will be developed just south of the Town’s borders. Finally, it will provide a safer, closer access point to the community’s famed “Loop”, a 136-mile non-automotive multimodal beltway. As such, the extension will improve the safety, health, connectivity, transportation alternatives and economic prospects for Town citizens.
The Town of Marana is an active participant on the Pima Association of Governments, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for this area, as well as the Regional Transportation Authority. The Town has been active in developing the Transportation Improvement Plan, identifying the Sunset Road Corridor project as a critical transportation improvement needs for some time. The Town has been involved in planning of this extension and fully applauds the County’s efforts to make this a reality.

The Town of Marana is pleased to be affiliated with this effort and to support Pima County’s application. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Curtis Woody
Director – Economic Development