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 Habitat for Humanity Tucson, I write in strong support of 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.

This project is a cooperative effort between Pima County, Arizona Department of Transportation, Pima Association of Governments, City of Tucson and Town of Marana. It is the last phase of connectivity for Sunset Road between Silverbell Road and River Road, building an extension that bridges significant existing travel barriers including the Santa Cruz River, I-10 interstate, Union Pacific Railroad Sunset Line and the Rillito River.

Interstate I-10 forms the western boundary of the Flowing Wells community. It is bounded to the north and east by the Rillito River and to the south by Miracle Mile. Currently, there is only one route within the community that provides full east-west connectivity bridging these travel barriers. These barriers and the lack of connectivity also serve as an economic accessibility for our community, which also includes a number of economically vulnerable census tracts. It also increases traffic within the community as travelers use the major north-south routes within the community (La Cholla and La Cañada Roads) as cut through routes. The roads are major high-speed, high volume arteries, presenting safety threats to our residents (whether walking, biking, or driving). The Sunset Road project provides additional connectivity for our community. By improving our accessibility, the project reduces the need to use these north-south arteries to search for a means to bridge over to the community’s west side. Habitat for Humanity Tucson is pleased to support this project as it helps us meet our safety and economic expansion neighborhood goals.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical infrastructure project.

Sincerely,

Charlie Buchanan  
Chief Executive Officer