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April 14, 2010

Transportation Enhancement and Scenic Roads Section
Arizona Department of Transportation
1615 West Jackson Street, Mail Drop EM10
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3217

Dear Transportation Enhancement Review Committee:

The Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee is pleased to support this application for Transportation Enhancement Funds for the **Urban Loop Commuter Route - Pantano Riverpark from Speedway Boulevard to 5th Street**. This project will provide much-needed safety improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists using the Pantano Riverpark and area streets.

This Riverpark proposal will connect with an existing paved pathway that goes from 5th Street to Broadway and provide a one-mile addition to the Pantano Riverpark. Overall, the Pantano Riverpark is a critical 10-mile segment under development for the 55-mile Pima County Urban Loop Commuter Route envisioned to go through as well as to encircle the metro Tucson area with pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

The Pantano Riverpark, located within the City of Tucson, will provide a valuable north-south commuter route within the eastern side of the city, serving a population of over 100,000 residents and workers in that area. As noted in the proposal, several other sections of the Pantano Riverpark have been recently constructed or are under construction, plus other segments are under design. The Riverpark will also connect with numerous on-street bike routes and sidewalk linkages to provide greater connectivity with adjacent neighborhoods.

We strongly support this application for Transportation Enhancement funding to benefit the pedestrian and bicycle and community. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Brian Beck, Chair
Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee