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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 Greater Arizona Bicycle Association of Tucson wishes to express its strong support of application for Transportation Enhancement Funds for the Rillito Riverpath and Camino de la Tierra Bicycle and Pedestrian Enhancements. This project will provide much-needed safety improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists using the Rillito Riverpath and using Camino de la Tierra.

This project will help Tucson and Pima County cyclist and pedestrians in several ways.

First is the increase in bicyclist safety in the area. A cyclist was fatally injured several years ago as a motorist did not allow sufficient distance to safely pass. Also a cyclist was severely injured when using the Rillito Riverpath and crossing Camino de la Tierra. As Arizona has consistently ranked among the top states nationwide in bicyclist and pedestrian fatality rates GABA recommends approving this project. The bridge improvement will provide a completely grade-separated crossing of Camino de la Tierra and will greatly improve safety. This is a very serious problem and GABA feels improving bicycle lanes along Camino de la Tierra and the addition of the bicycle/pedestrian bridge on the Rillito River Path will greatly increase safety in this area.

Secondly the Camino de la Tierra bike lanes will connect to the Cañada del Oro Riverpath, providing an excellent link between these two developing commute corridors for bicyclists. Also the lanes will benefit numerous schools along the roadway including Green Fields School and Richardson Elementary, among others.

GABA, representing over 800 active members, strongly supports 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,

P. Wayne Cullop
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