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COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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March 26, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$3,288,000 in funding for the Benson Highway / Columbus Boulevard Intersection Improvements Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Pima County, located at 130 W. Congress Street, Floor 6, Tucson, AZ 85701.

The funding would be used for the reconstruction and safety improvement of the intersection at South Columbus Boulevard and East Benson Highway, Tucson, AZ 85706, a high-risk, skewed intersection that currently experiences a disproportionate number of severe angle (T-bone) collisions. Between 2020 and 2024, 53 percent of crashes at this intersection were angle crashes—significantly higher than the regional average—due to unsafe turning geometry and limited visibility.

The total project cost is \$4,110,000, with Pima County committing \$822,000 in local matching funds through Arizona Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF). Federal funding will support the construction phase, including realignment of the intersection to eliminate hazardous turning movements, implementation of indirect left-turn configurations, installation of pedestrian hybrid beacons, sidewalks and ADA-accessible curb ramps, upgraded lighting, and landscaping.

These improvements will enhance safety and accessibility for over 8,400 daily users, including drivers, pedestrians, transit riders, and students from nearby Desert View High School. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it directly addresses documented safety risks, reduces the likelihood of serious injuries and fatalities, improves ADA accessibility, and supports safe and efficient travel along a key corridor that connects surrounding neighborhoods and commercial activity to Interstate 10.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133 (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adelita S. Grijalva".

Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress