

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Secretary
Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing this letter to request your full and fair consideration of the City of Tucson, Arizona's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the 22nd Street: Kino Parkway to Tucson Boulevard bridge replacement project.

The City of Tucson is seeking \$25 million to address structural and conditional deficiencies at 22nd Street, a transit route that connects the busy Interstate 10 to the eastern edge of the city along a heavily commercialized corridor. 22nd Street is a major east-west arterial and a designated Freight Rail Corridor in the Pima Association of Governments Regional Freight plan. The project is also part of the Tucson region's \$2.1 billion, 20-year Regional Transportation Authority plan.

The condition of the existing infrastructure of the 22nd Street project is of concern. The existing bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) has a weight restriction of 15 tons due to structural deficiencies and requires heavy vehicles including trucks and buses to use alternate routes. It cannot support cargo headed to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, one of our nation's critical military installations. The City will build a new overpass structure over the existing Union Pacific Railroad Gila Sub and Yard and Barraza-Aviation Parkway (State Route 210) and widen the existing roadway.

The bridge is located adjacent to historically disadvantaged areas of the City. The bridge replacement will include a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the UPRR and SR-210 providing a low-stress connection for people walking and biking.

The 22nd Street project addresses the needs of the region by adding traffic capacity and pedestrian improvements while providing freight rail access that is critical to the movement of goods across the nation.

The City of Tucson and its partners are committed to addressing the structural deficiencies, traffic improvements, and bicycle pedestrian connections for the 22nd Street project, and federal support would make it possible. The grant will supplement the \$70 million already raised by state and local taxes and bonds, a considerable contribution of the partnering organizations. They have a strong record of success managing grants and leveraging federal

funds, having successfully completed one of the largest TIGER/BUILD grants in the nation in the Tucson Streetcar.

It is with the regional and national significance of the project in mind that we encourage your full and fair consideration of the City of Tucson's 22nd Street: Kino Parkway to Tucson Boulevard bridge replacement project for this year's RAISE grant program. We appreciate your consideration of the important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raul M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress