

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
7TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
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CHAIR EMERITUS

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May 1, 2024

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Transportation, and
Housing and Urban Development

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Transportation, and
Housing and Urban Development

Dear Chair Womack and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting \$3,525,000 under Fiscal Year 25 for Yuma County under the Department of Transportation (DOT) Highway Infrastructure Projects for the Avenue E/D Extension Project.

The funding would be used to construct a crucial north-south roadway between the City of San Luis and the City of Somerton. By establishing this new corridor, commercial and passenger vehicles will enjoy a more direct route from the border to US95, alleviating traffic from main streets within the communities. The project entails the construction of a new roadway segment between the intersections of County 23rd St (195)/ Avenue E and County 18th Street/Avenue D, and the reconstruction of a two-mile stretch of Avenue D between County 18th Street and County 16th St (US95/Avenue D). The new roadway will have 150' right of way, 2 lanes, 5' paved shoulders, a ten-foot multi-use path and turn lanes at the intersections. By extending Avenue E, the region's competitiveness flourishes with enhanced access to the San Luis II Port of Entry for commercial traffic, facilitating billions in trade between the US and Mexico. The project aims to decrease congestion on US95, Avenue G, Avenue D, Avenue B, and SR195 during peak hours, thereby reducing crash risks and enhancing overall safety within Yuma County's transportation system. A Benefit-Cost Analysis reveals significant travel time and cost savings for users, alongside operational cost efficiencies for the county.

This a shovel ready project, Yuma County will be able to obligate funds within a year of allocation. This project is eligible under 23 USC 133(b) (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program).

Community partners in support of this project include City of San Luis, City of Somerton, City of Yuma, Cocopah Indian Tribe, Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, Greater Yuma Port Authority, Town of Wellton, Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization, Yuma Region Bicycle Coalition. Yuma County Airport Authority, among others.

The project is important to the Yuma County community and is a good use of taxpayer funds. The project will improve roadway safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility, and community connectivity as well as enhance the region's economic competitiveness and opportunity for commerce and trade. The construction of the new corridor will reduce area traffic and crashes, injuries, and fatalities. It will improve safety conditions by constructing a 2-lane roadway with a 5-foot paved shoulder and intersection turn lanes and reducing the potential of HAZMAT spills from commercial trucks in the populated city limits. The quality of life will be improved for community residents by reducing the heavy traffic and noise pollution within the city limits, therefore reducing traffic stress. In addition, improvements in physical accessibility will contribute to the increased travel demand and transform the quality of life by removing barriers to jobs, goods, services, healthcare, and schools. The new corridor will anchor and attract more manufacturing and industrial investments and will create more economic wealth in the region. The overarching vision of Yuma County emphasizes strong and connected communities. The new corridor will strengthen the connection between neighborhoods, businesses, and essential services.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' at the beginning.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress