January 19, 2015

Pima County Bond Advisory Committee

RE: Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond Proposal

Members of the County Bond Advisory Committee:

The Arizona Alliance for Livable Communities (AALC) is writing to voice our support for the Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond proposal submitted by the Living Streets Alliance. If placed on the ballot, the Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond proposal will provide Pima County voters the opportunity to support investment of bond funding in the construction of key physical improvements that will enhance walkability options for residents throughout Pima County.

The AALC is a statewide organization that represents a broad range of planning, public health, and transportation professionals from both the public and private sectors. The goal of the AALC is that every Arizona community will be “vibrant, safe, and healthy, providing equitable opportunities for all people to thrive”. This can be achieved through healthy lifestyle choices such as increased transportation options, access to healthy food and opportunities to be active, by providing a range of housing choices and promoting a sense of community.

The AALC has reviewed the Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond proposal. In addition, we reviewed the 2012-2013 Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Campaign used by the Living Streets Alliance as the basis for identification of the projects included in the bond proposal. The community outreach efforts were extensive and clearly reflect a commitment by the LSA leadership to involve the public in the process of building consensus so as to submit a bond proposal which is a true vision of community residents.

The AALC is impressed by the approach incorporated into the bond proposal that relies on the concept of the two-pronged approach for project funding. The identification of “signature projects” throughout Pima County provides certainty to the voters that they are voting for specific projects. The inclusion of “categorical funding” provides flexibility for unanticipated projects in the future and puts in place a transparent and unbiased process to award funding for those projects.

The Living Streets Alliance has taken a leadership role in addressing the critical issue of creating a healthy community and the importance of a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment. The AALC supports the Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond proposal and congratulates the LSA for doing an excellent job of incorporating projects that will help create more livable communities in Pima County. In addition, we would like to thank the community members who served on the Bond Advisory Committee and the residents of Pima County who have helped develop the bond proposal.
The Arizona Alliance for Livable Communities urges the Bond Advisory Committee to respond favorably to the community vision set forth in the Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond proposal and include the proposal on the next Pima County Bond election ballot.

Sincerely,

Dean Brennan, FAICP
Advocacy Committee
Arizona Alliance for Livable Communities

cc. Living Streets Alliance