



May 15, 2014

Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
Chairman and Members
c/o Pima County Administrator's Office
130 W. Congress St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

To Whom It May Concern:

AAA Arizona is writing to show its support for the \$25 million Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond. While many people think of AAA Arizona only as an advocate for the safety and security of motorists, AAA also supports pedestrian issues. After all, everyone is a pedestrian at some point each day, so this bond has the potential to affect people in a very positive way.

The bond encompasses several important parts that will help Pima County. For example, shade and safe access should be a priority, especially in Tucson's unforgiving climate. The bond will allow for projects to take place around Pima County. In addition, the potential to connect neighborhoods to community destinations and safe routes to community facilities will be useful and attractive to residents. Plus, incorporating bus stops as a pedestrian destination is important.

Giving up the car keys is one of the most difficult decisions many seniors will have to make. An unforgiving pedestrian atmosphere only makes that decision more difficult – and potentially could result in more dangerous roadways.

Sincerely,

Valerie Vinyard
AAA Arizona

AAA, There when You Need Us Most



PIMA COUNCIL ON AGING
Advocacy, Action, Assistance

Area Agency on Aging – a nonprofit organization since 1967

May 14, 2014

Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
Chairman and Members
c/o Pima County Administrator's Office
130 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond Proposal

Dear Chairman and Members,

We are writing to you today in support of a major pedestrian funding initiative proposed by Living Streets Alliance in the next Pima County Bond. The Pima County Council on Aging advocates for the well-being and independence in the lives of older adults in Pima County, and accessibility to a safe and comfortable walking environment is central to this mission. Older adults are major stakeholders in the pedestrian environment, given that they comprise a substantial proportion of citizens who do not drive. As the share of the Pima County population that is over 65 increases to over 20% by 2030, a growing number of residents will experience mobility limitations and other disabilities that affect their transportation choices. Tragically, while more are likely to be a pedestrian, older adults are also often killed or incapacitated in a pedestrian crash. The Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond Program thus addresses both the concerns and priorities of our older population.

There are several aspects of this Bond proposal that merit support. One of these is the availability to fund projects across all Pima County jurisdictions, as well as the flexibility of the projects based on the needs of the community. A safe, shady and accessible pedestrian network allows seniors to engage in the community and engage in an enjoyable form of exercise, which contributes to a higher quality of life among our older population. We also are pleased by the emphasis of this bond proposal on connecting neighborhoods to community destinations and particularly among low-income residents. Community facilities are often located in and around neighborhoods and attractive and safe routes would increase access and use of these resources. The incorporation of transit and bus stops as a pedestrian destination is also an important feature. We also support the idea of using pedestrian infrastructure to support local business. Seniors are also consumers and better able to participate in the local economy when they can arrive to a business on foot.

We are pleased to express our support for the \$25 million Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond and look forward to these opportunities for pedestrian improvements across our region being awarded and funded.

Sincerely,

W. Mark Clark
President & CEO





May 8, 2014

Pima County Bond Committee
Chairman and Members
130 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Chairman and Members,

We are writing in recommendation of the Living Streets Alliance pedestrian infrastructure bond proposal. City of Tucson Pedestrian Advisory Committee convened our first meeting in September of 2013 at the behest of Mayor Rothschild, at least partially in response to a staggering number of pedestrian deaths in the city in the past year. The PAC represents all six city wards, as well as constituencies exceptionally impacted by the walking environment that include youth, the elderly, and the disabled. The PAC has developed an overall mission: ***to identify and set priorities in policies, programs, and projects to create a complete pedestrian environment for Tucson.***

As PAC members engage in a process of refining our goals under this mission, we are increasingly aware that the major constraint to creating pedestrian infrastructure is a distinct and equitable funding stream for pedestrian projects. Overall, pedestrian funding makes up less than 2% of transportation **despite the fact** that everyone is a pedestrian, and one-third of our community cannot or does not drive and thus relies upon walking as a major form of transportation. This bond proposal fits well with the vision of the PAC to increase funding, and would allow jurisdictions to identify and pursue priorities for their communities, and the resulting projects would create both a vision and a roadmap for the future.

Projects that fall under the scope of pedestrian infrastructure include a variety of approaches to meet the needs of diverse community. These include: 1) Improved connectivity created by safe crossings between neighborhoods and in reaching adjacent amenities using tools such as high visibility crosswalks, curb extensions, crossing refuges, ADA compliant curb ramps and on-ramp pedestrian signals; 2) continuous well-maintained sidewalks of adequate width; 3) Streetscape improvements that make walking both comfortable and attractive; 4) Traffic calming techniques such as road diets, corner bulbouts, traffic circles, and planted medians that create quieter, local roadways; 5) Routes to destinations close to home and work, such as local businesses, libraries, parks and community centers; and 6) Green infrastructure that creates a pleasant microclimate using parkways, rain gardens and street trees.

This bond proposal was popular among residents who responded to the county-wide survey. This may reflect the sheer numbers of people potentially impacted by the bond, as well as the multiple benefits of an improved walking environment such as reduced traffic congestion, improved health outcomes, increased access to community resources, improved air and water quality and a curbed heat island effect. The PAC members view this bond proposal as an important step that provides further momentum to city and regional leaders interested in developing Tucson as a vibrant, attractive and profitable environment for youth, young professionals, businesses, and older residents seeking economic security and quality of life.

Recognizing the number and importance of the many projects being proposed to the Pima Bond Advisory Committee (BAC) and the competing and diverse needs of our community, the CoT PAC members strongly and respectfully urge the BAC to support this Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond Program for the benefit of all County residents.

Sincerely,

Maia Ingram, Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair
(520) 275-6369 – maiai@email.arizona.edu

B.J. Cordova, Vice Chair
(520) 481-3223 – wildcatbeej@hotmail.com



Southern Section

southernsectionboard@gmail.com

Board of Directors

May 12, 2014

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Sarah Meggison

Chairman and Members

Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
c/o Pima County Administrator's Office
130 W Congress Street
Tucson AZ 85701

Subject: Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond Proposal

CC: Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator

On behalf of the Arizona Planning Association Southern Section Board, it is my pleasure to write a letter in support for the Living Streets Alliance Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond Program.

Everyone walks- and improving the walkability of this region benefits us all; from healthier waist lines to raises in housing values, and benefits to the environment. Making our region more walkable may also reduce the number of unnecessary deaths and injuries caused by people walking in vehicular lanes where no sidewalk exists or crossing streets.

The Arizona Planning Association Southern Section board feels strongly that supporting the Pedestrian Safety and Comfort bond is the best investment Pima County can make for the future of its residents. We want walking to be safe and comfortable in Pima County.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Donofrio

Orlanthis Henderson

Artemio Hoyos, AICP

Katharine Hardy

Anna Casadei, AICP

Jenna Reilly

Sarah Meggison

**Chairman and Members
Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
c/o Pima County Administrator's Office
130 We. Congress Street
Tucson, AZ 85701**

**Subject: Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond Proposal
CC: Chuck Huckleberry, Pima County Administrator**

14 May 2014

As Chair of the Senior Impact Coalition of United Way of Tucson & Southern Arizona, I submit this letter of support for the Living Streets Alliance Pedestrian Safety & Comfort Bond Proposal.

The proposal aligns with the core goals of healthy and independent seniors. Safe and attractive walkways can increase physical and mental health, decrease social isolation, and offer access to transportation alternatives that can be economical for seniors of many ages and incomes. The economic and environmental values contained within the proposal elements are critical to the future our community.

Please vote in support of this proposal.

Sincerely,



**Roger Forrester, Chair
Senior Impact Coalition
United Way of Tucson & Southern Arizona**



Memo To: Chair and Members of the Bond Advisory Committee

From: Judy Clinco, Co-Chair, ELDER Alliance *JJC*

Date: 14 May 2014

RE: Support for Living Streets Alliance Pedestrian Safety & Comfort Bond Program Proposal

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the ELDER Alliance, a collaboration of local agencies and community members that seeks to create aging friendly communities and services throughout Pima County that are responsive to the voices and perspectives of older adults. Our participating partners include the City of Tucson, Jewish Family & Children's Services of Southern Arizona, Imagine Greater Tucson, Independent Transportation Network of Greater Tucson, Interfaith Community Services, Our Family, Pima County Health Department, Pima Council on Aging, United Way of Tucson & Southern Arizona, and the University of Arizona Center on Aging. We receive funding support from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona and the Knisely Family Foundation.

We share many values of sustainable community development with the Living Streets Alliance. The elements of the proposed bond program for Pedestrian Safety & Comfort reflect the lessons learned about the needs and wishes for positive aging in several local neighborhoods and communities with whom we have worked.

We urge you to vote in favor of this proposal.

May 14, 2014

Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
c/o Pima County Administrator's Office
130 W Congress Street
Tucson AZ 85701

RE: Pedestrian Safety and Walkability Improvements

Dear Chairman Hecker and Committee Members,

The purpose of the Arizona Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (AZ ASLA) is, in part, to advocate for the advancement of landscape architecture as an instrument of service in the public welfare. There is much to recommend the proposal provided by the Living Streets Alliance, and I believe the resulting project will support the goals of AZ ASLA.

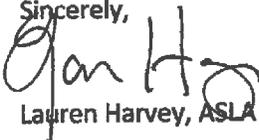
In the key areas of sustainability, climate change, and the environment an enhanced pedestrian component of the local transportation infrastructure promotes a less car centered culture which, in turn, lowers harmful emissions and minimizes new roadway construction thus reducing the Urban Heat Island Effect. Jurisdictions that invest in this type of green infrastructure will lead the country as we all come to terms with climate change.

As younger generations gravitate towards urban centers that offer not only employment but a high quality of life, they are likely to choose a living environment that includes healthful pedestrian routes to employers, and interesting public spaces including inviting streetscapes. Cities and counties that embrace these needs will be more likely to attract and retain a highly skilled work force and major employers.

In reviewing the proposal made by the Living Streets Alliance, it is clear this organization has consulted with the jurisdictions within Pima County addressing their specific concerns. Additionally, Living Streets Alliance focused on the highest unmet needs within our multi-modal transportation system and has tailored a competitive request for consideration by the Pima County Bond Advisory Committee.

As the Southern Section Chair of the Arizona Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, I offer my full support for Pedestrian Safety and Walkability Improvements.

Sincerely,



Lauren Harvey, ASLA



PRIMAVERA

**PROVIDING
PATHWAYS
OUT OF POVERTY**

151 W. 40TH STREET
TUCSON, AZ 85713
520-882-5383
WWW.PRIMAVERA.ORG

May 13, 2014

Chairman and Members
Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
c/o Pima County Administrator's Office
130 W Congress Street
Tucson AZ 85701

Subject: Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond Proposal

Chairman and Members:

The Primavera Foundation strongly supports the Living Streets Alliance request to include \$25,000,000 in bond funds for pedestrian capital improvements in the region.

The Primavera Foundation provides pathways out of poverty through safe, affordable housing, workforce development and neighborhood revitalization. Every year Primavera works with approximately 7,500 participants who are low-income, very low-income and/or homeless. Most of our participants rely on public transportation, bicycles and walking to get themselves around the city to jobs, school, doctor appointments, to see family and friends, etc. Although our region has made many improvements in the area of alternative modes of transportation, many of our neighborhoods and roads are designed to put vehicle traffic first. Primavera believes that the requested \$25,000,000 in bond funds will go a long way in protecting our current citizen pedestrians and encouraging others to get out and walk for their health and the environment.

We also support the Living Streets Alliance's proposal to strengthen and support already existing programs and initiatives in the region that work to integrate pedestrian improvements, like Pima County's Neighborhood Reinvestment Program.

If you have any questions about our support for this bond funding, please contact me at pchurchison@primavera.org or 520/882-5383. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peggy Hutchison
Chief Executive Officer
CC: Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator



PRIMAVERA

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Chief Executive Officer
CC: Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator