



September 10, 2014

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

Dear Chairman and Members,

We are writing to express our support for the Living Streets Alliance pedestrian infrastructure bond proposal. For the last several years our coalition has worked to promote a healthier South Tucson, a community that is heavily minority (80% Hispanic, 7% Native American) and very poor (54% of individuals below the poverty level). Those factors create a number of concerns.

Obesity and related chronic diseases are a special problem for minority communities and active transportation choices such as walking and bicycling are an important part of any prevention strategies. At the same time, low income individuals are more at risk of being involved in pedestrian-involved crashes as they rely heavily on walking and public transportation for daily commutes. Hispanics are also more likely to be involved in pedestrian accidents than other ethnic groups, with Hispanics and American Indian seniors having the highest pedestrian fatality rate of any ethnic group.

Despite significant upgrades in pedestrian safety infrastructure in recent years, South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue remains a dangerous street for pedestrians because of a heavy volume of foot traffic related to our very busy Sun Tran bus route (more than 300,000 boardings/year in South Tucson). Also, the city is home to a concentration of social service providers, especially providers of services to the homeless. These individuals, many impaired by substance abuse or mental health issues, are often endangered by vehicle traffic especially when attempting to cross the avenue between intersections.

The South Tucson Healthy Habits Coalition includes representatives from our schools, the UA, nonprofit partners and city and county government and promotes a range of community health-focused activities. The encouragement of walking as a viable transportation alternative would very much further our goals. We support the South Tucson projects, which include streetscape improvements and green infrastructure along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, as well as traffic calming and green infrastructure on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The projects were the subject of a LSA-sponsored briefing before our group on September 9. We ask you to support the LSA bond proposal.

Sincerely and on behalf of the Coalition,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alonzo Morado".

Alonzo Morado, Primavera Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Orduna".

Michelle Orduna, House of Neighborly Service

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Parlin".

Jennifer Parlin, Garden Kitchen