May 15, 2014

To: The Chairman and Members of the Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
Subject: Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond Proposal

Dear Bond Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the Menlo Park Neighborhood Association I am submitting this letter in support of the Living Streets Alliance Bond Proposal designed to improve pedestrian safety and walkability in the Tucson region.

While the intent of the proposed bond speaks for itself, it is important to call attention to the exemplary work that is already being carried out by the Living Streets Alliance (LSA) in our community. Recently, the Menlo Park Neighborhood Association was the beneficiary of a Walkability Assessment workshop conducted by LSA in concert with neighborhood residents. The interactive workshop engaged participants to discover features that characterize a walkable neighborhood. Following a professional educational presentation residents toured Menlo Park to assess the walking environment and to see and understand the value of walkability.

We learned that communities that support walkability are safer places to live - an important fact in Tucson where, last year, there were 20 pedestrian fatalities. We learned that walkable neighborhoods: promote physical health; provide better access for people of all abilities; increase property values; improve air quality; reduce greenhouse gas emissions and much more.

At one time or another during the day we are all pedestrians. So it makes sense for the Bond Committee to approve a relatively small investment that would go a long way to improving the quality of life for all the residents of Pima County.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Gene Einfrank, president
Menlo Park Neighborhood Association