Chairman and Members,

Local First Arizona strongly supports the Living Streets Alliance request to include $25,000,000 in bond funds for pedestrian capital improvements for the 12th Avenue business corridor.

Local First Arizona is the largest local business coalition in North America. We represent over 2,500 Arizona owned businesses. As a local business coalition we are dedicated to preserving and promoting the maintenance and development of dense, walkable business districts. We know that these are economically vibrant areas that promote job and business growth in our cities. Knight Foundation Soul of the Community reports have identified walkable streets as one of the top 3 factors in creating community attachment and have shown that this attachment correlates positively to higher GDP. We have also seen studies that also positively correlate community attachment to higher voter turnout and increased tax revenues paid. Other studies have shown that businesses in walkable districts pay an average of 27-54% higher rental rates for these areas, leading to an increase in property values and higher tax revenues.

These walkable, pedestrian friendly neighborhood destinations are vital to economic competitiveness and attracting and retaining key community members and youth. For all of these reasons, Local First AZ strongly supports the Pedestrian Safety and Comfort Bond Proposal.

If you have any questions about our support of this bond funding, please contact me at erika@localfirstaz.com or 520-628-2728. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erika Mitnik-White
Southern Arizona Coordinator, Local First Arizona

CC: Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator, Kimber Lanning, Executive Director LFA, Nicole.Fyffe@pima.gov, Emily Yetman, Living Streets Alliance