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