

March 24, 2022

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
Attn: Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg,

I am writing to express the support of Arizona Forward for the Rio Reimagined - 3rd Street Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge. The project will create a safe, attractive, and needed dedicated bicycle and pedestrian connection across the Rio Salado, which poses a significant physical barrier for transportation between Central City and South Phoenix. Additionally, this project will provide modernized, enhanced, and environmentally sensitive trail improvements along the southern bank of the Rio Salado to match connecting segments of updated trails. These improvements will provide a safer facility for recreation and commuting benefits for bicyclists and pedestrians across Phoenix, seamlessly connecting to trails systems in neighboring jurisdictions City of Tempe and City of Mesa.

This project will deliver dedicated bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to improve safety, increase mobility, prioritize equity-based project investment, contribute to the state of good repair, encourage economic development, and promote environmentally sustainable modal choices and investments.

The Rio Reimagined – 3rd Street Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge continues to build off the regional Rio Reimagined vision as pioneered by the late Senator John McCain. This investment would be a step forward toward this long-term regional vision and help cement the Rio Salado as an integral community asset for future generations.

Arizona Forward's legacy of forming the original Rio Salado Development District, which now decades later, continues with the Rio Reimagined efforts, is testament to our commitment to continuing to support and advocate for improvements to the project. Specifically, the connection created by the bridge to those who may not have other transportation options is critically important.

The Rio Reimagined - 3rd Street Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge supports the interests of my constituents by:

- *Increasing safety, connectivity, and accessibility for bicycle and pedestrian access the Rio Salado*
- *Committing to equity-based investments benefiting historically disadvantaged communities*
- *Investing in low- and no-emission multimodal networks*



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- *Considering environmentally conscious improvements along the Rio Salado banks with special consideration for the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area*
- *Supporting economic development opportunities and advancing individual investments towards the Rio Reimagined vision*
- *Continuing a long legacy of community support for a critical environmental project*

Arizona Forward strongly supports the US Department of Transportation granting this award to the City of Phoenix, and, by doing so, supporting the continued economic development, and improving quality of life within the state of Arizona.

Sincerely,

Lori Singleton
President & CEO
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