

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

September 11, 2024

Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write regarding the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) proposal submitted by the Town of Marana for \$40 million in funding with a match of \$10 million. Funding from this program would be used to grade-separate the Cortaro Farms Road crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town of Marana.

Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles per day where it crosses the main Union Pacific railroad line between Long Beach and El Paso. These factors contribute to the risk of tragic vehicle/train crashes. Furthermore, Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor for the State of Arizona, and there are millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing land uses within one mile of the crossing that drives economic growth for southern Arizona. The Town of Marana has taken multiple actions to improve the traffic operations at this railroad crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. However, stopgap measures cannot address the serious operational problems that occur when a train brings traffic to a standstill.

Programs like the RCE will help the town of Marana implement the necessary grade-separation which will increase road safety and reduce emissions from idle traffic. Additionally, the program will help boost the local economy as residents can travel to jobs and stores more efficiently.

In accordance with all existing rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, we respectfully request you give this proposal full and fair consideration as you make this important funding decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kelly". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Mark Kelly  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyrsten Sinema". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator

JUAN CISCOMANI  
6TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

1429 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0306  
(202) 225-2542

1636 N. SWAN ROAD, SUITE 200  
TUCSON, AZ 85712  
(520) 881-3588

2600 E. WILCOX DRIVE, ROOM H-106  
SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635  
(520) 459-3115

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0306

**COMMITTEES:**  
**APPROPRIATIONS**  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION  
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
**VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

September 11, 2024

Amit Bose  
Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
U.S Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

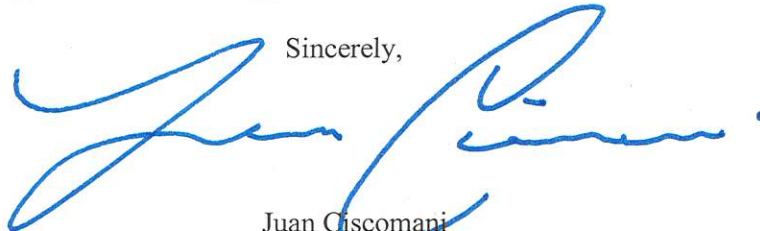
I write regarding the Town of Marana's application for funds under the Federal Railroad Administration's Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program. Please give their application full and fair consideration under all applicable rules and laws.

The stated purpose of the RCE Program is to fund highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods. In the Town of Marana, which is one of the fastest-growing communities in the State of Arizona, Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor intersecting the railroad crossing, home to millions of square feet of retail, industrial, and manufacturing land uses within one mile. This proposal seeks to eliminate the railroad crossing by enhancing the design, safety and access to traffic via an overpass, thereby reducing congestion coming off Interstate 10 and connecting to surrounding commercial and suburban areas.

According to the sponsors, this is one of the projects identified by the town as a proposed priority in the regional transportation authority plan. The State of Arizona has invested \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Road and Interstate 10, near the railroad crossing. Because of the railroad's proximity to this interchange, a new Cortaro Farms Road overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad has been included in the overall planning. Further, the Town aims to use these funds to refresh the design concept report and NEPA documents and begin the final design in advance of the vote for the continuation of the regional sales tax dedicated to regional transportation improvements.

In summary, the Town of Marana's RCE concept would result in significant progress toward meeting local and national goals for the safety and mobility of traffic. For these reasons and those further described in their grant application, I would appreciate your full and fair consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Juan Ciscomani  
Member of Congress

September 16, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Subject: Town of Marana's Application for Railroad Crossing Elimination Funding

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to support for the Town of Marana's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding to grade-separate the Cortaro Farms Road crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town of Marana, Arizona. This is a busy interstate interchange with an at-grade rail crossing and a high priority for the region. There are many reasons to support this effort, among them, safety, economic strength, and sustainability:

- **Safety.** The Town of Marana is one of the fastest-growing towns in the State of Arizona, and the railroad bisects the Town of Marana. Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles per day where it crosses the main Union Pacific railroad line between Long Beach and El Paso. These factors contribute to the risk of tragic vehicle/train crashes. The only way to eliminate conflicts between trains and vehicles is to eliminate the crossing.
- **Economic Vitality.** Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor for the State of Arizona, and there are millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing land uses within one mile of the crossing that drive economic growth for southern Arizona.
- **Quality of Life.** The Town of Marana has taken multiple actions to improve the traffic operations at this railroad crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. However, stopgap measures cannot fully address issues that occur when a train brings traffic to a standstill. People are delayed getting to their jobs, businesses productivity suffers, and citizens cannot access resources.
- **Sustainability.** Long queues of traffic idling at the Cortaro Farms railroad crossing produce emissions that impair air quality locally and increase carbon emissions.

The State of Arizona allocated \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Rd and Interstate 10. Because of the railroad's proximity to the Interstate, a new Cortaro Farms Road interchange includes an overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad. These monies are being used to leverage additional funding, such as this RCE grant, to allow for a new Cortaro Farms Road bridge that spans both the railroad and Interstate 10. The Town aims to use these funds to refresh the design concept report and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and begin the final design in advance of the vote for the continuation of the regional sales tax dedicated to regional transportation improvements.

ADOT is happy to be working with the Town of Marana and supports their partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad to bring this important project to fruition. ADOT encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the Town of Marana, as well.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Anthony Casselman in black ink, featuring a stylized 'A' and a long horizontal flourish.

Anthony Casselman  
Southcentral District Administrator

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Chair:** Dave Mottola  
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Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Aдриanna Alexander  
Javier Avalos  
Michael Aylmer  
Leigh Branston  
Anne-Marie Braswell  
Marielle Cenicerros  
Monica Fowler  
Brian Heithoff  
Sebastian Magaddino  
Jeffery Saunders  
Dan Streeter  
Paige Watson  
Nycholas Weaver

On behalf of the Marana Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for the Town of Marana's application for Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding. This funding is crucial for grade-separating the Cortaro Farms Road crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad in Marana, Arizona. The proposed project offers significant benefits in terms of safety, economic vitality, quality of life, and sustainability:

**Safety:** As one of Arizona's fastest-growing towns, Marana is bisected by the Union Pacific Railroad. Cortaro Farms Road handles over 20,000 vehicles daily at this crossing. Given the high volume of traffic and the presence of the main railroad line between Long Beach and El Paso, the risk of vehicle/train collisions is substantial. Eliminating the crossing entirely is the only effective way to address these safety concerns.

**Economic Vitality:** Cortaro Farms Road is a critical freight corridor in Arizona. The area within one mile of the crossing hosts millions of square feet of retail, industrial, and manufacturing facilities, which drive substantial economic growth for southern Arizona. Improving this crossing will enhance the efficiency of freight movement and support local economic development.

**Quality of Life:** Despite the Town of Marana's efforts to mitigate traffic issues at this crossing, stopgap measures are insufficient to resolve the severe operational problems caused by train delays. Traffic standstills disrupt access to jobs, hinder business productivity, and impact citizens' access to essential resources.

**Ex-Officio Members**

Curt Woody

**Sustainability:** Long queues of idling vehicles at the Cortaro Farms Road crossing contribute to poor air quality and increased carbon emissions, exacerbating climate change. A grade separation would reduce idling and associated emissions, contributing to a cleaner environment.

**Amanda Wiggins**  
President/CEO

The State of Arizona has allocated \$10 million for upgrading the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Road and Interstate 10. This funding will be used to support a new interchange that includes an overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad. Leveraging the RCE grant will enable the construction of a new bridge that spans both the railroad and the interstate. These funds will help update the design concept report and NEPA documents and advance the final design ahead of the regional sales tax vote dedicated to transportation improvements.

The Marana Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Town of Marana's collaboration with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Arizona Department of Transportation to advance this vital project. We urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide its support as well.



**Amanda Wiggins** | President/CEO, Marana Chamber of Commerce  
O: 520.682.4314 | C: 520.909.4109  
[amandawiggins@maranachamber.com](mailto:amandawiggins@maranachamber.com)

**COMMISSIONERS**  
Jim O'Connor – Chairman  
Lea Márquez Peterson  
Anna Tovar  
Kevin Thompson  
Nick Myers



Douglas R. Clark  
**Executive Director**

Chris B. Watson  
**Safety Division Director**

## ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

September 3, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

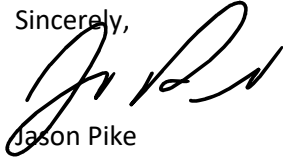
The Railroad Safety Division of the Arizona Corporation Commission is pleased to support the Town of Marana's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding to eliminate the at-grade crossing at Cortaro Farms Road and the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town of Marana, Arizona. There are many reasons to support this effort, among them, safety, economic strength, and sustainability:

- **Safety.** The Town of Marana is one of the fastest-growing towns in the State, of Arizona, and the railroad bisects the Town. Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles per day over the Union Pacific main line. These factors contribute to the risk of tragic vehicle/train crashes. The only way to eliminate conflicts between trains and vehicles is to eliminate the crossing, altogether.
- **Economic Vitality.** Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor for the State of Arizona, and there are millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing land uses within one mile of the crossing that drives economic growth for southern Arizona.
- **Quality of Life.** The Town of Marana has taken multiple actions to improve the traffic operations at this railroad crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. However, stopgap measures cannot address the serious operational problems that occur when a train brings traffic to a standstill. People are delayed getting to their jobs, businesses productivity suffers, and citizens cannot access resources.
- **Sustainability.** Long queues of traffic idling at the Cortaro Farms Road railroad crossing produce emissions that impair air quality locally and increase carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

The State of Arizona has earmarked \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Road and Interstate 10. Because of the railroad's proximity to the interstate, a new Cortaro Farms Road interchange includes an overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad. These monies are being used to leverage additional funding, such as this RCE grant, to allow for a new Cortaro Farms Road bridge that spans both the railroad and Interstate 10. The Town aims to use these funds to refresh the design concept report and NEPA documents and begin the final design in advance of the vote for the continuation of the regional sales tax dedicated to regional transportation improvements.

The Railroad Safety Division of the Arizona Corporation Commission supports the Town of Marana's partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Arizona Department of Transportation to bring this important project to fruition, and encourages the USDOT to support the Town of Marana, as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Pike", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Jason Pike

Grade Crossing Inspector - Railroad Safety Division

Arizona Corporation Commission

1300 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85007





September 3, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

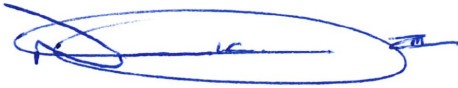
I am writing on behalf of Northwest Fire District to support for the Town of Marana's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding to grade-separate the Cortaro Farms Road crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town of Marana, Arizona. There are many reasons to support this effort, among them, safety, economic strength, and sustainability:

- **Safety.** The Town of Marana is one of the fastest-growing towns in the State, of Arizona, and the railroad bisects the Town of Marana. Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles per day where it crosses the main Union Pacific railroad line between Long Beach and El Paso. These factors contribute to the risk of tragic vehicle/train crashes. The only way to eliminate conflicts between trains and vehicles is to eliminate the crossing, altogether.
- **Economic Vitality.** Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor for the State of Arizona, and there are millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing land uses within one mile of the crossing that drives economic growth for southern Arizona.
- **Quality of Life.** The Town of Marana has taken multiple actions to improve the traffic operations at this railroad crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. However, stopgap measures cannot address the serious operational problems that occur when a train brings traffic to a standstill. People are delayed getting to their jobs, businesses productivity suffers, and citizens cannot access resources.
- **Sustainability.** Long queues of traffic idling at the Cortaro Farms Road railroad crossing produce emissions that impair air quality locally and increase carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

The State of Arizona has earmarked \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Road and Interstate 10. Because of the railroad's proximity to the interstate, a new Cortaro Farms Road interchange includes an overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad. These monies are being used to leverage additional funding, such as this RCE grant, to allow for a new Cortaro Farms Road bridge that spans both the railroad and Interstate 10. The Town aims to use these funds to refresh the design concept report and NEPA documents and begin the final design in advance of the vote for the continuation of the regional sales tax dedicated to regional transportation improvements.

Northwest Fire District supports the Town of Marana's partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Arizona Department of Transportation to bring this important project to fruition. Northwest Fire District encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the Town of Marana, as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Norman K. Bradley, III", enclosed within a blue oval. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Norman K. "Brad" Bradley, III  
Fire Chief

## GOVERNING BOARD

Maribel Lopez, Ed.D., President  
Kathryn Mikronis, Vice President  
Tom Carlson, Member  
Hunter Holt, Member  
David Willard, Member



## ADMINISTRATION

Daniel Streeter, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Mark Goligoski, Assistant Superintendent  
Denise Linsalata, Assistant Superintendent  
Kristin Reidy, Assistant Superintendent  
Thomas Bogart, Chief Financial Officer  
Joshua Bayne, Executive Director

September 5, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the Superintendent of Marana Unified School District, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Town of Marana's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding to grade-separate the Cortaro Farms Road crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town of Marana, Arizona. There are many reasons to support this effort, among them, safety, economic strength, and sustainability:

- **Safety.** The Town of Marana is one of the fastest-growing towns in the State, of Arizona, and the railroad bisects the Town of Marana. Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles per day where it crosses the main Union Pacific railroad line between Long Beach and El Paso. These factors contribute to the risk of tragic vehicle/train crashes. The only way to eliminate conflicts between trains and vehicles is to eliminate the crossing, altogether.
- **Economic Vitality.** Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor for the State of Arizona, and there are millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing land uses within one mile of the crossing that drives economic growth for southern Arizona.
- **Quality of Life.** The Town of Marana has taken multiple actions to improve the traffic operations at this railroad crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. However, stopgap measures cannot address the serious operational problems that occur when a train brings traffic to a standstill. People are delayed getting to their jobs, businesses productivity suffers, and citizens cannot access resources.
- **Sustainability.** Long queues of traffic idling at the Cortaro Farms Road railroad crossing produce emissions that impair air quality locally and increase carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

The State of Arizona has earmarked \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Road and Interstate 10. Because of the railroad's proximity to the interstate, a new Cortaro Farms Road interchange includes an overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad.

*Inspiring students to learn today and lead tomorrow.*

Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Page 2

These monies are being used to leverage additional funding, such as this RCE grant, to allow for a new Cortaro Farms Road bridge that spans both the railroad and Interstate 10. The Town aims to use these funds to refresh the design concept report and NEPA documents and begin the final design in advance of the vote for the continuation of the regional sales tax dedicated to regional transportation improvements.

The Marana Unified School District supports the Town of Marana's partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Arizona Department of Transportation to bring this important project to fruition. The District encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the Town of Marana, as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Streeter", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Daniel Streeter  
Superintendent

September 4, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of Pima Association of Governments (PAG), the region's designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), to express our support for the Town of Marana's application for Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding. The funding is sought to grade-separate the Cortaro Farms Road crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town of Marana, Arizona. This project is critical for several reasons, including safety, economic vitality and sustainability:

**Safety:** The Town of Marana is one of the fastest-growing communities in Arizona, and the railroad bisects the town. Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles daily across the main Union Pacific railroad line between Long Beach and El Paso. These factors increase the risk of vehicle-train collisions. The only way to remove the risk is to eliminate the crossing and provide grade separation.

**Economic Vitality:** Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor for the State of Arizona, with millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing land uses within a mile of the crossing which drives economic growth in southern Arizona.

**Quality of Life:** The Town of Marana has taken numerous actions to improve traffic operations at this railroad crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. However, these stopgap measures cannot address the significant operational problems that arise when a train halts traffic. These delays impact job access, business productivity, public safety response time and citizen access to resources.

**Sustainability:** Long queues of idling traffic at the Cortaro Farms Road railroad crossing contribute to air pollution and increase carbon emissions, negatively impacting regional air quality.

The State of Arizona has earmarked \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Road and Interstate 10. Due to the railroad's

proximity to the interstate, the new Cortaro Farms Road interchange will include an overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad. These funds are intended to leverage additional funding, such as this RCE grant, to construct a new Cortaro Farms Road bridge that spans both the railroad and Interstate 10. The Town aims to use these funds to update the design concept report and NEPA documents and begin final design in advance of potential regional sales tax resources dedicated to regional transportation improvements.

PAG strongly supports the Town of Marana's partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Arizona Department of Transportation to bring this important regional safety, economic vitality and sustainability project to fruition. We urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the Town of Marana in this effort as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'FM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Farhad Moghimi, Executive Director  
Pima Association of Governments



## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER  
115 N. CHURCH AVE., 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR, Suite 231, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317  
520-724-8661, FAX 520-724-8171

JAN LESHER  
County Administrator

September 4, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of Pima County to support for the Town of Marana's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding to grade-separate the Cortaro Farms Road crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town of Marana, Arizona. There are many reasons to support this effort, among them, safety, economic strength, and sustainability:

- **Safety.** The Town of Marana is one of the fastest-growing towns in the State, of Arizona, and the railroad bisects the Town of Marana. Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles per day where it crosses the main Union Pacific railroad line between Long Beach and El Paso. These factors contribute to the risk of tragic vehicle/train crashes. The only way to eliminate conflicts between trains and vehicles is to eliminate the crossing, altogether.
- **Economic Vitality.** Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor for the State of Arizona, and there are millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing land uses within one mile of the crossing that drives economic growth for southern Arizona.
- **Quality of Life.** The Town of Marana has taken multiple actions to improve the traffic operations at this railroad crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. However, stopgap measures cannot address the serious operational problems that occur when a train brings traffic to a standstill. People are delayed getting to their jobs, businesses productivity suffers, and citizens cannot access resources.
- **Sustainability.** Long queues of traffic idling at the Cortaro Farms Road railroad crossing produce emissions that impair air quality locally and increase carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

The State of Arizona has earmarked \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Road and Interstate 10. Because of the railroad's proximity to the interstate, a new Cortaro Farms Road interchange includes an overpass over

Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Re: **Letter of Support for Town of Marana's Application for RCE Funding**

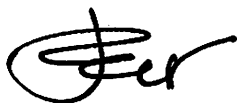
September 4, 2024

Page 2

the Union Pacific Railroad. These monies are being used to leverage additional funding, such as this RCE grant, to allow for a new Cortaro Farms Road bridge that spans both the railroad and Interstate 10. The Town aims to use these funds to refresh the design concept report and NEPA documents and begin the final design in advance of the vote for the continuation of the regional sales tax dedicated to regional transportation improvements.

Pima County supports the Town of Marana's partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Arizona Department of Transportation to bring this important project to fruition. Pima County encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the Town of Marana, as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Lesher', written in a cursive style.

Jan Lesher  
County Administrator

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator



September 5, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Tucson Metro Chamber, representing 1,400 member businesses across the greater Tucson area, is a champion of efforts that foster business growth and community prosperity. As part of our commitment to driving regional economic growth through necessary infrastructure improvements, the Chamber strongly supports the Town of Marana's application for Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding. This funding would facilitate the grade separation of the Cortaro Farms Road crossing from the Union Pacific Railroad in Marana, Arizona, significantly enhancing local transportation infrastructure. There are many reasons to support this effort, among them, safety, economic strength, and sustainability:

- **Safety.** The Town of Marana is one of the fastest-growing towns in the State, of Arizona, and the railroad bisects the Town of Marana. Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles per day where it crosses the main Union Pacific railroad line between Long Beach and El Paso. These factors contribute to the risk of tragic vehicle/train crashes. The only way to eliminate conflicts between trains and vehicles is to eliminate the crossing, altogether.
- **Economic Vitality.** Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor for the State of Arizona, and there are millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing land uses within one mile of the crossing that drives economic growth for southern Arizona.
- **Quality of Life.** The Town of Marana has taken multiple actions to improve the traffic operations at this railroad crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. However, stopgap measures cannot address the serious operational problems that occur when a train brings traffic to a standstill. People are delayed getting to their jobs, businesses productivity suffers, and citizens cannot access resources.
- **Sustainability.** Long queues of traffic idling at the Cortaro Farms Road railroad crossing produce emissions that impair air quality locally and increase carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

The State of Arizona has earmarked \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Road and Interstate 10. Because of the railroad's proximity to the interstate, a new Cortaro Farms Road interchange includes an overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad. These monies are being used to leverage additional funding, such as this RCE grant, to allow for a new Cortaro Farms Road bridge that spans both the railroad and Interstate 10. The Town aims to use these funds to refresh the

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
September 5, 2024  
Page 2

design concept report and NEPA documents and begin the final design in advance of the vote for the continuation of the regional sales tax dedicated to regional transportation improvements.

The Tucson Metro Chamber supports the Town of Marana's partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Arizona Department of Transportation to bring this important project to fruition. The Chamber encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the Town of Marana, as well.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Guymon  
President & CEO



Southern Arizona Leadership Council

September 6, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council (SALC), I am writing to support the Town of Marana's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding to grade-separate the Cortaro Farms Road crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town of Marana, Arizona.

SALC's 160 CEO and executive business members seek to improve our region and state through economic vitality and opportunity which will lead to improving the quality of life for our communities. One of SALC's primary areas of focus is infrastructure. This RCE and grade separation at Cortaro Farms Road is critical for Marana residents and for the future of our region's transportation system.

The Town of Marana is one of the fastest-growing towns in Arizona, and the Union Pacific railroad main line bisects the town, creating a safety hazard and inhibiting commerce. Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles per day and is a key freight corridor for Arizona. There are millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing within one mile of the crossing that drive economic activity. The Town of Marana has taken multiple actions to improve traffic flow at this crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. Unfortunately, their stopgap measures have not been effective at preventing trains from bringing traffic to lengthy standstills. Long queues at the Cortaro Farms Road railroad crossing impair local air quality and increase emissions contributing to climate change. The only way to eliminate train-vehicle conflicts at this crossing and to promote the smooth flow of commercial traffic is to eliminate the crossing altogether.

The State of Arizona has earmarked \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Road and Interstate 10. Because of the railroad's proximity to the interstate, a new Cortaro Farms Road interchange includes an overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad. These monies are being used to leverage additional funding, such as this RCE grant, for a new Cortaro Farms Road bridge that spans both the railroad and Interstate 10, greatly increasing traffic efficiency and reducing emissions.

Southern Arizona Leadership Council supports the Town of Marana's partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Arizona Department of Transportation to bring this important project to fruition. SALC encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the Town of Marana on this vital project.

Sincerely,

Ted Maxwell  
President and CEO  
Southern Arizona Leadership Council



September 6, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of CalPortland to support for the Town of Marana's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding to grade-separate the Cortaro Farms Road crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town of Marana, Arizona. There are many reasons to support this effort, among them, safety, economic strength, and sustainability:

- **Safety.** The Town of Marana is one of the fastest-growing towns in the State, of Arizona, and the railroad bisects the Town of Marana. Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles per day where it crosses the main Union Pacific railroad line between Long Beach and El Paso. These factors contribute to the risk of tragic vehicle/train crashes. The only way to eliminate conflicts between trains and vehicles is to eliminate the crossing, altogether.
- **Economic Vitality.** Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor for the State of Arizona, and there are millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing land uses within one mile of the crossing that drives economic growth for southern Arizona.
- **Quality of Life.** The Town of Marana has taken multiple actions to improve the traffic operations at this railroad crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. However, stopgap measures cannot address the serious operational problems that occur when a train brings traffic to a standstill. People are delayed getting to their jobs, businesses productivity suffers, and citizens cannot access resources.
- **Sustainability.** Long queues of traffic idling at the Cortaro Farms Road railroad crossing produce emissions that impair air quality locally and increase carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

The State of Arizona has earmarked \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Road and Interstate 10. Because of the railroad's proximity to the interstate, a new Cortaro Farms Road interchange includes an overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad. These monies are being used to leverage additional funding, such as this RCE grant, to allow for a new Cortaro Farms Road bridge that spans both the railroad and Interstate 10. The Town aims to use these funds to refresh the design concept report and NEPA documents and begin the final design in advance of the vote for the continuation of the regional sales tax dedicated to regional transportation improvements.

CalPortland supports the Town of Marana's partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Arizona Department of Transportation to bring this important project to fruition. CalPortland encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the Town of Marana, as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Stoltz', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Chris Stoltz  
Vice President – Sales  
Arizona Materials Group - Tucson



9/5/2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of Swire Coca-Cola to support for the Town of Marana's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding to grade-separate the Cortaro Farms Road crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town of Marana, Arizona. There are many reasons to support this effort, among them, safety, economic strength, and sustainability:

- **Safety.** The Town of Marana is one of the fastest-growing towns in the State, of Arizona, and the railroad bisects the Town of Marana. Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles per day where it crosses the main Union Pacific railroad line between Long Beach and El Paso. These factors contribute to the risk of tragic vehicle/train crashes. The only way to eliminate conflicts between trains and vehicles is to eliminate the crossing altogether.
- **Economic Vitality.** Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor for the State of Arizona, and there are millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing land uses within one mile of the crossing that drive economic growth for southern Arizona.
- **Quality of Life.** The Town of Marana has taken multiple actions to improve the traffic operations at this railroad crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. However, stopgap measures cannot address the serious operational problems that occur when a train brings traffic to a standstill. People are delayed getting to their jobs, businesses productivity suffers, and citizens cannot access resources.
- **Sustainability.** Long queues of traffic idling at the Cortaro Farms railroad crossing produce emissions that impair air quality locally and increase carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

The State of Arizona has earmarked \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Rd and Interstate 10. Because of the railroad's proximity to the interstate, a new Cortaro Farms



Road interchange includes an overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad. These monies are being used to leverage additional funding, such as this RCE grant, to allow for a new Cortaro Farms Road bridge that spans both the railroad and Interstate 10. The Town aims to use these funds to refresh the design concept report and NEPA documents and begin the final design in advance of the vote for the continuation of the regional sales tax dedicated to regional transportation improvements.

Swire Coca-Cola supports the Town of Marana's partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Arizona Department of Transportation to bring this important project to fruition. Swire Coca-Cola encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the Town of Marana, as well.

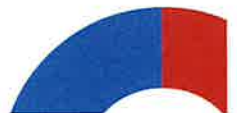
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Mottola".

David Mottola

Director of Logistics – Southern Arizona

Swire Coca-Cola







## Arizona Transportation Builders Association

1842 West Grant Road, Suite 103 • Tucson, AZ 85745  
(P) 520.623.0444 • [www.MovingOurEconomy.org](http://www.MovingOurEconomy.org)

August 30, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Office of the US Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of the Arizona Transportation Builders Association to support for the Town of Marana's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding to grade-separate the Cortaro Farms Road crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town of Marana, Arizona. There are many reasons to support this effort, among them, safety, economic strength, and sustainability:

- **Safety.** The Town of Marana is one of the fastest-growing towns in the State of Arizona, and the railroad bisects the Town of Marana. Cortaro Farms Road is an urban minor arterial that carries over 20,000 vehicles per day where it crosses the main Union Pacific railroad line between Long Beach and El Paso. These factors contribute to the risk of tragic vehicle/train crashes. The only way to eliminate conflicts between trains and vehicles is to eliminate the crossing, altogether.
- **Economic Vitality.** Cortaro Farms Road is a key freight corridor for the State of Arizona, and there are millions of square feet of retail, industrial and manufacturing land uses within one mile of the crossing that drives economic growth for southern Arizona.
- **Quality of Life.** The Town of Marana has taken multiple actions to improve the traffic operations at this railroad crossing, which is just a few hundred feet from Interstate 10. However, stopgap measures cannot address the serious operational problems that occur when a train brings traffic to a standstill. People are delayed getting to their jobs, businesses productivity suffers, and citizens cannot access resources.
- **Sustainability.** Long queues of traffic idling at the Cortaro Farms Road railroad crossing produce emissions that impair air quality locally and increase carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

The State of Arizona has earmarked \$10 million for the Town of Marana to upgrade the traffic interchange at Cortaro Farms Road and Interstate 10. Because of the railroad's proximity to the interstate, a new Cortaro Farms Road interchange includes an overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad. These monies are being used to leverage additional funding, such as this RCE grant, to allow for a new Cortaro Farms Road bridge that spans both the railroad and Interstate 10. The Town aims to use these funds to refresh the design concept report and NEPA documents and begin the final design in advance of the vote for the continuation of the regional sales tax dedicated to regional transportation improvements.



## Arizona Transportation Builders Association

1842 West Grant Road, Suite 103 • Tucson, AZ 85745

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The Arizona Transportation Builders Association supports the Town of Marana's partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad and the Arizona Department of Transportation to bring this important project to fruition. ATB encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the Town of Marana, as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Hagins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Hagins  
Executive Director, ATB