

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing regarding the 2023 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) application submitted by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in partnership with the Gila River Indian Community, to help fund the expansion of the last remaining segment of two lanes on Interstate 10 (I-10) between Phoenix and Tucson. The limitations of the current two-lane segment cause daily bottlenecks that result in heavy congestion, repeated and often deadly crashes, lengthy delays, and closures due to a lack of alternative routes.

I-10 is the core of an infrastructure backbone that is a vital commercial, recreational, and freight corridor. This interstate handles tens of millions of travelers and \$40 billion in goods each year. It connects with three other major Arizona interstates (I-8, I-17, and I-19), which link critical freight traffic from the international ports of southern Arizona and the west coast to the rest of the nation.

Locally, the route serves the Gila River Indian Community and other traditionally underserved communities in central Arizona by providing key connections to essential medical services, employment opportunities, and education. The project includes a new interchange at Seed Farm Road, which will provide direct access to the community of Sacaton, where the majority of Gila River Indian Community housing, government, and medical services – specifically the Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital – are located.

This project will also improve the existing interchange at SR-387 and Pinal Avenue, an interchange that is overwhelmed daily and results in negative impacts to local through traffic. This improvement will bring much needed relief to Gila River Indian Community members who use this busy interchange to access I-10. The project will add a general-purpose lane in each direction and provide improved roadway shoulders to significantly upgrade the safety of the heavily trafficked corridor. These improvements will reduce congestion, accelerate the movement of goods, enhance road and driver safety, prevent injury and loss of life, improve air quality, and further connect the Gila River Indian Community.

The current inability of I-10 to meet the demands placed upon it negatively impacts the economic potential of our entire state and beyond. Federal funding for this project would give ADOT the ability to complete the last portion of this corridor, strengthening this key commercial corridor for local communities, the state, and the entire nation. In accordance with all existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, we respectfully ask that you give this proposal full and fair consideration as you make this important funding decision. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Greg Stanton  
United States Congressman



Juan Ciscomani  
United States Congressman



Ruben Gallego  
United States Congressman



Raül Grijalva  
United States Congressman



Debbie Lesko  
United States Congresswoman



Andy Biggs  
United States Congressman



Elijah Crane  
United States Congressman