

RUBEN GALLEGO
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA
COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER, INTELLIGENCE
AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
WATER, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307

DC OFFICE:
1114 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4065

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1601 N 7TH STREET
SUITE 310
PHOENIX, AZ 85006-2481
(602) 256-0551

May 6, 2024

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

Re: US 60 (Grand Avenue)/35th Avenue/Indian School Road Grade Separation Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to request your full and fair consideration of the US 60 (Grand Avenue)/35th Avenue/Indian School Road Grade Separation Project under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program.

US 60 (Grand Avenue), 35th Avenue, and Indian School Road are essential corridors serving the Phoenix metropolitan area. These corridors carry substantial traffic volumes, provide access to a significant number of regional commercial and industrial employment destinations, and directly connect to the National Freight Network. Grade separation at the intersection of these corridors will eliminate conflicts with freight rail vehicles, improve travel time savings, reduce commuter delays, and increase safety. The project is in an area designated as a Historically Disadvantaged Community and an Area of Persistent Poverty.

In 2016, this intersection was ranked second nationwide by Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in a list of railroad crossings in the United States where multiple incidents have occurred in recent years. Additionally, in 2022, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) *State Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Action Plan* examined nearly 700 highway-rail grade crossings across the state and found this intersection in the top 1% in terms of risk. The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) MPDG proposal represents an important opportunity to improve safety and multi-modal freight efficiency, increase access to nearby critical economic destinations, and enhance the long-term sustainability and growth of the Phoenix metropolitan area.

This project will bring critical safety and economic benefits to the area, and I thank you for providing it with your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
MEMBER OF CONGRESS