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Gabriel Thum

November 12, 2008

RTA/PAG

Attn: Gabe Thum

177 N Church Ave, suit 405

Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: BAC SUPPORT OF 4TH AVE./FONTANA BIKE BOULEVARD

Dear RTA Bicycle-Pedestrian Working Group Members,

We, the Tucson Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee, are requesting that you give high priority to the proposed 4th Ave./Fontana Bike Boulevard as a project worthy of funding in the near future.

Our Downtown University Sub-Committee was given a presentation at its last meeting on October 20. The sub-committee endorsed the concept enthusiastically.

We would like to make the following points in support of our request.

1. Jenny Leijonhufund and the Drachman Institute, those who have put this plan together have done a very complete and thorough job, considering and incorporating many thoughtful elements.
2. The BAC supports the development of Bike Boulevards in our metropolitan area as a very enticing way to increase bicycle commuting by a great variety of people. We note the high rate of usage of the very similar 3rd Ave Bike Boulevard as an example. We would further point out the high rate of use of Mountain Ave, while not a typical Bike Boulevard, has the identical intent of an appealing bicycle commuting route.
3. This route would parallel Mountain Ave. almost one full mile to the west. It would service commuters from that area coming to the University of Arizona and into the downtown area.
4. It would be good for the neighborhoods through which it passes by offering them not only good bicycle commuting but by calming traffic on these two streets. It has been noted that there is a tendency to speed on the long unimpeded sections of both these streets.

5. This plan allows for bicycles to transit a long straight stretch from Prince to the University area with only one jog. Please note the comparison to the noted drop off in usage of the 3rd Street Bike Boulevard east of Alvernon where it meanders through the neighborhoods.

We would like to state that adding more high quality attractive bicycle commuting routes that lead to our most bicycle intensive use hub, the University of Arizona, we should succeed in increasing the percentage of our population willing to commute by bicycle.

We urge you to support this concept and thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me (coyotes@cox.net or 326-9587) with any questions or for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Beck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Beck, Chair
Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee

cc: Jim Glock, Tucson Dept. of Transportation