

GREG STANTON
ARIZONA'S 9TH DISTRICT

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 20, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I strongly support the city of Phoenix's application for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot for its PHX Cultural Corridor project. This innovative project will invest in the diverse, minority-majority communities that have been impacted by decades-long development at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport.

Sky Harbor is in the heart of the Phoenix metro area and though it did not impose the same physical barriers on communities as a freeway or rail line, its success and growth have impacted Hispanic and African American communities just as profoundly. The airport's growth has left these neighborhoods to adapt to land acquisitions and resident relocation. In light of those impacts, the cultural corridor proposed by the city is well suited to meet the requirements and intent of the grant, and also serve as a pioneering example of an aviation pilot program for the Department of Transportation.

The key elements of this project formed through an extensive community engagement process focused on the types of amenities and infrastructure that could improve the quality of life for residents, increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, and better connect people to employment in south Phoenix, the city's downtown core, and Sky Harbor. The cultural corridor concept also includes community-driven wayfinding and placemaking to honor the people and events that played a vital role in these communities throughout the city's history.

Thank you for your consideration of this effort that will support the city of Phoenix's work to reconnect and invest in these impacted communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Stanton".

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress