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Dear Transportation Enhancement Review Committee:

The Tempe Bicycle Action Group – a local nonprofit organization (501c3 status pending) that works to make bicycling a prominent, safe and convenient form of transportation in Tempe, Arizona and surrounding areas – strongly supports the City of Tempe’s project to construct a bicycle and pedestrian freeway overpass at the location where Alameda Drive ends at Interstate 10 (I-10). We believe this to be a top-priority project and one that is long overdue.

Currently, bicyclists traveling from central Tempe across I-10 have few options for freeway crossings, despite the fact that the potential connecting roads on either side of that location (Alameda Drive in Tempe; Roeser Rd. in Phoenix) have low speed limits, are well-developed for bicycle traffic, and are already heavily used by bicyclists as part of a major east-west corridor across Tempe. These bicycle routes currently dead-end at I-10, channeling bicyclists to a location with little connecting bicycling infrastructure. A non-motorized bridge at that location would complete this important east-west route.

The only existing I-10 crossing-points for bicycles and pedestrians in central Tempe are main roads with high speed limits and heavy vehicular traffic (Broadway Road and Southern Road). The most convenient of these crossing-points, Broadway Road, is also the site of a freeway on-ramp and off-ramp. The heavy traffic, multiple merging points, and high speed limits create dangerous conditions for bicycling, and deter people from considering using alternative transportation to travel through the region, compounding problems with vehicular congestion.

The proposed project has the potential to have an extremely positive impact on the residents of Tempe. The Tempe Bicycle Action Group is committed to aiding the City in construction of this overpass, and plan to facilitate public involvement in the project by soliciting input through our website and from our membership, which is composed of a diverse but avid group of bicyclists who have extensive experience with bicycling through Tempe. Through this input, we will help ensure that the overpass design meets bicycling needs and strengthens alternative transportation infrastructure in Tempe.

Sincerely,

The Tempe Bicycle Action Group

Mark Neff, President
Stan Klonowski, Vice-President
Kate Darby, Secretary
Rebecca Clark, Treasurer
Chris Crosby, Webmaster

*Working to make bicycling a prominent, safe and convenient form of transportation and recreation
in Tempe, Arizona and surrounding areas.*