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1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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June 5, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: 2015 TIGER VII Grant

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my strong support for funding for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) designated high priority project Bridge Over Tonto Creek. I understand that Gila County, Arizona will submit an application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery VII (TIGER VII) for this project.

The Bridge Over Tonto Creek project will provide an all-weather permanent crossing of the Tonto Creek. The Tonto Creek swells during regular seasonal flooding and prevents safe passage and access to the Tonto Basin community by residents and regional visitors for months at a time. Since 1995, five people have died trying to cross Tonto Creek during flood events. When the creek floods and road access is closed, residents and visitors on the east side have severely limited access to school, work and medical services. Gila County is burdened with the continuing costs of providing emergency service and basic safety measures to its citizens and visitors.

Gila County has been working on the Bridge Over Tonto Creek project since 1993. The county has made significant investments in order to make the project "shovel ready" and has the support of the local school, emergency agencies and the U.S. Forest Service. Now is the time for the federal government to lend its support to this critically important project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick  
U.S. Representative, Arizona District One