JEFFERSON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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January 6, 2025

Regional Transportation Authority
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To Whom It May Concern:

In our letter, dated Nov 22, 2024, we requested a meeting and/or clear information about a plan to complete the Grant Road Project, Phases 5/6. The letter is available at Jefferson Park Neighborhood website http://www.jeffersonpark.info/grant-rd-widening.html. We did not receive any clear, satisfactory responses from those addressed. Our inquiry to RTA brought this response from PAG:

"Thanks for your inquiry. Approximately $110 million in additional funding is required to complete Grant Road Phases 5 and 6. This need was identified through studies conducted by various committees throughout 2023 and 2024 and was unanimously recommended by PAG's Transportation Planning Committee in April 2024 and PAG's Management Committee in May 2024. The recommendation was subsequently approved by the Regional Council during its May 2024 meeting.

The need for additional funding is attributed to significant recent increases in project construction costs, as reported by the City of Tucson, which serves as the lead agency for planning, designing, constructing and managing the finances of the project.

Currently, under the statutory process, other sources of funding must be identified. At this time, funding has only been programmed to complete the design phase."

When we asked for clarification:

"A $110 million project cost increase is deemed significant under statutory laws and regulations, necessitating the consideration of alternative funding sources. At this time, no additional sources have been identified to cover the project cost increase."

This response does nothing to reassure us that Grant Road will be completed as part of the current project, nor is it included in a draft plan of RTA Next. It seems inconceivable that this project could simply be abandoned.

Unlike the First Avenue Project, which was never started, the Grant Road Project was completed in the initial phase on Grant Road up to Santa Rita Avenue. What we are left with is an untenable situation of a narrowed roadway, creating daily back-ups and traffic jams to Campbell. We respectfully request a meeting to discuss these issues, or to be provided with written clarification of the plan and possible funding sources with the responsible entities to complete the project. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, Jefferson Park Neighborhood

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