SURPRISE
ARIZONA

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SURPRISE
16000 N. CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
SURPRISE, AZ 85374
T. 623·222·1300

January 12, 2026

Arizona State Legislature
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix AZ 85007

Dear Members of the Arizona State Legislature:

We write to respectfully request your immediate attention to the escalating transportation challenges along the Grand Avenue (US 60) corridor, as documented in the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) US 60 Corridor Study and experienced daily by our community. The need for investment in this corridor has been a longstanding issue, and as the study highlights, the implementation of solutions is long overdue. As Mayor of Surprise and Councilmember representing District 1—whose constituents are among the most directly affected—we seek your leadership to secure accelerated improvements, robust state support, and federal funding to address critical safety, congestion, and quality-of-life impacts.

The MAG US 60 (Loop 303 to SR 74) Corridor Study reflects a region experiencing extraordinary population growth. Current traffic demand on the segment of US 60 between 163rd Avenue and Loop 303 is approximately 60,000 vehicles per day and is projected to exceed 160,000 vehicles per day by 2050. These figures underscore the current strain on existing state infrastructure and highlight the urgency with which solutions need to be implemented to support future traffic burdens on this state-controlled transportation corridor.

The current infrastructure is overburdened, and the impact on our residents continues to escalate with the growth of previously approved homes. On a daily basis, the folks we all have the honor of representing, continue to face crippling congestion, increased travel times, and a concerning decrease of overall safety on the roads along a corridor that serves as a vital link for commuters, freight movement, school transportation, and emergency services. Traffic queues extend up to two miles at peak times around the US 60/Bell Road intersection, demonstrating how congestion disrupts daily travel and undermines regional mobility.

Compounding these challenges, the proposed BNSF intermodal facility of approximately 4,300 acres in proximity to the corridor is expected to generate substantial freight traffic, further

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SURPRISE
16000 N. CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
SURPRISE, AZ 85374
T. 623·222·1300

intensifying congestion and safety concerns unless concurrent infrastructure capacity and operational improvements are secured.

We acknowledge and appreciate recent state appropriations and collaboration that have supported:

- A feasibility study for the Loop 303/US 60 traffic interchange;
- Near-term corridor improvements funded in part through Proposition 400 and legislative appropriations;
- Federal discretionary grants that have been secured for the broader Grand Avenue reconstruction project.

However, given the exponential population growth and projected trip demand reflected in the MAG study, these efforts, while essential, are not sufficient to meet the scale and urgency of the challenge at hand. A decade of advocacy has demonstrated that incremental improvements cannot keep pace with the current conditions and future growth.

Our residents are increasingly expressing concern about unmet infrastructure needs, including calls for a temporary moratorium on new growth approvals until critical transportation investments are realized. This sentiment stems not from opposition to growth, but from a pervasive sense that critical state transportation infrastructure has been under-resourced relative to development and quality-of-life impacts.

We are not here simply to identify and highlight the challenges our residents are facing, we are here to request your leadership in advancing specific, actionable solutions that will address the growing challenges that continue to impact the overall quality of life and safety of our residents on a daily basis. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Arizona Legislature and state leadership:

1. Prioritize additional state funding and support for US 60 and Loop 303 corridor improvements that align with MAG's recommendations and advanced planning efforts.
2. Leverage state advocacy to secure enhanced federal funding, including discretionary grants targeted at highway, interchange, and freight infrastructure improvements.
3. Support expedited implementation of near-term and long-term capital improvements, including but not limited to grade-separated interchanges, capacity enhancements, and access management strategies identified in the MAG study.

SURPRISE
ARIZONA

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SURPRISE
16000 N. CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
SURPRISE, AZ 85374
T. 623·222·1300

Addressing these needs with the urgency this situation warrants is essential to improving public safety, enhancing economic development, reducing commute congestion, and ensuring that school transportation and emergency response systems operate effectively within this rapidly growing region.

We thank you for your leadership and partnership on transportation issues of statewide significance. We stand ready to work with you to deliver meaningful, timely solutions for our constituents and the broader region.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sartor
Mayor

Nick Haney
District 1 Councilmember