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Six local bicycle and pedestrian projects receive state enhancement funds

Pima Association of Governments announces six local bicycle and pedestrian projects were awarded federal Transportation Enhancement funds. Transportation Enhancement funds are federal dollars to enhance surface transportation activities by developing projects that go above and beyond what transportation departments typically do. The total funding amount for the six local projects is approximately \$2.6 million.

The projects approved for funding are:

Project	Jurisdiction	Funding Requested	Description
Divided Urban Pathway - Mountain to First	Pima County Parks	\$444,263	Construction of a divided urban pathway on the south bank of the Rillito River between Mountain and First Avenue.
Five Points Historic Gateway	City of Tucson	\$494,398	Construction of sidewalks and pedestrian lighting to fill in missing gaps in the pedestrian system in the historic Five Points area.
Pima Region Middle School Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Program	Pima County & City of Tucson	\$500,000	A bicycle and pedestrian education program targeting 7 th graders throughout Pima County.
Columbus Corridor – Pedestrian Path	City of Tucson	\$190,061	Construction of a six foot asphalt pedestrian path along Columbus from 22 nd St. to Timrod, providing improved pedestrian access to students of Lineweaver school.
Park Ave Enhancement	City of Tucson	\$498,958	Construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities along Park Ave. from Ft. Lowell to Speedway.
Santa Cruz River Shared Use Path (Phase III)	Marana	\$500,000	Construction of 2.7 miles of shared-use path running along the northwestern bank protection of the Santa Cruz river.

The Arizona State Transportation Board, on Nov. 16, approved the six projects submitted by jurisdictions in the Tucson region; 39 projects were submitted for consideration from throughout the state.

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Most of these community projects could not be built without Transportation Enhancement funds. "The City of Tucson is extremely thankful to be able to use Transportation Enhancement funds because it allows us to fund projects we otherwise would not be able to pursue," said Jim Glock, director of transportation for the City of Tucson, "especially projects like the recently completed Basket Bridge, which greatly enhances the city's pedestrian and bicycle path system."

Typically, projects are developed by neighborhood or community groups that then, per the program's requirements, find a government agency to sponsor the project.

One of the winning 2007 projects features improvements to the Five Points historic area including new sidewalks, ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramps and pedestrian lighting that will greatly improve the safety for the neighborhood's elderly, disabled, and student pedestrians.

Another funded project will provide new, separate bike and pedestrian facilities along Park Avenue between Speedway Boulevard and Fort Lowell Road. These proposed enhancements were the result of a collaborative process organized by five neighborhoods along the route based on extensive public input. Specifically, the project involves a stabilized decomposed granite pathway, enhanced pedestrian crossings at two intersections, improved bicycle lanes and landscaping with water harvesting.

A third project, sponsored by Pima County and the City of Tucson, funds a bicycle and pedestrian education program targeting 7th graders throughout Pima County.

"I'm very excited about these projects" said John Liosatos, coordinator of the TE program for PAG, "The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) conducts a thoughtful process and is a great partner in helping local communities make improvements that have a direct impact on improving the region's quality of life."

For more information, contact John Liosatos, PAG's Transportation Planning Manager, at 792-1093 or jliosatos@pagnet.org.

Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, air quality and water quality. PAG's staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit www.PAGnet.org for more information.