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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
July 25, 2023

Administrator Shailen Bhatt  
Federal Highway Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

I write in strong support of the Riverside County Transportation Commission's (RCTC) \$16.48 million funding request from the Federal Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program for the San Jacinto Wildlife Crossing and Corridor Program.

RCTC is seeking funding to support their Wildlife Crossing and Corridor Program, which is a key component of the larger Mid-County Parkway project. The Mid-County Parkway project is designed to safely link rapidly growing communities in western Riverside County to job centers and vital services while bolstering wildlife connectivity and minimizing negative impacts to the natural landscapes that define the region.

The Wildlife Crossing and Corridor Program includes a crucial wildlife crossing across Ramona Expressway. Wildlife crossings are proven countermeasures that reduce the millions of vehicle and wildlife collisions that occur each year, protecting human life, wildlife, and property. The wildlife crossing across Ramona Expressway will be particularly beneficial given the corridor is known locally for vehicle collisions. The wildlife crossing will allow protected species such as the bobcat, Stephens' kangaroo rat, and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit to travel safely through the project area.

Additionally, the benefits of the wildlife crossing are amplified by a proposed wildlife corridor which will preserve land adjacent to the crossing, connecting it to a larger habitat reserve system. This will strengthen the regional wildlife connectivity enabled by the scientifically informed Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

Again, I offer my strong support for this request and appreciate the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Benjamin Hong Starr ([Benjamin.HongStarr@mail.house.gov](mailto:Benjamin.HongStarr@mail.house.gov)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Takano".

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress