
May 12, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: Support for SANDAG's Robinson Bridge: North Park-Hillcrest Safety Connection Project

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of Circulate Planning & Policy, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing to support the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), in partnership with the City of San Diego, on the Robinson Bridge: North Park-Hillcrest Safety Connection (Project), submitted through the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Fiscal Year 2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program. SANDAG seeks funding for an implementation grant to support right-of-way, construction, and supplemental planning activities.

In 2024, SANDAG developed its Vision Zero Action Plan (VZAP), identifying systemic safety issues and strategies across the region. Using USDOT's safe-systems approach, the Project will address challenges in a high-injury network by implementing proven safety strategies and mobility enhancements, including a new sidewalk, on-street bike facilities, and a new bridge for non-motorized traffic. The proposed bridge will attract and divert bike and pedestrian traffic from University Avenue, improving the operations of a key arterial street for buses, trucks, and cars, and providing a vital connection for residents and visitors to safely walk and bike between two geographically diverse communities within San Diego's urban core: North Park and Hillcrest.


SANDAG's application also proposes a multiyear supplemental planning study to evaluate the safety benefits of several implementation projects across the region to learn from successes and inform updates to the VZAP, future project design, and investments. The study will review roadway usage and crash data, before and after construction, to understand the benefits for all roadway users.

The Project aligns with the 2025 Regional Plan and fulfills the SS4A goals by preventing roadway fatalities and serious injuries. This multimodal safety project separates bicyclists and pedestrians from vehicular traffic – including transit and emergency vehicles – enhances overall corridor safety, reduces conflicts and collision risk, improves travel reliability for buses and first responders, and creates a more comfortable and

accessible environment for the community and families. The Project represents a robust regional investment providing safe corridors for all roadway users.

Circulate appreciates USDOT's consideration of SANDAG's funding request and encourages its support to promote and prioritize the safety of all users.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlisle Dockery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Carlisle Dockery
Director of Planning and Community Engagement
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