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September 9, 2009

Jim Glock, Director
City of Tucson Transportation Department

Re: On-Street Bike Corrals

Dear Mr. Glock,

The Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee (T-PCBAC) would like to express its support for the City of Tucson's recent efforts to install more bicycle parking, and specifically for "on-street bike corrals" projects. The T-PCBAC fully supports the bike corrals, as these provide more bike parking where we need it most, in addition to making bicycles more visible to the public. Bike corrals also benefit pedestrians, who no longer have to share sidewalk areas with locked bicycles.

Bicycle parking is often overlooked as a tool to win over new bicyclists, but as the League of American Bicyclists pointed out in its last critique letter, we lack adequate bike parking in our region. One of the reasons Portland achieved Platinum was that city's effort to increase bike parking in areas where bicycling is popular. The 20-plus bike corrals in Portland definitely were a key tool in increasing the number of bicyclists dramatically from about 2 percent to more than 5 percent in the last decade.

The bike corral in front of the Rialto is attractive and functional. The T-PCBAC also hopes that you can have bike corrals installed soon in front of Time Market and Epic Café. These locations are very popular spots for bicyclists and the existing parking there is inadequate. As time and resources allow, T-PCBAC also hopes that TDOT will continue installing bike corrals in other key locations. We will be glad to help you identify those places that can best be served by bike corrals.

Thanks for your attention to this matter. As usual, feel free to contact me at 795-3000 extension 113 weekdays with any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Beck, Chair
Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee

CC: Pima Association of Governments