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December 5, 2008

David Raber, Director
Arizona Corporation Commission, Safety Division
2200 N Central Avenue, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

DEC 11 2008

RE: DOCKET NO. RR-03639A-08-0054

DOCKETED BY	
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Dear Mr. Raber:

We are submitting this letter to formally comment to the Arizona Corporation Commission's staff report on the **DOCKET NO. RR-03639A-08-0054**, concerning the application of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) to alter a crossing at Ruthrauff Road in Tucson. The report indicates the staff does not support a grade separation at this location at this time. We strongly disagree with this assessment as a grade separation crossing project at Ruthrauff Road is identified as a high priority in the current 2009-2013 TIP. PAG data shows the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) in 2007 was 24,195 and that in 2030 the ADT will be 44,000. There are several schools located near the Ruthrauff crossings, three of which are elementary schools. There have already been three accidents recorded at this location with one fatality. A separated crossing at Ruthrauff is vital for the safety of our community.

The Ruthrauff crossing is one of two at-grade crossings which need to be addressed in this area. The other is UPRR's crossing at Prince Road. The Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) and ADOT's District Engineer's office chose to advance the Ruthrauff Road crossing in advance of the Prince Road crossing so that drivers can use the grade-separated Ruthrauff crossing while the Prince Road crossing is under construction. Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will contribute funds to the Ruthrauff Road crossing along with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) pursuant to the RTA plan approved by voters in 2006, but additional funding is needed. The scoping and design will commence soon with construction anticipated to begin within five years.

We would like to request that the Union Pacific Railroad be required to provide a financial contribution to the Ruthrauff grade separation. This is a critical crossing in the region that needs to be improved for both safety and mobility.

Sincerely,

Gary G. Hayes, AICP
Executive Director

DOCKET CONTROL
AZ CORP COMMISSION

cc: Greg Gentsch, ADOT District Engineer
James Glock, TDOT Director

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