

ARROYO CHICO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

13-OCT-2013

To: Jenn Toothaker
City of Tucson Department of Transportation
201 North Stone Ave, 5th floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

From: Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association
Les Pierce, President
2727 East Beverly Drive
Tucson, AZ 85716

Re: Broadway Project

Hi, Jenn:

I have been attending the Broadway Project Citizen Task Force (CTF) meetings and open houses since the CTF's inception in Spring, 2012, and I am now writing on behalf of the Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association (ACNA) to bring your attention to a matter of concern.

It is our understanding that the CTF is charged with conceiving a roadway design for the section of Broadway Blvd between Euclid Avenue and Country Club Road. Per Mayor and Council direction, the CTF may consider all roadway design options and not just the 8-lane/ 150-foot one advanced by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). Also, per RTA legal counsel Thomas Benavidez' statement to the RTA's CART committee on 22-MAY-2013, the CTF is not strictly bound to the RTA plan as long as functionality is preserved and the project budget met.

It is also our understanding that, generally, CTFs are charged with conceiving project designs and that they are supported by City and project staff ("staff") which provides expertise, data, and other materials to educate and inform the CTF members and their discussions. The CTF is in the driver's seat, so to speak.

Which brings us to the reason for this letter. Over the past several months, we have observed CTF members directing staff to produce documentation to aid the CTF in their deliberations, but this information was not produced at the next subsequent meeting, nor has it been produced since. For example:

(A) At the 30-MAY-2013 CTF meeting, neighborhood representative Colby Henley asked for information about where on Broadway business parking is occurring as a non-conforming use. This has not yet been produced.

(B) At the 25-JUL-2013 CTF meeting, neighborhood representative Mary Durham-Pflibsen requested information about the light rail system installed in the City of Phoenix, since parts of that project were built without extensive demolition and this case study could prove useful to CTF deliberations. This information has not yet been produced.

(C) At the 25-JUL-2013 CTF meeting, business representative Diane Robles asked again for up-to-date traffic figures, since Pima Association of Governments (PAG) had recently revised their traffic projections downward. Not only has this information not yet been produced (despite assurances at the

18-APR-2013 meeting that it would be made available), projections known to be outdated were presented to audience and participants at the public open house on 26-SEP-2013.

Had any one of these been an isolated incident, it could be forgiven as a necessary part of the process (i.e., accidents happen). However, they collectively appear to indicate a pattern in which staff is selectively choosing when to comply with the CTF's reasonable information requests, and thereby manipulating the process in a particular direction. We hope we are mistaken.

As stakeholders in the Broadway Boulevard project (which demarcates ACNA's north border) we demand a fair and above-board design process, and therefore we must insist that staff be instructed to produce the materials described above at or before the next CTF meeting (21-OCT-2013).

Thank you for your time and kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Les Pierce

Les Pierce
President, Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association

cc: City of Tucson Mayor and Council:
Mayor Jonathan Rothschild,
Ward 1 Councillor Regina Romero,
Ward 2 Councillor Paul Cunningham,
Ward 3 Councillor Karin Uhlich,
Ward 4 Councillor Shirley Scott,
Ward 5 Councillor Richard Fimbres, and
Ward 6 Councillor Steve Kozachik