



CITY OF TUCSON

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Graham
Public Information Officer
(520) 837-6686

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TDD: (520) 791-2639

8TH STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

On Monday, October 3, 2011, crews will begin construction of a box culvert along 7th Street, between 6th Avenue and 5th Avenue. Crews will be working from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. To accommodate businesses in the area, additional work hours may include nights and weekends. During this phase of construction, 7th Street, between 6th Avenue and 5th Street, will be closed to vehicular traffic. Intersections will remain open. Business and pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

The 8th Street Drainage improvements are a portion of the Downtown Links project, and will provide a new roadway drainage system and major reconstruction of the Tucson Arroyo. Construction of the 8th Street Drainage project was awarded to Borderland Construction Company.

The construction cost of the 8th Street Drainage Improvement project is \$7.4 million and is scheduled for completion in 6 months. The improvements are being funded with the voter-approved Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

As part of this construction, 6th Avenue will be re-striped for two-way travel between 6th Street and 7th Street. This traffic-pattern change will provide better access to area businesses during construction. A detailed map is available at www.downtownlinks.info. The public will be notified before re-striping work begins.

When complete, Downtown Links will offer a 30 mph, four-lane road north of the Union Pacific railroad tracks that will connect Barraza-Aviation Parkway to Interstate 10. It will provide alternate access to and around Downtown by foot, bike, vehicle and public transit and offer new and safer underpasses, railroad crossings and sidewalks.

The voter-approved, \$2.1 billion RTA plan will be implemented through 2016. Details about the full plan are available at www.RTAmobility.com. The RTA has a nine-member board with representatives from local, state and tribal governments. While funded through the RTA, the above project will be managed by TDOT.

The Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) keeps Tucson moving smoothly and safely. The Department's nearly 250 employees oversee the maintenance and reconstruction of nearly 1,900 miles of streets and are responsible for hundreds of drainage structures, public art pieces, street lights and signs, and traffic signals in Tucson. TDOT also operates the City's transit services, Sun Tran and Sun Van.

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