

From: Carolyn Laurie
To: Planning Commission
CC: Jim Mazzocco; Alexandra Hines; Rebecca Ruopp; Maria Gayosso; Ward2
Date: 12/02/2015 9:36 AM
Subject: Fwd: Comments on Broadway Blvd. MS&R Plan Amendment -- Tucson Planning Commission

Greetings Commissioners,

Please review the email below pertaining to Item 5 on the agenda this evening.

Staff will also provide a hard copy for your review and post the letter to our Planning Commission page as part of the public record.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Laurie
Principal Planner
Code Administration
Planning & Development Services
City of Tucson
520.837.4953

>>> "Robert M. Kaye" <r_m_kaye@hotmail.com> 12/01/2015 9:47 PM >>>

Ms. Laurie:

Per the suggestion of Peter Gavin, I am writing to ask that you please forward the comments, below, to the members of the Planning Commission for their consideration as part of the public hearing on Wednesday, December 2nd concerning the Major Streets and Roads Plan Amendment for Broadway Boulevard.

Thank you for your help. Bob

Robert M. Kaye
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December 1, 2015

William Podolsky, Chair
Peter Gavin, Vice-Chair
Members of the Planning Commission
Tucson Planning Commission
201 N. Stone Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85701-1207

Subject: Public Hearing -- Major Streets and Roads (MS&R) Plan Amendment for Broadway Boulevard (12/2/2015)

Chair Podolsky, Vice-Chair Gavin, and Members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing to request that the Planning Commission vote to approve the MS&R Plan Amendment for Broadway Boulevard between Euclid Avenue and Country Club Road. Over the last three years, I have had the privilege of attending and participating in nearly two dozen public meetings, hearings, workshops, and study sessions regarding the Broadway corridor project. I have been impressed by the depth, quality, and responsiveness of the City's public outreach process. Likewise, the work of the Broadway Citizens Task Force, business owners, and local residents has shown unfailing commitment to consider all planning/design options and points of view. Together, the City, its consultants, and its many diverse constituents have produced a plan that accomplishes the ambitious goals set for the project:

To enable the Broadway corridor to safely and efficiently accommodate existing and future transportation demands
To provide for short-term public transportation capacity growth, including express bus service
To provide for substantial long-term increases in transit capacity, including the development of streetcar or light rail service
To create safe, inviting bicycle and pedestrian access facilities in the corridor
To visually enhance the corridor with trees, other landscaping, public art, and attractive signage
To support local businesses and the City's economic development initiatives
To preserve historic resources and the mid-century identity of the area
To protect the character of nearby residential areas
To implement environmental measures for the corridor that will improve air and water quality, reduce water use, reduce night-time light emissions, and resolve long-standing drainage issues
To repair and improve infrastructure in the corridor, benefitting businesses and nearby residents.

This plan for the Broadway corridor -- also known as the Broadway Baseline Alignment Concept -- was approved by Mayor and Council on June 9, 2015. Perhaps the most iconic achievement of the Concept plan is its narrowing from the voter-approved eight-lane alignment to six lanes with the option to convert one lane in each direction to streetcar or light rail facilities. All who were involved in the planning for the Broadway corridor should be commended for their hard work, their creativity, and their skill in making a successful community-based process yield a successful concept design.

Since then, work has been underway to refine the Concept plan as part of the project design process. Many person-years of work will be brought to bear on this effort. I am confident that the completed project will be something all Tucson residents and business people will be proud of.

The Planning Commission's consideration of this project is a necessary and important step in the life of the Broadway corridor project. Your approval of the MS&R Plan Amendment before you will enable the project to go forward, anticipating the Planning Commission's constructive involvement in land use planning, policies, and regulations as they affect development in the corridor. As you consider this plan amendment, I urge you to reflect on the public and business engagement efforts -- those prior and those on-going -- and on the work by Mayor and Council and City staff. Rarely does an American city apply so much effort and so much talent over so much time to such great effect.

I ask that you approve the MS&R Plan Amendment so that the Broadway corridor design can go forward and so that Tucson can realize the many significant benefits of the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Bob Kaye

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