

MAY 7, 2019

PLAN TUCSON

CITY OF TUCSON GENERAL & SUSTAINABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Plan Tucson is the City's General & Sustainability Plan which lays out **Tucson's vision for the future and a road-map for how to get there.**

Plan Tucson was adopted by voters in 2013 after an extensive public outreach process. It established 180 policies organized into over 20 elements within four focus areas:

- Social Environment
- Economic Environment
- Natural Environment
- Built Environment

In 2020, the City will start engaging with residents to begin the conversation about our vision and goals for the decade to come. Per state law the City must update our General Plan again by 2023.

5 Years of Progress

- In the five years since Plan Tucson was adopted, our City has made great strides in realizing the vision of the general plan. Just a few of our achievements include:
 - The opening of the **SunLink streetcar**, catalyzing redevelopment downtown
 - UNESCO designation as a **City of Gastronomy**, recognizing our unique food culture and spurring increased tourism
 - A growing **job base** – including the expansion of GEICO and arrival of Caterpillar
 - Increasing and safeguarding our **long-term water supply**, making our city more sustainable and resilient
- There is still more to do to accomplish the goals set out in our general plan to ensure economic opportunity across our city, promote safe and sustainable neighborhoods, and provide exceptional quality of life.
- This report provides a snapshot of what has been accomplished in the past five years to implement the policies and achieve the goals of Plan Tucson, as well as areas of ongoing work.
- Additional information can be found at <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/pdsd/plan-tucson>.

What Comes Next

- City departments, in partnership with in partnership with community residents, businesses, organizations, and institutions, will continue to implement the goals and priorities of Plan Tucson.
- You can look forward to future reports such as this one to track our accomplishments in the coming years.



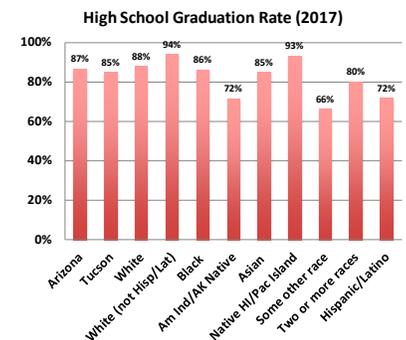
THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT



- **Housing**
- **Public Safety**
- **Parks & Recreation**
- **Arts & Culture**
- **Public Health**
- **Urban Agriculture**
- **Education**
- **Governance & Participation**

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ **Housing:** The City has developed more than 700 units of affordable housing since 2014 and has hired two Outreach Workers to help connect persons experiencing homelessness to the broad range of services available.
- ✓ **Public Safety:** Voters made a significant investment in public safety by approving a five-year, half-cent sales tax to support public safety and road repair in 2017. Funds have already been used to purchase 200 vehicles, protective gear, and upgraded IT equipment.
- ✓ **Parks & Recreation:** (1) In 2018, more than 12,000 people participated in Parks programs, including 607 recipients of discounted swim lessons. (2) A \$2 million improvement project at Jesse Owens Park, completed in 2018, brought new ball fields and playground facilities as well as a new water-saving irrigation system.
- ✓ **Arts & Culture:** The Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson Meet Yourself and All Souls Procession each draw more than 100,000 visitors to enjoy Tucson’s unique cultural offerings.
- ✓ **Public Health:** St. Elizabeth clinic began operating at Tucson House (City public housing) to provide more immediately accessible health care to residents.
- ✓ **Urban Agriculture:** In 2015, the Mayor and Council adopted the Urban Agriculture Ordinance, enabling backyard farming and promoting local food production.
- ✓ **Education:** The Mayor’s Community Schools program, focused on connecting families to services and increasing high school graduation rates, served 7,300 students over two years, and the Count Me In program aimed to reduce Tucson’s high truancy rates through individualized outreach and service.
- ✓ **Governance & Participation:** The City has increased the number of ways for citizens to obtain data and engage with their government through resources such as through Notice Me, MapTucson and social media.



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ **Parks & Connections bond** approved by voters in November 2018 will fund \$225 million in parks and greenway improvements.
- ✓ **Choice Neighborhood Planning Initiative** in Oracle Road area is developing strategies for affordable housing, economic opportunity, crime reduction and neighborhood stability.



Ghost Ranch Senior Housing: Historic Adaptive Reuse project



THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT



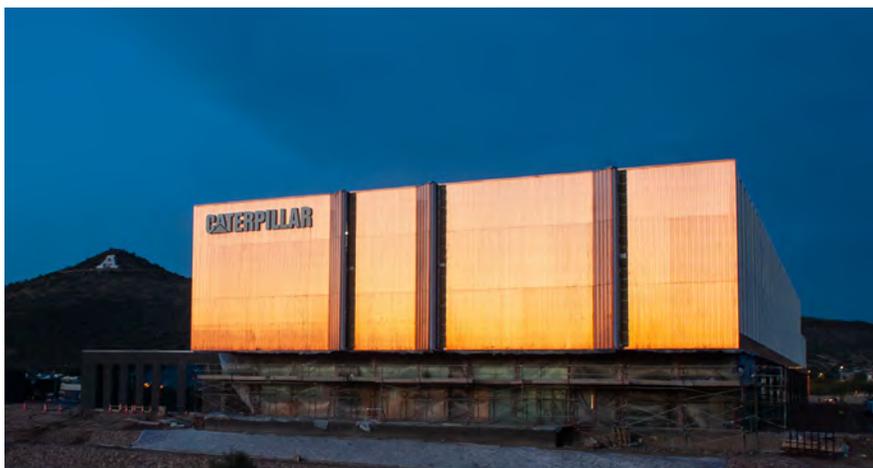
- **Jobs & Workforce Development**
- **Regional & Global Positioning**
- **Business Climate**
- **Tourism & Quality of Life**

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

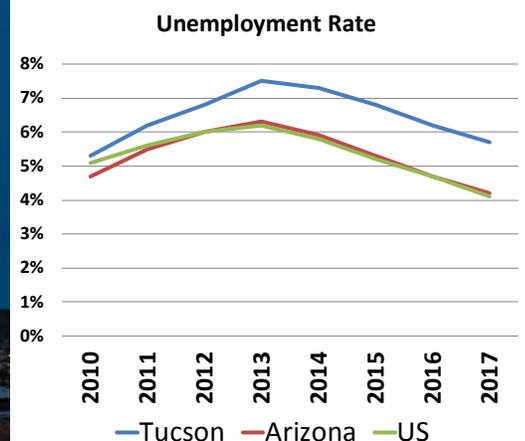
- ✓ **Jobs & Workforce Development:** Tucson's unemployment rate dropped from its 10-year high of 10.1% in 2010 to 4.2% in November 2018.*
- ✓ **Business Climate:** (1) GEICO increased its local workforce by 700, and Caterpillar relocated its Surface Mining Division headquarters to Tucson, bringing 600 jobs to the area. (2) New development through the Infill Incentive District (IID) continues to spur economic development. The City has seen \$1.3 Billion dollars of investment using this program.
- ✓ **Regional & Global Positioning:** (1) Tucson's mayor met with the Mexican president and ambassador, participated in trade missions to Mexico, and hosted two annual Borderlands Trade Conference events to increase the amount of trade activity with Mexico. (2) The Port of Tucson began accepting international shipments as an approved inland port in 2013, taking more than 240 trucks off the road each year and reducing the cost of international freight. In 2018, a local partnership with the Port succeeded in attracting a new Amazon fulfillment center, promising to create an additional 1,500 jobs.
- ✓ **Tourism & Quality of Life:** (1) Visitors spent \$2.9 billion in Pima County in 2017, supporting 25,500 jobs.** (2) In 2018, Tucson International Airport added nonstop flights to Austin, Bellingham, Charlotte, Denver, and Provo, and opened a new terminal for ultra-low-cost airlines, giving Tucsonans more travel options and making Tucson a more competitive vacation destination.

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ The City is formalizing an **adaptive reuse program** building upon past successes to further encourage reuse of vacant commercial and historic sites for new businesses.



New Caterpillar Offices

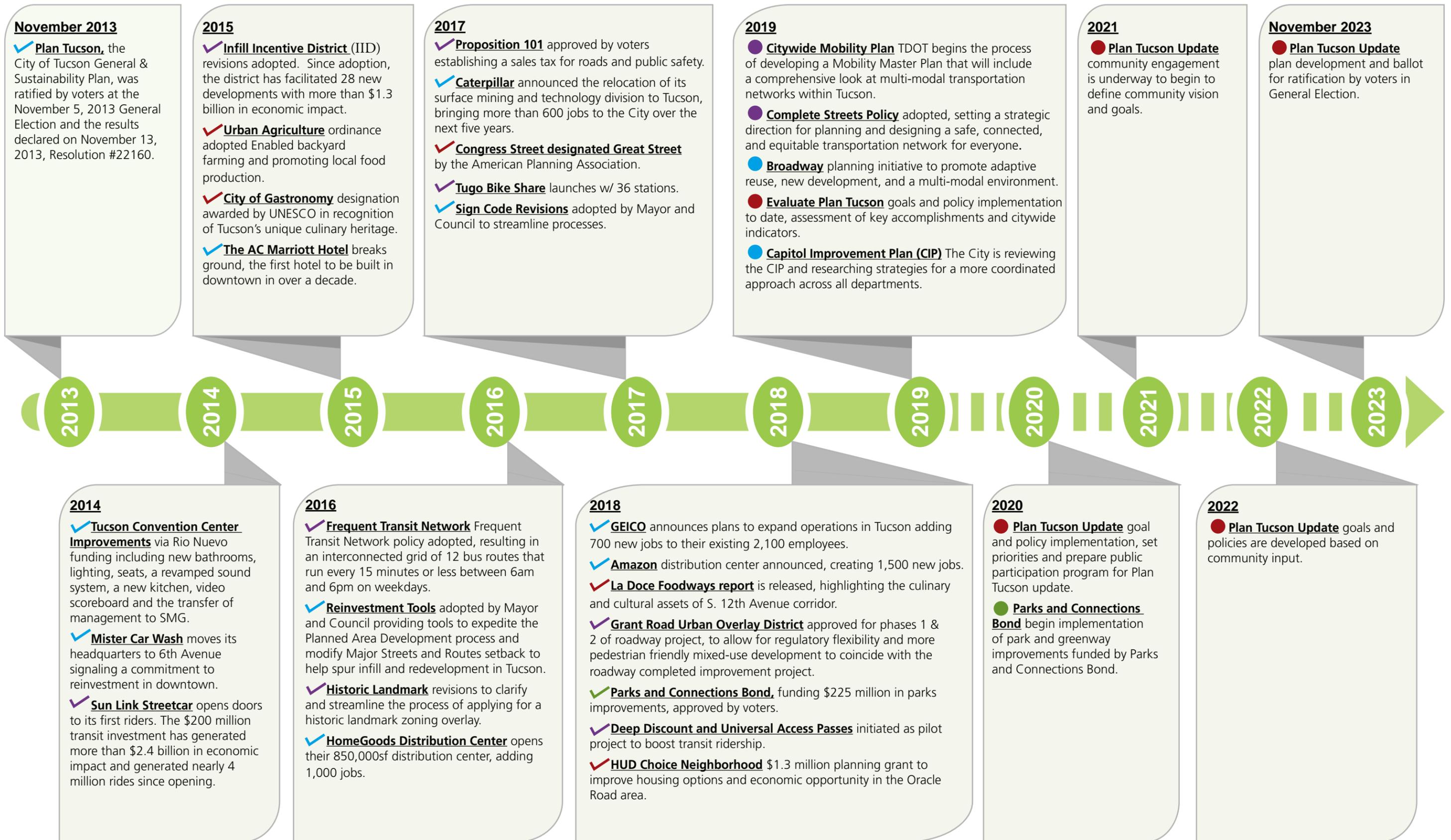


Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey

* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

** Arizona Office of Tourism, Tucson & Southern Region 2017 Year-End Data Review

TIMELINE OF PLAN TUCSON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 2023 UPDATE



Primary Plan Tucson Focus Area:

✓ The Social Environment

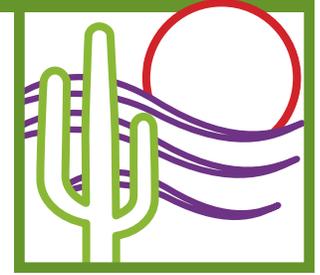
✓ The Economic Environment

✓ The Natural Environment

✓ The Built Environment



THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



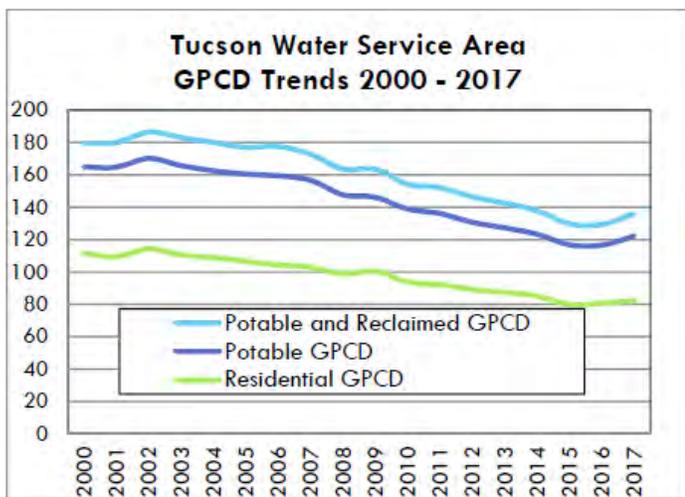
- Energy & Climate Readiness
- Water Resources
- Green Infrastructure
- Environmental Quality

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ **Energy & Climate Readiness:** (1) Retrofitted the city’s 21,500 streetlights to LED, saving an estimated \$2.6 million over 10 years. (2) Tucson Electric Power’s renewable capacity has more than doubled since 2013. In 2017, TEP’s system distributed enough renewable energy to power 70,400 homes for one year.
- ✓ **Water Resources:** (1) Over 2,000 rainwater harvesting and gray water installations have been rebated to Tucson Water customers, including over 200 low-income households who received rebates, in addition to grants and loans to make these projects more accessible. (2) Tucson Water has built up our long-term supply of water, storing at least 4 years of supply based on current demand.
- ✓ **Green Infrastructure:** Planted 50,672 new trees since 2013 as part of the 10,000 Trees campaign increasing our urban canopy and helping keep our city cool by counteracting the urban heat island effect.
- ✓ **Environmental Quality:** (1) The Tucson Environmental Services Department diverted over 30,000 tons of green waste from the landfill by converting it into mulch and using as slope cover to reduce erosion. (2) Through the Household Hazardous Waste Program over 375,000 pounds of hazardous waste has been collected from over 12,000 residents in 2018.

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ **The Neighborhood-scale Stormwater Program,** managed by Tucson Water and it’s partner, Tucson Clean & Beautiful, will award \$45,000 per ward annually through community grants to install green stormwater infrastructure projects in neighborhoods throughout the city. To date, three projects have been completed with several more in design and construction.



Total and residential gallons per capita per day (GPCD) from 2000 - 2017
Source: City of Tucson Water Conservation Annual Report



Rainwater Harvesting at Tucson Association of Realtors
Source: Watershed Management Group



THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



- **Historic Preservation**
- **Public Infrastructure, Facilities, & Cost of Development**
- **Redevelopment & Revitalization**
- **Land Use, Transportation, & Urban Design**

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ **Historic Preservation:** In 2018, the Miracle Mile Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, recognizing the corridor as the original northern automotive gateway to Tucson and its related historic resources, including the motor courts and neon signs.
- ✓ **Public Infrastructure, Facilities & Cost of Development:** (1) The Tucson Department of Transportation invested over \$2 million in pedestrian and bike infrastructure around South 12th, including new ADA-compliant sidewalks and the Liberty Bike Boulevard, to make the area safer and more accessible for community members. (2) Nearly 250 miles of pavement have been restored to date as a result of the Street Bonds approved by voters in November 2012. (3) The City and RTA have completed the construction of the Kolb Road/Sabino Canyon connection and phases 1 through 5 of the Houghton Road Corridor Project.
- ✓ **Redevelopment and Revitalization:** Completed the SunLink streetcar serving downtown, the west-side and UA campus, driving an estimated \$1.4 billion of new private development and over \$2.4 billion overall economic impact in the area.
- ✓ **Land Use, Transportation & Urban Design:** (1) The Infill Incentive District, mapped along streetcar route to promote transit-oriented development, has facilitated creation of 1,476 units of housing and 456,204 sf of new commercial space in the greater downtown area. (2) Increased bus frequency to every 15 minutes or less on the most popular bus routes as part of the 2016 launch of the Frequent Transit Network, ensuring predictability and reliability for riders.

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION:

- ✓ **Complete Streets Ordinance and Citywide Mobility Plan** will identify strategies to make getting around the city easier and safer for all users.
- ✓ **Planning for the Sunshine Mile of the Broadway Corridor** is underway to promote adaptive reuse as well as redevelopment and create a more walkable, pedestrian-friendly environment along Broadway to complement the planned roadway improvement project.



City Park Development on Congress Avenue in Downtown



City of Tucson SunLink Modern Street Car

Key Projects



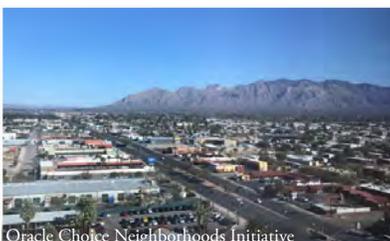
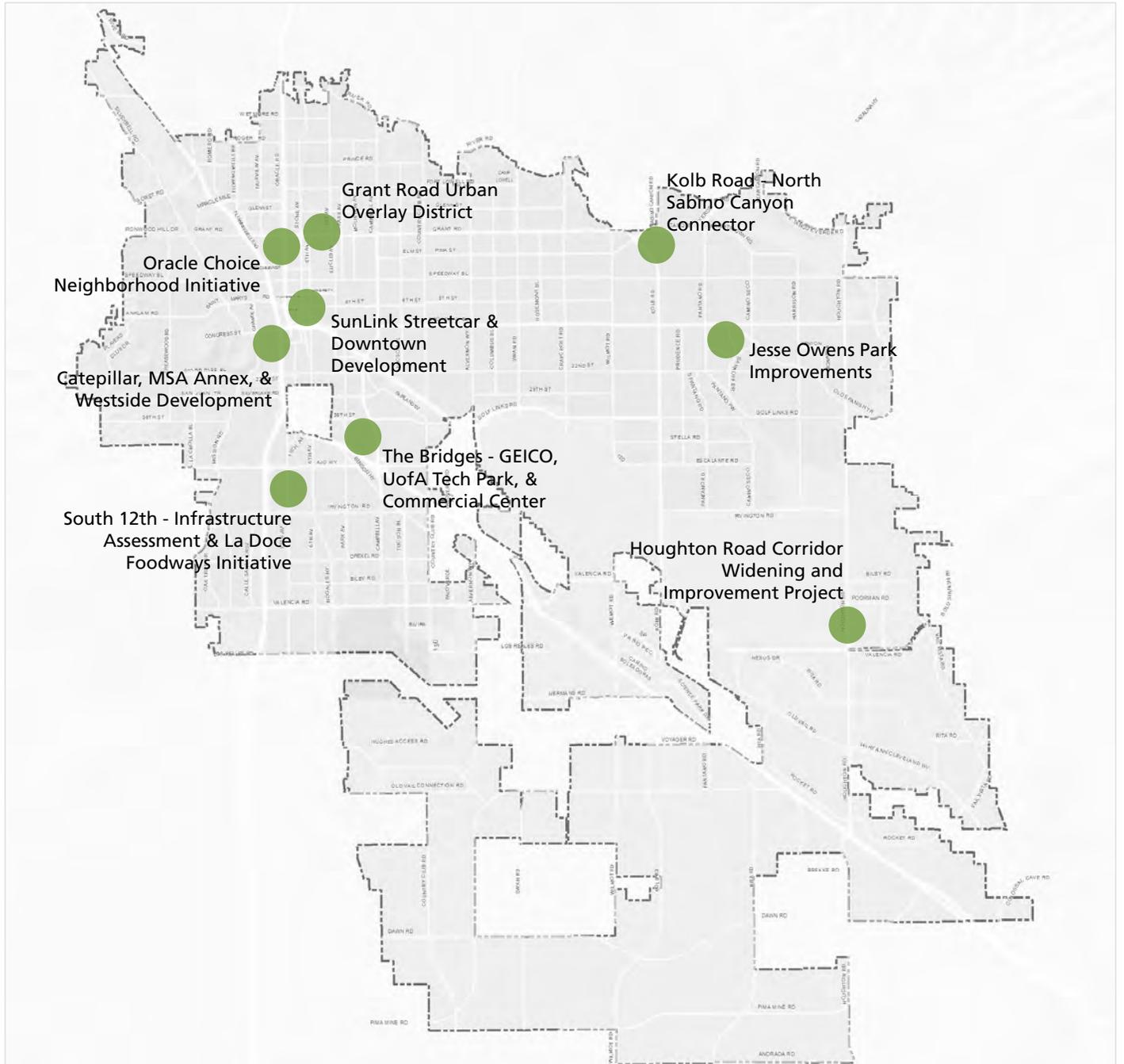
SunLink Streetcar and Downtown Development



Jesse Owens Park Improvements



The Bridges - GEICO Regional Headquarters



Oracle Choice Neighborhoods Initiative



La Doce Mural Pachanga. Photographer, Cait NiSimon



Houghton Road Corridor Improvements