



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 26, 2009

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Andrew Singelakis, Deputy Director
Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: Planning Commission Appointment to Grant Road Task Force

During their February 24, 2009 meeting, the Mayor and Council modified the Grant Road Task Force to add a Planning Commission member.

As you may be aware, the Mayor and Council approved an alignment for Grant Road in January. Now that the alignment has been selected, the Task Force will be moving toward the next phase in the project, which will focus on roadway design and land use planning.

A component of the land use planning process will involve developing more specific plans for properties that have frontage on Grant Road. An extensive public participation process working directly with neighborhoods along the corridor will occur. The goal of this process will be to provide greater detail and specificity regarding such properties to guide future development. We will focus on issues concerning design guidelines and site planning such as: how structures should be situated on lots, how they should relate to the modified Grant Road, how access should be achieved between sites, how they should respect neighboring residential uses, among other issues.

We would like to bring this portion of the plan through the Planning Commission's area plan process, so that it has some degree of regulatory strength. This is the first time that this approach has been taken with a transportation project in Tucson. To clarify, we will not be updating or modifying underlying neighborhood and area plans as we do not have the resources to do so. However, the work that we will be completing will use those plans as a basis for the plan, and we will work directly with the neighborhoods.

Given the needs of this work, we would like to have a planning commissioner on the Task Force who has a design background and also with a familiarity with transportation projects.

We look forward to working with the Planning Commission on this exciting endeavor. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 791-4371 or e-mail me at andrew.singelakis@tucsonaz.gov

AS:mc

c: Melissa Antol, GRIP Project Manager