



**Urban Design Element
Working Group Meeting
October 6, 2011**

Today's Agenda

1:30 - 1:45 PM – Welcome and Introductions

1:45 - 2:05 PM – Presentation by staff

2:05 - 2:15 PM – Break

2:15 - 3:30 PM – Policy development exercise

Progress to Date

March – Public Participation Program

April – Six General Public Intro Meetings

May – Agencies & Organizations: Orientation

June – Agencies & Organizations: Principles

July 2011 - April 2012 – Agencies & Organizations:
Policy Working Groups

Focus Areas

The framework for Plan Tucson consists of three interrelated focus areas



Elements

Environmental Integrity

Energy &
Climate
Change

Green
Infrastructure

Water

Environmental
Quality

Socioeconomic Prosperity

Housing

Economic
Development

Education

Cultural
Heritage
and Arts

Public
Health

Public
Safety

Recreation

Community
Participation

Elements (Continued)

Elements of Smart Growth



Working Document

Working Document
October 6, 2011



Smart Growth Focus Area Urban Design Element

Prepared for the Urban Design Policy Work Group Meeting – October 6, 2011, by the Plan Tucson Team, Planning and Community Development Division, City of Tucson Housing and Community Development Department.

Note: This working document may be refined as Plan Tucson proceeds and additional information and input is obtained.

I. Introduction

This working document presents background information on urban design in Tucson with the objective of providing a basic foundation for the discussion of urban design policies for inclusion in Plan Tucson, the City of Tucson's new General Plan now underway.

"However logical the land-use pattern prescribed by city planners, the beauty and utility of its buildings and the nature of the landscape, it is the overall three-dimensional combination of forms and spaces as seen in time and over time that gives a city its character." *Urban Design: A Typology of Procedures and Products*, Jon Lang, Elsevier, 2005

II. The Basics

The use of "urban design" as a contemporary term dates back only to the mid-twentieth century. However, long before the formalization of this term there were communities deliberately designed.

For purposes of Plan Tucson, the working definition of *urban design* will be *the arrangement, appearance and functionality of a community*.

Components often considered in urban design include:

- Neighborhoods
- Districts
- Corridors
- Streets pattern
- Civic buildings
- Natural features

An increasingly popular term associated with urban design is "placemaking". As the word suggests, *placemaking* is the creation of a setting that imparts a sense of place to an area. This process is achieved by establishing identifiable neighborhoods, unique architecture, aesthetically pleasing public places and vistas, identifiable landmarks and focal points, and a human element established by compatible scales of development and ongoing public stewardship.

What is Urban Design?

Urban Design involves the *arrangement, appearance and functionality of a community*, at different levels:

Urban Structure

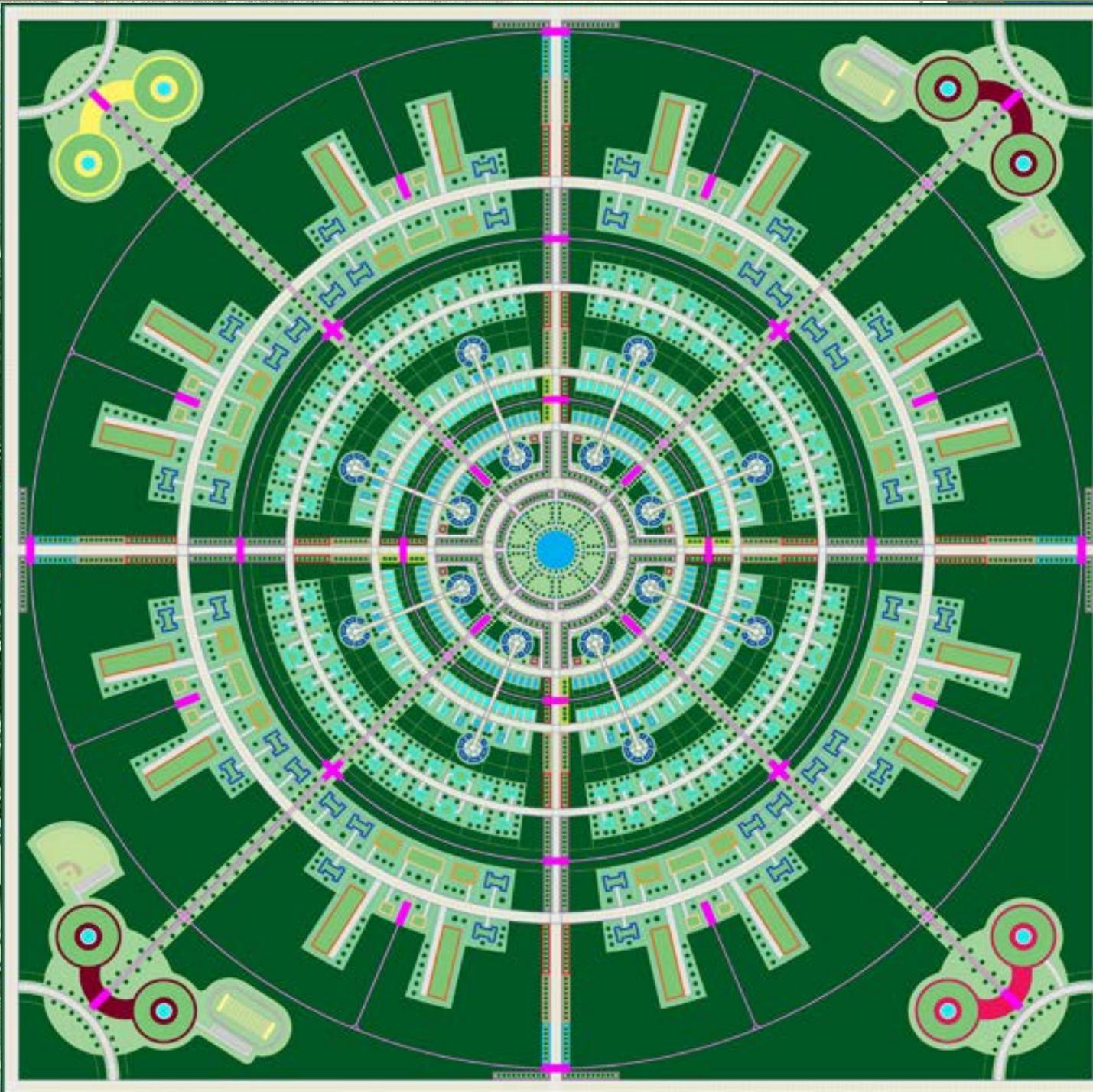
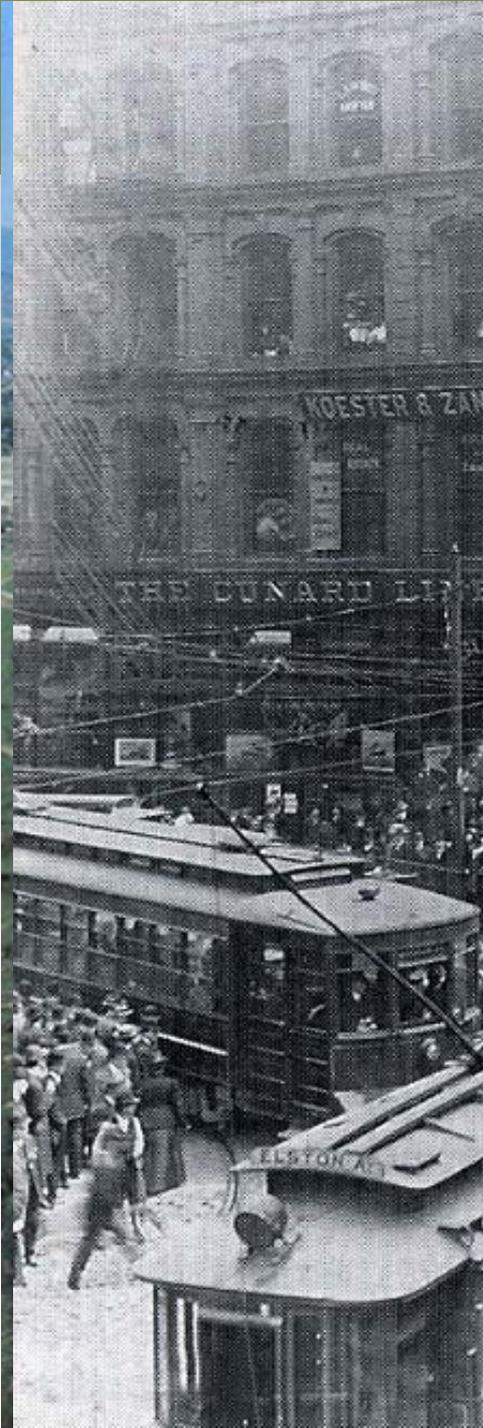
Districts

Neighborhoods

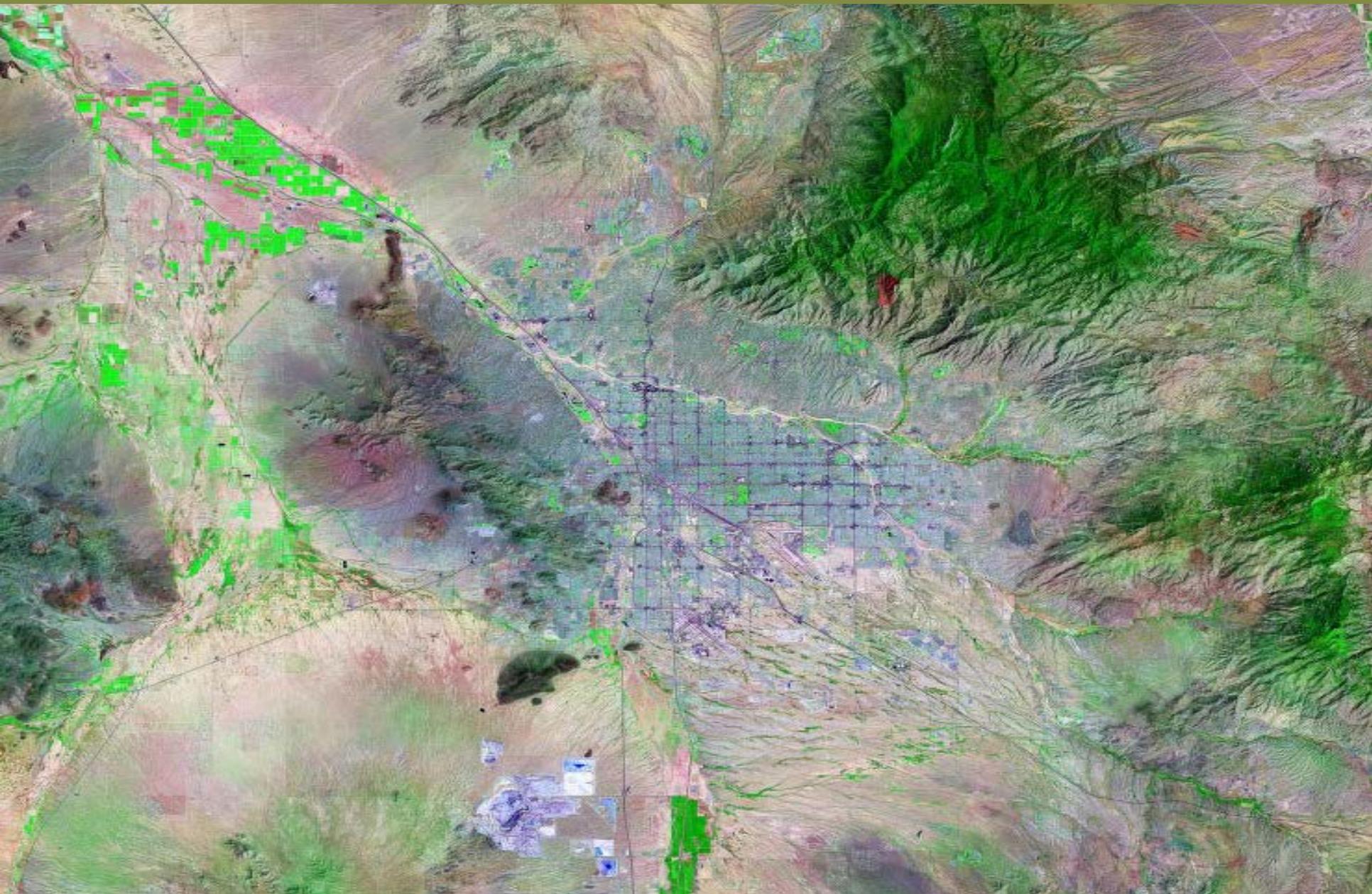
Corridors

Civic buildings

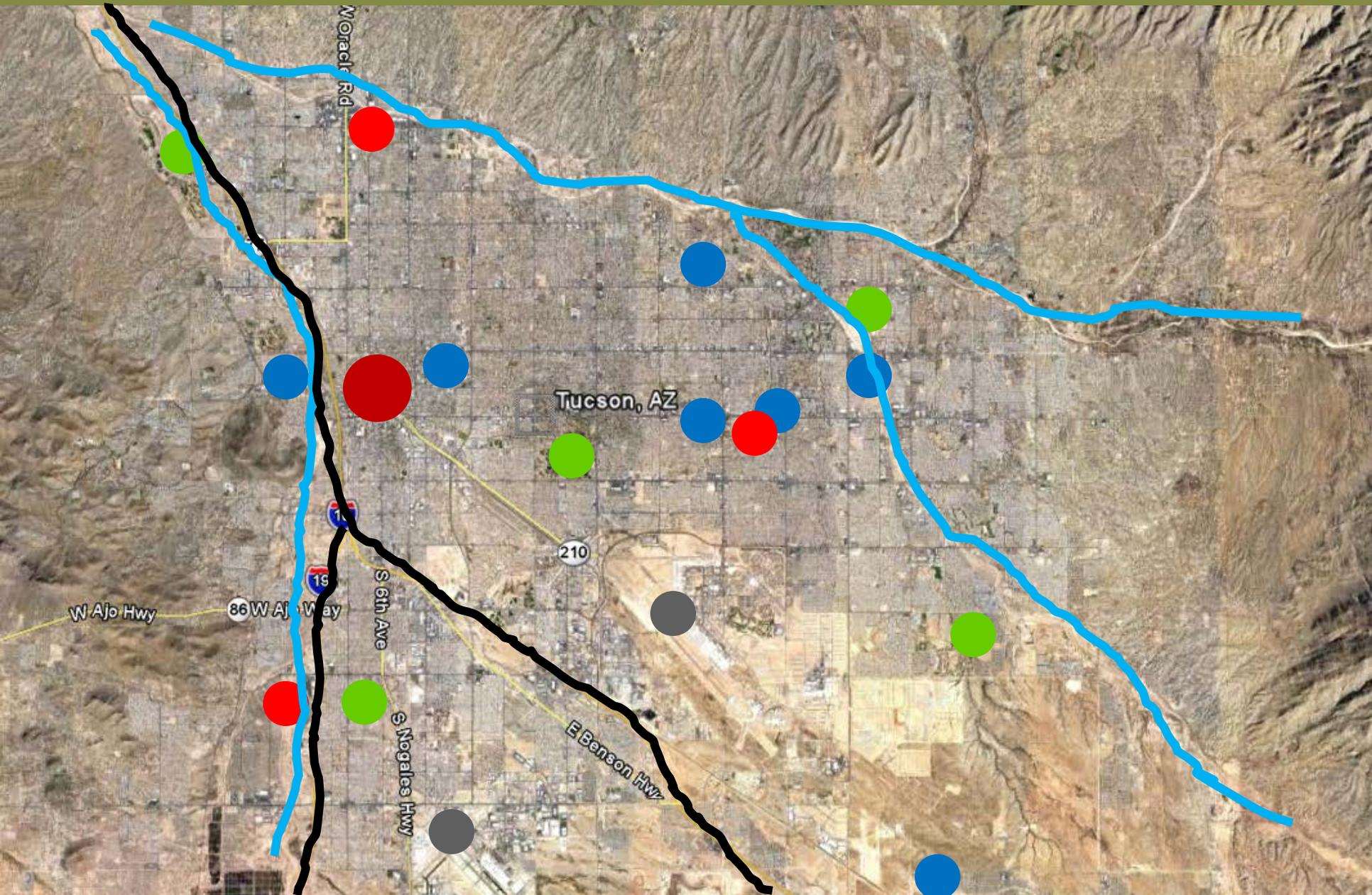
Natural features



Tucson's Urban Structure



Tucson's Urban Structure



Districts



Districts













Ongoing Influences

Land Use Code

Major Streets and Roads Plan

Financial Institutions

Insurance Companies

Examples of Initiatives and Tools

Design Guidelines Manual

Downtown Infill Incentive District

Downtown Urban Design Reference Manual

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Design Manual

Examples of Trends

Sustainability

New Urbanism

Smart Growth

Context Sensitive Design

Transit Oriented Design

Exercise Worksheet



SMART GROWTH FOCUS AREA:
URBAN DESIGN POLICY WORKING GROUP
Preliminary Policies Drafting Exercise

Exercise Worksheet
October 6, 2011

THEME <i>(such as Neighborhoods, Districts, Corridors, Street Pattern, Civic Buildings, Public Spaces, Natural Features, Place-Making, Functionality, Sustainability, Appearance, Tools, etc.)</i>	PROPOSED POLICY/ACTION CONCEPT



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