

Meeting Summary

City of Tucson

Ward 2 Citizen Design Review Committee

Houghton Road, Northern Segment: Tanque Verde Road to 22nd Street

April 21, 2011, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Tucson Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway Blvd.

ATTENDEES

Ward 2 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC) Members

Frank Salbego, Eastside Neighborhood Association (NA)

Paul Gegenheimer, property owner

Dominique Drentrea, Casas de Santo neighborhood

Helen Arnold, Macalester Park, Treasurer of the Eastside NA

Carol Zoch, Eastpointe II Estates

City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) Staff and Consultants

M.J. Dillard, TDOT Project Manager

Joe Vaskovic, PB Project Manager

Melissa Anguiz, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

Jan Gordley, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

Jim DeGroot, Regional Transportation Authority Transportation Services Director

Britton Dornquast, RTA MainStreet Program

City of Tucson, Ward 2

Demitri Downing, Ward 2 Aide to Council Member Paul Cunningham

Guests

Lou and Julia Potter, Casas de Santo residents

Richard Prevallet, VP Facilities, Tucson Medical Center

Sandra and William Beatty, residents

Kirby Tatum, resident

MATERIALS

- Agenda
- Meeting evaluation form
- Implementation plan map
- CDRC neighborhoods map
- Summary of CDRC follow-up survey calls
- Nov. 3, 2011, Ward 2 CDRC meeting summary

INTRODUCTIONS

Jan Gordley asked all present to introduce themselves and then reviewed the meeting guidelines. Melissa Anguiz shared the results from the informal, anonymous

phone survey regarding meeting format and timeframe conducted after the last Ward 2 CDRC meeting. This survey was also distributed to all Ward 2 CDRC members by email.

PROJECT UPDATES

M.J. Dillard provided updates on the Houghton Road Corridor:

- The current economic climate is slowing RTA funding and programs.
- The Houghton Road Corridor project needed City of Tucson, Pima County and RTA funding to move forward with the construction of the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road and the Houghton Road and Broadway Boulevard Intersection projects.
- The RTA conducted a Value Analysis of the Houghton Road Corridor projects to verify that the projects were being conducted in a cost effective manner.
- The Value Analysis was completed in March, and the final report is undergoing review by the RTA Technical Advisory Committee.
- The RTA and Pima County are finalizing an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) assuring Pima County provide the \$7.5 million needed for the two projects mentioned above.
- The RTA board voted to sell bonds to assure the funding for the above projects is in place.
- M.J. will be presenting the Houghton Road Corridor overview to the RTA board on April 28, where she will be asking for the release of the funding to move forward with the two projects. If approved, the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road project will start construction in July and the Houghton Road and Broadway Boulevard Intersection should start this fall.
- Jim DeGroot reported all projects scheduled for the third quarter are not anticipated to start until 2016, the first year of the third quarter, at the earliest. The RTA will be voting in summer of 2012 to determine if future bonding should occur to possibly speed up the project implementation.
- Updates to the implementation plan for all remaining projects are pending further direction from the RTA.
- The only projects currently in design are those receiving federal funding: Houghton Road, UPRR to Interstate 10, and Houghton Road, Bridge over the UPRR.

VALUE ANALYSIS REVIEW

The value analysis of the Houghton Road Corridor current projects went well. Psomas and PB were complimented for their value engineering on the Houghton Road projects. The consultants, jurisdictions and reviewers worked together to identify logical reductions. All recommendations from the Value Analysis are under review, and not all will have merit since there are additional factors to take into consideration.

Potential areas to cut costs include:

- Using 11-foot lanes instead of 12-foot lanes

- Reduce bus pullouts, or cross section for bus pullouts
- Reconstruct Houghton Road between Speedway Boulevard and Broadway Boulevard, along with the Speedway intersection, at the same time as the Broadway intersection.
- Use a narrower median with barrier on the Tanque Verde and Aqua Caliente Wash bridges.
- Replace the Greenway with a single asphalt path, 6 feet to 10 feet wide.
- Reduce the size of the 2-cell 8 foot by 5 foot concrete box culvert north of the bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad.
- Evaluate different pipe materials for cross culverts and storm drains.
- Evaluate different types of pavement materials to reduce the pavement cross section thickness.
- Eliminate the southbound fourth lane between Old Spanish Trail and Golf Links Road.
- Stockpile material generated by local projects for use on the corridor projects.
- Consider the sale of bonds to accelerate the project and reduce the number of phases and take advantage of the current bidding climate.
- Consolidate project in the implementation plan (see above).

GENERAL

- M.J. brought the state study and technical documents to provide background on the decision for six lanes for the Houghton Road Corridor. They were available for review following the meeting.
- A concern was brought up regarding potential increase in crime without street lighting. The suggestion was made to take a survey of the neighborhoods in the area before the construction phase to gauge public opinion.
- Rainwater harvesting will be implemented in the Houghton Road Corridor. The City of Tucson plans to utilize native plants and trees, which will be put on an irrigation system for two years as they are being established. After that time, they would rely on rainwater. A landscape architect is on board for this work, and further discussion will ensue during design. Smaller trees tend to have a better chance in establishing themselves during the two-year process.
- The next Ward 2 CDRC meeting is anticipated to occur in the fall of 2011, prior to the construction of the Houghton Road and Broadway Boulevard intersection. Email updates will be sent out to the CDRC members as information becomes available between meetings.
- A public open house will be scheduled for the Houghton Road and Broadway Boulevard intersection project once the contractor is selected. Attendees will be have opportunity meet the contractor, view the final schedule and ask individual project questions.
- A request was made that Jim Glock, TDOT Director, attend a meeting to address the CDRC before he retires in December 2011. Jim has a very busy schedule, but M.J. will look into this possibility.

PARKING LOT

- Street lighting
- Tree sizes
- Retaining wall by five houses
- Bus ridership
- Where bus stops exist

Meeting adjourned