

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



Teresa Smith



Bonnie Medler



Diana Amado



Molly Thrasher



Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

July 31, 2012

2012 Olympics

The Olympics have started and the UA is represented by a combined 23 athletes and coaches. This link will give you a full report on them, with individual bios if you're interested:

<http://uanews.org/story/2012-olympic-schedule-robust-ua-linked-participants>

I've written about scientific work done by the UA that gets us world wide acclaim. These student athletes and coaches do the same in their own fields of excellence. I hope this article makes it a little more fun for you to follow them over the next couple of weeks.

Tucson Values Teachers



When I was going to Doolen back around the time dirt was invented, we never had an issue with finding supplies. If the teachers were buying our materials out of their own pocket, I never knew it was happening. I just showed up and we did the work.

Today, teachers are subsidizing their classroom needs to the tune of roughly \$500 p/year, just to keep their classrooms stocked with basics like pens, pencils, notebooks and other classroom basics. I understand that one could argue these are the responsibility of the parents, and yet let's also understand that not all families have the same level of income to pitch in at even that level.

In an effort to assist, the Tucson Values Teachers program is stepping up and gathering all sorts of materials that will be delivered around to the schools again this fall. You can donate at Walgreen's stores around town up until August 13th.

The list of what they can use is only constrained by your own imagination; the usual stuff such as what I listed, or things like Ziploc bags, paper towels, paper plates, plastic cups, or arts and crafts supplies.

TVT also offers teachers internship opportunities that can result in salary increases once they're completed. If you would like to donate to that (matched by Walgreen's) you can send your donation to Tucson Values Teachers, 3497 N. Campbell, Suite 703, 85719.

My niece Nicole teaches. She has requested that you please not send your kid to



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police
Department

911 or 791-4444
nonemergency

Mayor & Council
Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood
Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal
Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance
791-3154

Planning and
Development
Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas
889-1888

Gas Emergency/
Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus
Hotline

243-7999

Environment
Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal
792-2489

AZ Game & Fish
628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

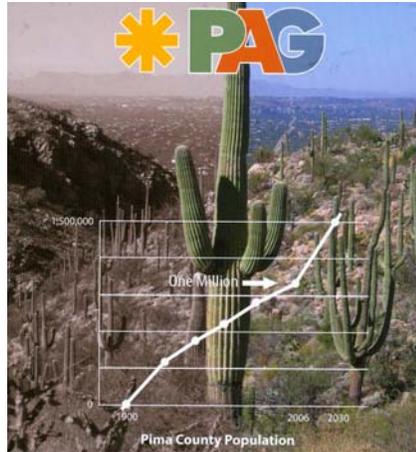
school with any dead bats (as I did with my daughter a few years ago – science class / thought it was ok). She'd like other teaching materials, though.

Broadway Widening

Here's what we know:

Sometimes your projections prove to be inaccurate and should cause you to rethink plans that were made based on them. For example:

2007 PAG Annual Report



We also know this –

Project budget included \$42M from the RTA. That is reliable. It also included \$25M from the County. The County Administrator has said that that funding is not currently available, won't be until 2015 at the earliest, and will be subject to approval by the voters.

Project budget was for \$74M.

The City is the "Lead Agency." Section 5-2 of the RTA Project draft, "requires the lead agency to be responsible for the entire project costs over the RTA funding." We haven't got \$32M lying around to widen Broadway.

The Lead Agency will also "be responsible for all aspects of project implementation, including but not limited to: planning, project management, risk management, design, right of way acquisition and construction." In addition, the lead agency indemnifies the RTA Board for all aspects of project implementation.

For Broadway, the cost associated with Right of Way acquisition is \$43M. That means we use up all of the RTA funding buying homes and businesses, and then have to fund the actual project with local dollars. The County Administrator and I agree that:

It makes little sense to force the original scope of transportation improvements where they are clearly outdated or unnecessary. Reducing the size and scope of transportation improvements not only saves money; it is more responsive to community needs and desires (From a recent PAG Board meeting)

It is the "Lead Agency" who is charged with designing the project to fit within the available funding.

Finally, quoting from page 11 of 18 in the original Project Charter (being revised) the Citizen's Task Force is authorized to, "Advise the Project Team, the Department of Trans-



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
520-575-8633

Congressman
Ron Barber (D)
(8th District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(7th District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331
Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
791-4201

City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

portation, and Mayor and Council on (1) Cross section widths and features, and (2) land use and urban design plans for properties within and near the project boundaries.” The CTF connects the design dots back to the project team.

The first real meeting of the Citizen’s Task Force related to the Broadway widening was held on the 26th. First, many thanks to each of the members of the CTF. Thursday’s meeting lasted over three hours and throughout the members were attentive and engaged. Also, there were 50-60 members of the concerned public in attendance. Most were still there at the end of the night, so kudos to that group as well.

Clearly there is concern and interest in how this project is designed.

Jenn Burdick and her co-workers had a very complete agenda, mostly process material that makes a Type A like me go nuts. And yet, it was all necessary to get out of the way to set the stage for more productive meetings to come. Some of what was decided will affect how the public is included. For example:

- a. They will have two calls to the audience at each meeting. One at the start and one at the end. The agendas will be out at least a week ahead of each meeting so people will be able to predict what time they should arrive if all they want to do is the “call.” (By law, they only need to post the agenda 24 hours ahead of each meeting, so the one they have up a week in advance may be slightly modified from what actually happens at the meetings. If you want the final version, you must go on-line after 5:30 on the night before the next scheduled meeting because within the 24 hour window, they cannot add items.)
- b. The group and their meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Law. In addition to the agenda postings, that also means members are prohibited from talking to more than a quorum of their fellow CTF members. That includes by any form of communication. They also cannot “count votes” by calling more than a quorum in a series of phone calls, emails or texts.
- c. The group will follow a consensus model for vote taking. That means until there is unanimity on the panel, a particular item may not be adopted. Each member has a “black bean veto” on each decision. That will force cooperation and collaboration. It’ll also ensure that the process will take longer to conclude. Right now they’re suggesting an 18-24 month time frame before the work begins.
- d. CTF members will be given the opportunity to place items on the agenda. This means that staff and consultants cannot drive the meetings home to a conclusion they might prefer. I am in agreement with this issue, not because I think Jenn and staff would manipulate the decision making process, but because everybody has his or her own perspective, so there needs to be a forum to invite those who have been hearing from community members or other constituents to bring issues forward for discussion.
- e. At each meeting, there will be one standing item that will allow CTF members to share what they’re hearing out in the community related to the process and product they’re working on.

At the night’s second call to the audience I shared the following points:

- a. The County has indicated that it cannot pay its \$25M until 2015 at the earliest, and even then it’ll be subject to a vote of the people. That needs to be confirmed by staff because it will most certainly affect the design options being considered.
- b. They need to agree on a cross-width dimension as early in the process as possi-

ble. Right now, no businesses will invest in upgrades to their facility until they know if the road is only going to cause a demolition to their property at some near-term date. We have multiple dozen's of businesses and homes that lie within the proposed expansion dimension. They're frozen until the cross-width decision is made. The M&C is frozen in deciding early property acquisition until we know how wide the roadway is going to be.

- c. The group needs to consider asking the question "what forms of travel do we want to incentivize" with this project. If we want more cars, then widen the road. If we want to see more busses, bikes or other transit modes, then that will drive the CTF to a different set of cross-width and land use considerations.

All in all they covered some needed ground, and at their next meeting the work begins. They'll be shown traffic analyses, and they'll start the conversation about what language will be included in the Charter the RTA had originally required, which is no longer required in the form in which it was initially presented. The CTF will also hear from Jim DeGrood of the RTA. He will talk about the ballot language and describe to the CTF the design constraints the RTA believes should guide the process.

Recall that the RTA has already said that the City is the Lead Agency and that it has the final decision making authority as it relates to design considerations. The City has indemnified the RTA from litigation that might result from any changes in the design.

Following the meeting I requested to see a copy of the Advance Planning Report that was supposed to be done with respect to the proposed Broadway widening project. This requirement is noted in Section 5 of the TDOT Roadway Development Policies, M&C Ordinance #6593. One of the interesting bullet points in that Ordinance is that generally roadway projects don't go forward if there is significant impact on residences and businesses.

The next meeting is at 5:30, August 30th. They'll meet at 2800 E. Broadway / south side of the street at Treat. The discussions should be lively.

River/Craycroft

And speaking of lively roadway issues, if such things intrigue you, you're invited to a meeting I'll be hosting at the Ward 6 office on Thursday, August 16th at 4pm.

Last month the City Council approved the annexation of the SE corner of Craycroft/River. I was the lone dissenter, and voted "no" because we have an existing corridor capacity problem that will only be made significantly worse once the development occurs on the parcels we just annexed.

The County had \$73M in their 2030 transit improvement package to widen River from Pontatoc out to Sabino Canyon but it was used for something else and now the project no longer appears on the 2040 plan.

The City only annexed to the south side of River. The result is that the County still owns the problem since they (you) own the road.

There is no dispute that the capacity of the roadway is already insufficient.

I am actively working on several other TDOT/RTA/capacity and funding issues (Broadway, Grant, 22nd, Kolb) and felt that the residents of this area needed somebody to at least offer to pull together the stakeholders to begin a discussion of how to address the design and funding of the necessary road enhancements. This came about when some of the residents contacted me to thank me for my vote and in the course of the conversation I offered to broker the initial meeting to try to begin the conversation relative to how to resolve what everybody recognizes as a problem that we just made worse.

The original language on the County TIP was for a 150' cross-width. If that was done, dozens of homes would be taken - that's about as wide as Broadway is way out at the east end of town. You can see the potential for a fight.

I have invited (and have confirmation from) a representative from the County Administrator's office, a representative from Ann Day's office, a representative from Ray Carroll's office, Council Member Cunningham, the City Manager, Jim DeGrood from the RTA, the TDOT Director, the builder (GT Alley representing Joe Ceasar), a representative from Friends of River Road, and a representative of Fairfield Sunrise Mountain Ridge Residents.

So that's the deal - the Ward Office is at 3202 E. 1st - a block south of Speedway, about across from The Loft Theater. The discussion will need to be focused pretty tightly on design, funding and next steps. Depending on the size of the crowd not participating at the table, I might offer a call to the audience - but I think I have all of the relevant groups represented at the table so we'll play that by ear.

I have also shared much this same information with the District 1 candidates since Supervisor Day is not running for re-election. They're invited and they're not giving stump speeches.

There you have it. I felt you deserved the opportunity to see how this evolves.

Garrett Eckbo – TCC and Rio

Garrett Eckbo is a landscape architect who was commissioned in the early '70's to lay out a winding interactive landscape design around the TCC. The intent was to tie together several prominent downtown venues, inviting the public into the spaces in ways that allowed them to involve themselves with the architectural elements along the way.

Thanks to Helen Breslich Erickson and the Tucson Historical Preservation Foundation, the story, both visual and in words of the entire piece is included in the material linked here:

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/7-30tcccl_final_web_7-11-12.pdf

You've seen the fountain outside the Music Hall. On the aerial next to the picture of the fountain is the footprint of the entire "exhibit." It runs from the east side of the TCC (bottom right hand side of the picture) to over between the Music Hall and Leo Rich Theater, up through the walkway adjacent to La Placita Village and across the street to Viente de Agosto Park (upper right of the picture).

