

Views on two road projects: Careful planning continues to improve Broadway corridor

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As a member of the Citizens for Accountability for Regional Transportation, or CART Committee, I am one of 32 volunteers whose job it is to “ascertain that the Regional Transportation Authority plan is implemented as presented to the voters of Pima County on May 16, 2006.”

In other words, we citizens from all walks of life act in a watchdog fashion to make sure the 20-year RTA plan with all of its hundreds of components and projects, and funded by a county half-cent sales tax, is delivered as promised.

We CART members are proud of our participation.

And what’s not to be proud of? From Sun Tran bus pullouts to the Sun Link modern streetcar; from HAWK (High-intensity Activated crossWALK beacon) signaled crossings to bicycle pathways, sidewalks and greenways; from Tanque Verde Road to the Twin Peaks Interchange and the Ina-Oracle intersection, hundreds of RTA projects are being delivered on time and, in almost every case, under budget. This is a shining example of promises kept to taxpayers and voters.

I hope that you find this as refreshing a situation as we on the CART Committee find it.

On Sept. 26, the community will get to take a second look at the work being done on the Broadway Boulevard Project, RTA No. 17. Construction on this important section of Broadway between Euclid Avenue and Country Club Road is targeted for 2016, but a citizens task force has been working tirelessly for more than a year on a portfolio of project renditions that will meet the voter-approved criteria for this \$72 million roadway element project.

The continuing efforts work to balance among Broadway businesses, residents, citizen volunteers, and city and regional staff, all working to operate within the voter-mandated constraints of the RTA. It is a challenging but satisfying endeavor. This true community endeavor is another example of local democracy and community cooperation in action.

If you would like the opportunity to see and participate in this project, please join us on Sept. 26 at the Sabbar Shrine Hall at 450 S. Tucson Blvd. from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Take some time to see and give input on the first screened versions of what Broadway may look like in the near future.

The Broadway project and all of the RTA projects belong to you, the taxpayers and citizens of the region. It’s called the Regional Transportation Plan for good reasons. Please come and take a look and be part of a wonderful rebirth of Broadway — the new gateway to a blossoming downtown Tucson.

