

From: Jennifer Burdick
To: les_p_hackenslash@yahoo.com
CC: Jonathan Rothschild, Karin Uhlich, Paul Cunningham, Richard G. Fimbres, Regi...
Date: 10/15/2013 5:26 AM
Subject: Re: Broadway Blvd project CTF/staff process

October 15, 2013

Subject: Letter from Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association dated October 13, 2013

Les,

I am currently in Europe, but happened to check my emails and saw your letter on behalf of Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association. A similar letter from Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association has also been received. Because of the time-sensitive nature of your requests, and those in their letter, I wanted to respond to you quickly. I am also concerned by the charges of negligence by our project team to our Task Force members and selective compliance to the open process we have striven to develop throughout this process. I would like to provide some clarification, in the hopes that this will alleviate some or all of your concerns, or give us the basis for further discussion.

This week, while I am gone, the project team is preparing information for the Task Force meetings on October 21 and October 24. This is a planning charrette, not a design charrette, which has been clarified before. (We are nearing a point in which we will have a design charrette, once we have results from analysis in this next segment of work with the Task Force.) The original intention of the discussions and meetings is to identify what cross section alternatives to move forward into further analysis by the consultant team. This decision is first step of many to come in the alternatives analysis. Please remember that the planning and design schedule will bring us to an initial recommendation on the project design – after studies and additional data are collected – by Fall 2014, and this initial recommendation will come to the Mayor and Council at a public hearing. The Council will be provided regular updates, however, before then. (The public participation plan for the project can be found online at www.tucsonaz.gov/broadway under 'Public Participation'.)

Regarding the role of the Task Force, you are correct that the Task Force has a very important role. They will ultimately provide a recommendation to the Mayor and Council to either support or deny the project design concept report and initial construction plans that are developed through the expertise of the project team. Throughout this planning and design process, the CTF is the representative of local project area and the regional users with a stake in this project design. The CTF provides key input, ideas, suggestions, questions, and concerns as we work towards a design of the project. The consultant team has been hired on to do the work as indicated through the Scope of Work approved by the Procurement Department. As such, the project team is working to deliver a schedule that has been approved by contract. The work be done with the CTF factors into to this project schedule. The role of designing is a technical one (performed by the technical consultants) with the influence, creativity, and mindfulness of the CTF (affected stakeholders influencing how we are proceeding). There is a balance that we are always working to maintain on this project. We are incredibly lucky to have the dedicated people we do in our CTF members, and in our technical team.

Based on the discussions at the October CTF meetings, the next segment of the work we will be doing with the Task Force includes running various studies on the street configuration/cross section alternatives selected, discussing results at future meetings, making refinements, and running additional studies. Following this, the Task Force will work with the project team on developing a corridor development approach for the whole 2 miles of the project area which will also require analysis. Within these refinements and milestone decisions, there will be Task Force meetings, updates to City Manager's Office, Mayor and Council, RTA CART and T/MC Committees (as desired), and the Pima County Bond Oversight Committee. There are also 2 more community-wide meetings planned inviting the community to participate as was done for the meeting on Sept. 26.

The items you are requesting be addressed at the October 21, 2013 Citizens Task Force meeting are not

part of the meeting agenda, for the following reasons:

- 1) Given recent media attention to the issue of the County funding, a portion of the meeting on October 21 will necessarily focus on this issue. Representatives from the different agencies will be at the meeting to talk with the Task Force and answer questions. Given the concerns that have been raised by this issue, I believe enough time needs to be allowed to ensure quality conversations with the Task Force.
- 2) To your first point regarding the information requested by Colby for parking information, his request was for a map of parcels with non-compliant parking issues. At the meeting, staff advised that we would have to look into whether this would be possible. There are legal issues, which were thought to be present, with providing a map of non-compliant properties. In a meeting with staff from Department of Transportation, Planning & Development Services Department, ParkWise, and Information Technology, it was clarified that some property owners have gone through a review process to be determined by Planning and Development Services as "legally non-compliant" with the current City Code. Others have not. Putting the requested information into a map may have a number of negative unintended consequences for property owners. Creating negative issues for the current property owners is not something I believe Colby was intending and for that reason, staff and the project team have discussed how to respond.
Given that this information will be part of the alignment alternatives analysis that is part of the next segment of work described above, it is expected that we can provide the information and avoid the negative consequences at that time.
- 3) Regarding Phoenix light rail, this information takes time to gather and we have been doing so, in addition to the planned work we have been doing. To clarify, the initial request was for analysis of Central Avenue and then Phoenix light rail; however, there are many segments to the light rail system, and comparable segments to Broadway are being reviewed. Tucson Department of Transportation deputy director Carlos de Leon worked in Tempe for 17 years, on the light rail project, and has been able to give staff assistance with his experience and knowledge of the development of the segments and appropriate contacts to make to obtain the right information. Staff has initiated contact with different staff in Phoenix from both the Metro Authority, Phoenix Department of Transportation, and Reinvent Phoenix. Additionally, I and others from the project team have been to Phoenix to take pictures and gather information.

Again, this is information that relates to the next segment of work planned with the Task Force and how it factors in to the next segment of work can be discussed with the Task Force at the October meetings.

- 4) Regarding the updated projections, the projections we have been using for the project are currently correct for where we are in the project process. In August 2012, the project team developed a range within which to approach our work regarding projections on the project to accommodate concerns that the projections being used overestimate future demand (pg. 4, Summary of the Traffic Analysis: Broadway, Euclid to Country Club, August 30, 2012, found online: http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/files/projects/broadway/2012_08-30_TrafficSummary.pdf)

The range of projections we are currently using includes a low growth rate of 70% to high growth rate of 100% of Pima Association of Governments (PAG) projections for 2040. A follow up to the traffic study analysis was also provided to the Citizens Task Force at the May 21, 2013 meeting. This follow-up provided additional information about the PAG projections model, the role it plays in our work and in our community planning process. It also indicates that as we continue to move forward on this project, we will continue to use a range of projections. http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/files/projects/broadway/2013_05-10_TravelDemandOverview_Fin.pdf

We know that the Federal projections received by the State of Arizona are projecting less population for our region. It is my understanding that PAG has been in the process of developing the new projections, and as we move forward on the project process, we will use the most current projections available, in the range that we are committed to using. If there is new information PAG has available that will aid our

process, we will incorporate that.

As an aside, this approach of using a range has subsequently been supported by the U.S. PIRG report, as proposed in the report conclusions on pgs. 41-42 of "A New Direction: Our Changing Relationship with Driving and the Implications for America's Future."

<http://uspirg.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/A%20New%20Direction%20vUS.pdf>

This is a challenging project with many different layers to it, and what seems like a race against time to address it all. This is one reason to allow time for the process to continue. I assure you that I and the team remain committed to doing everything we can to aid this decision process. If we are thorough in our approach and process, I believe we will develop the information that will help us all engage in conversations that consider all the different angles.

Thank you for your letter and opportunity to provide some additional information.

Sincerely,
Jenn Toothaker Burdick

c: The Honorable Mayor and Council Members
The Broadway Citizens Task Force Members
Albert Elias, Assistant City Manager
Nicole Ewing-Gavin, Assistant to the City Manager
Daryl Cole, Director, Tucson Department of Transportation
Carlos de Leon, Deputy Director, Tucson Department of Transportation
Jim DeGrood, Director of Transportation Services, Regional Transportation Authority
Rick Ellis, Administrator, Engineering Division, Pima County Department of Transportation

>>> "les_p_hackenslash@yahoo.com" <les_p_hackenslash@yahoo.com> 10/13/13 8:23 PM >>>

Hi, Jenn:
I hope this finds you well.
Below plz find text of a letter from the Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association to you (as Broadway Project Manager) and cc'ed to M&C regarding the Broadway design process. I have also attached a "prettified" version on ACNA letterhead if that is preferred.

Cheers,

Les

enc: acna_ltr_20131013.sla.pdf (PDF format, ~175KB)
cc: M&C

__BEGIN__

13-OCT-2013

To: Jenn Toothaker
City of Tucson Department of Transportation
201 North Stone Ave, 5th floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

From: Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association
Les Pierce, President
2727 East Beverly Drive
Tucson, AZ 85716

Re: Broadway Project

Hi, Jenn:

I have been attending the Broadway Project Citizen Task Force (CTF) meetings and open houses since the CTF's inception in Spring, 2012, and I am now writing on behalf of the Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association (ACNA) to bring your attention to a matter of concern.

It is our understanding that the CTF is charged with conceiving a roadway design for the section of Broadway Blvd between Euclid Avenue and Country Club Road. Per Mayor and Council direction, the CTF may consider all roadway design options and not just the 8-lane/ 150-foot one advanced by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). Also, per RTA legal counsel Thomas Benavidez' statement to the RTA's CART committee on 22-MAY-2013, the CTF is not strictly bound to the RTA plan as long as functionality is preserved and the project budget met.

It is also our understanding that, generally, CTFs are charged with conceiving project designs and that they are supported by City and project staff ("staff") which provides expertise, data, and other materials to educate and inform the CTF members and their discussions. The CTF is in the driver's seat, so to speak.

Which brings us to the reason for this letter. Over the past several months, we have observed CTF members directing staff to produce documentation to aid the CTF in their deliberations, but this information was not produced at the next subsequent meeting, nor has it been produced since. For example:

(A) At the 30-MAY-2013 CTF meeting, neighborhood representative Colby Henley asked for information about where on Broadway business parking is occurring as a non-conforming use. This has not yet been produced.

(B) At the 25-JUL-2013 CTF meeting, neighborhood representative Mary Durham-Pflibsen requested information about the light rail system installed in the City of Phoenix, since parts of that project were built without extensive demolition and this case study could prove useful to CTF deliberations. This information has not yet been produced.

(C) At the 25-JUL-2013 CTF meeting, business representative Diane Robles asked again for up-to-date traffic figures, since Pima Association of Governments (PAG) had recently revised their traffic projections downward. Not only has this information not yet been produced (despite assurances at the 18-APR-2013 meeting that it would be made available), projections known to be outdated were presented to audience and participants at the public open house on 26-SEP-2013.

Had any one of these been an isolated incident, it could be forgiven as a necessary part of the process (i.e., accidents happen). However, they collectively appear to indicate a pattern in which staff is selectively choosing when to comply with the CTF's reasonable information requests, and thereby manipulating the process in a particular direction. We hope we are mistaken.

As stakeholders in the Broadway Boulevard project (which demarcates ACNA's north border) we demand a fair and aboveboard design process, and therefore we must insist that staff be instructed to produce the materials described above at or before the next CTF meeting (21-OCT-2013).

Thank you for your time and kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Les Pierce

President, Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association

cc: City of Tucson Mayor and Council:
Mayor Jonathan Rothschild,
Ward 1 Councillor Regina Romero,
Ward 2 Councillor Paul Cunningham,
Ward 3 Councillor Karin Uhlich,
Ward 4 Councillor Shirley Scott,
Ward 5 Councillor Richard Fimbres, and
Ward 6 Councillor Steve Kozachik

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