

## Broadway - Please widen Broadway

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**From:** Greg Clark <glark999@earthlink.net>  
**To:** <broadway@tucsonaz.gov>  
**Date:** 5/5/2014 6:42 AM  
**Subject:** Please widen Broadway

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of the Miles Neighborhood, an owner of property on the south side of Broadway in the central segment of the Broadway Corridor Project, and a Tucson resident who uses Broadway Boulevard for transportation on a daily basis.

I was alarmed to learn recently that the Citizen's Task Force for the Broadway Widening Project is working to thwart 30 years of planning, land acquisition, and the citizen-approved RTA funding initiative for widening Broadway between Park Avenue and Country Club Road. Recent task force proposals to minimize widening and to change the alignment of the project the south side of Broadway -- rather than the north as has always been planned -- are an insult to good and inclusive city and transportation planning and to the democratic process.

I feel strongly that the Broadway Boulevard widening project should proceed in the manner planned since the early- to mid-1980s, and in the manner that voters committed to funding in 2006 -- to be a transportation and commercial corridor that allows the free flow of vehicular traffic and expands to the north side of the current roadway between Park and Country Club.

While I appreciate the flexibility of the City of Tucson's transportation department to update the study and the design of the Broadway Boulevard widening project to reflect current and future use, I feel that the Citizen's Task Force's recent second-guessing of the project and efforts to reduce the size and scope of the roadway improvement project to be shortsighted and unfair.

Beginning in the 1980s, Broadway Boulevard was recognized as a roadway in need of expansion. The length of Broadway was seen as a thoroughfare that should have vibrant commercial, retail shopping, and office districts along its edges and should be one of Tucson's main east-west transportation arteries. The project back then was promoted to be the "Broadway Commercial Corridor." The expansion of Broadway was to concentrate people and traffic along a wide and easily navigable roadway between east-side and downtown Tucson in a way that would be good for commerce, business and development all along the route. Since 1987, property owners, business owners and residents of the surrounding neighborhoods have known that Broadway is slated for widening and that the road will expand into the properties along the north side of the road and that south side will be protected and available for business and commercial development.

For a minimum of 27 years, land sales and purchases, investment, and land use decisions have been made based on open, actively promoted, and well-publicized Broadway widening plans. The City of Tucson has actively acquired property on the north side of Broadway for the Broadway widening project. Since 1987, development and demolition projects on both sides of Broadway have been steered, planned, approved and completed with the widening project to the north in mind. This status of the widening project changed from proposed to guaranteed in 2006 when the Regional Transportation Authority bond package was approved to provide the majority of funding for the project. The citizen-approved commitment was for a *wider* Broadway that *expands toward the north side* of its current boundaries. At the time voters were assured that the projects in the RTA ballot would be carried out as promised.

People need to be able to depend on the City's development plans and promises. People who travel on Broadway need to realize the benefits of an expanded and improved road. Voters who approved the widening and improvement project need to get the wider and better road that they asked for. Perhaps most importantly, all people need to know that that election results are binding -- that they will be honored, not ignored.

Broadway needs to be widened. It is only right that it be done toward the north.

Sincerely,

Greg Clark  
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