

City of Tucson Study Session
RTA Project #17, Broadway, Euclid to Country Club
Thursday, October 9, 2014

Good afternoon Mr. Mayor and Tucson City Council. My name is Doug Mance, and I reside within the City of Tucson, and I am a second term member of the Citizens Accountability for Regional Transportation Committee or CART Committee. In addition, at the CART Committee's October 4, 2012 meeting I was appointed the ex-officio liaison to the Broadway Citizen's Task Force, and I have watched this Citizen's Task Force work on this project diligently and admirably for more than two years. Today they come before you with a project proposal (Six Lanes including two transit lanes) that they have approved with a very decisive 10 to 3 vote.

In May of 2006, the voters of greater Pima County approved the entire Regional Transportation Plan, which includes but is certainly not limited to, Project #17, Broadway Blvd. The regional votes for that historic plan were also very decisive with a 3 to 2 ratio.

In July of this year, a Broadway business owner's forum was organized by the Broadway Citizen's Task Force. If you read input statements and tally the feelings from the current business interests in the Broadway corridor, you can sense another decisive set of voices favoring this RTA project and, in fact, the businesses on Broadway are exhausted with the status quo in their corridor.

From the very beginning of this process, I have let the Broadway Citizen's Task Force know that my idea of a perfect design for RTA#17 is a plan:

- 1) That they came up with
- 2) Was blessed and approved by the Mayor and Council
- 3) Was approved by funding partner Pima County
- 4) Was further recommended by the RTA Technical Management Committee and my CART Committee, and then finally
- 5) Was approved by the RTA Board of Directors.

On that pathway towards the best and most likely to be funded plan, we are at the first step today with this study session and your blessing and approval to move ahead.

Ladies and Gentlemen I feel the need to caution you to understand that we are now "threading a needle". To compromise any further in either direction would be to jeopardize success as I have just defined it. There are shrill voices out there that will never be satisfied under any circumstances except with their own dogmatic views. Again, to compromise further may upset a delicate balance that I believe has been achieved through no small effort by many thousands of citizen volunteer and staff hours.

I urge you to please not disregard the hard work and the decisive vote of the Broadway Citizen's Task Force.

I urge you to please not disregard the feelings of the businesses that have voiced those feelings concerning their need to know what is ahead for their respective enterprises.

I urge you to please not disregard the duties of my CART Committee and their desire to be able to recommend a fundable plan to the RTA Board.

And finally I urge you to please not disregard the stated fiduciary duty that the RTA Board has to the region's voters and the original Regional Transportation Plan.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas S. Mance
Citizens for Accountability for Regional Transportation
Ex-Officio liaison to the Broadway Citizens Task Force