Downtown Links Project Update
July 2013
Scope, Schedule, Budget

Scope for Design: (HDR Inc., and consultant team)
The project is in the 20-year RTA plan approved by voters in 2006. A 1.3 mile long multi-modal roadway corridor linking I-10 and Broadway, next to the Union Pacific Railroad. Includes:
• 4 vehicles lanes with medians and turn lanes
• On-street bike lanes, sidewalks, and separate multi-use path
• Major drainage improvements: new Tucson Arroyo culvert
• 6th Street Underpass at the Union Pacific Railroad
• Four rail crossing upgrades to establish “no-whistle zone” eligibility
• Links Avenue bridge across 6th Avenue
• 9th Avenue deck park with public space, landscaping, art
• Native desert landscaping and passive water harvesting
• 6th Street/6th Avenue signal upgrade for two-way traffic
• Development of an optional Urban Overlay District (Poster-Frost-Mirto Architects)

Schedule: to be constructed between 2011 and 2021 per the RTA Plan.
• Phase I: 8th Street Drainage Project. Completed in May 2012.
• Phase II: St. Mary’s Road, I-10 to Church Avenue Project. Under Construction.
• Phase III: 6th Street/Links Ave. from Church to Broadway. In Design.

Budget: RTA funds $76.1 million ($23.8 million expended or obligated to date)
Approved Alignment
(Mayor & Council approved in 2008)

DOWNTOWN LINKS CORRIDOR PROJECT
I-10 TO BROADWAY BLVD
MAY 2013
Phase II:
St. Mary’s Road, I-10 to Church Ave

• On schedule: To be completed by January 2014.
• Construction Update:
  ▪ Major underground drainage and utilities almost complete
  ▪ Begin construction of north side of roadway in July 2013, including landscape elements, final grading and paving
  ▪ Two-way traffic to remain but will change alignments as needed for various construction activities
Phase III: Church Avenue to Broadway Boulevard

- **Design Schedule:** 75% plans by September 2013, and 100% plans by January 2015.

- **Design Update:**
  - **Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossings:** Ongoing coordination for proposed bridge structure. TDOT to meet with FRA & UPRR in August 2013 to discuss infrastructure needs and “Quiet Zone” requirements.
  - **Drainage Plans:** Remove properties from FEMA floodplain with the completion of Tucson Arroyo improvements and High School Wash improvements (PCFCFD)
  - **9th Avenue Deck Park:** Design concept approved by CAC in May 2013. TDOT to include concept in Phase III 75% plans.
  - **Bike and Pedestrian Connectivity:** CAC subcommittee currently working with TDOT staff to identify solutions for major crossings and downtown access.
  - **Public Art:** Budget and future art concepts to be discussed in September 2013
  - **Building Demolitions:** Stone Transmission building demo to take place mid-July 2013
  - **Property Acquisitions:** RTA Board to approve funding in August 2013. Once approved, Real Estate will begin communications with property owners.
9th Avenue Deck Park Design Concept

• Deck Park design concept was approved by CAC in May 2013.
• Ongoing discussions with CAC and TDOT staff regarding future landscaping and maintenance responsibilities.
• Design features:
  ▪ Planters & landscaping
  ▪ Public gathering space
  ▪ Landscaped play area
  ▪ Lighting & hardscape
Land Use Planning

Current Issues

• Property acquisition discussions to begin in September, once RTA approves funding

• Downtown Links Urban Overlay District (DLUOD) is being coordinated by City staff with other urban overlays (UODs): Infill Incentive District, Streetcar District.

• Uof A College of Architecture faculty and students assisting with redevelopment concepts. Recent collaborative Sustainable Cities workshop in D.C. with City staff and design team.

• WAMO to provide input on future site planning of Citizen’s and Steinfeld warehouses.
More Information

- **Downtown Links project website** [www.downtownlinks.info](http://www.downtownlinks.info)
  - traffic alerts
  - CAC meeting minutes
  - maps and reports

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