

# 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
- 6<sup>th</sup> Street Underpass at the Union Pacific Railroad
- Four rail crossing upgrades to establish “no-whistle zone” eligibility
- Links Avenue bridge across 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue deck park with public space, landscaping, art
- Native desert landscaping and passive water harvesting
- 6<sup>th</sup> Street/6<sup>th</sup> Avenue signal upgrade for two-way traffic
- Development of an optional Urban Overlay District (Poster-Frost-Mirto Architects)

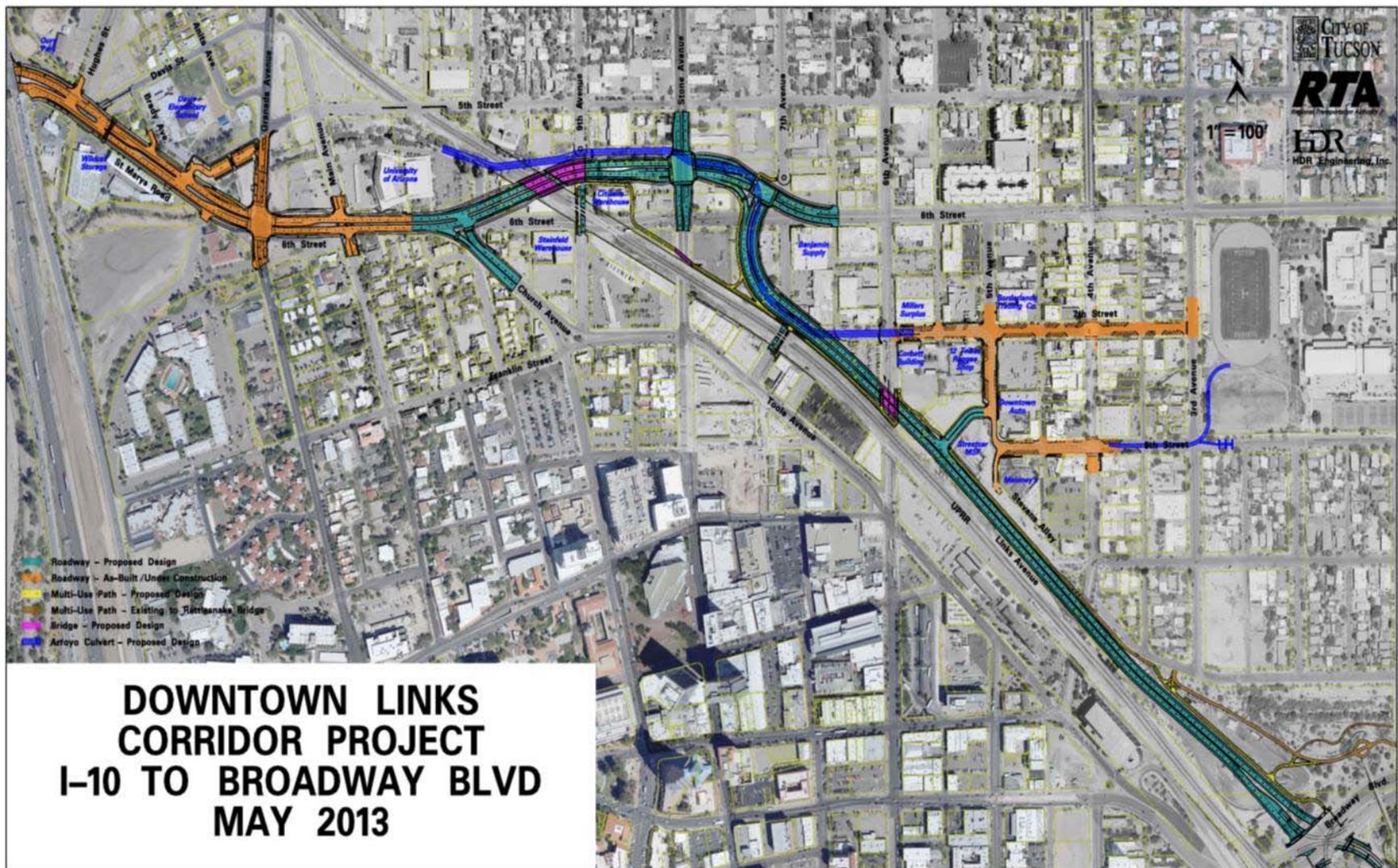
**Schedule:** to be constructed between 2011 and 2021 per the RTA Plan.

- Phase I: 8<sup>th</sup> Street Drainage Project. *Completed in May 2012.*
- Phase II: St. Mary’s Road, I-10 to Church Avenue Project. *Under Construction.*
- Phase III: 6<sup>th</sup> 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 (PCFCD)
  - **9<sup>th</sup> 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.

# 9<sup>th</sup> 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
- **Tom Fisher, TDOT Project Manager (Planning)** [tom.fisher@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:tom.fisher@tucsonaz.gov)
- **Sam Credio, TDOT Project Manager (Engineering)** [sam.credio@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:sam.credio@tucsonaz.gov)