



KINO PARKWAY – 22ND STREET INTERSECTION & WIDENING TO TUCSON BOULEVARD



Kino Parkway – 22nd Street Intersection Improvements Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #23 Meeting Summary

The 23rd meeting of the CAC was held from 6-8:00 pm May 28, 2009 at the Patrick K. Hardesty Midtown Center, 1100 South Alvernon Way. In attendance were CAC members Ivo Ortiz, Dirck Schou, Elaine Ward, Sandra Zepeda, Claire Fellows, Bill Seitz, Les Pierce, Jamey Sumner, Brett DuMont and George Kalil. Absent were members Sylvia Campoy and Wright Thomas. Project staff present included Janice Cuaron, Edie Griffith-Metty, Darlene Showalter, Jay Van Echo, Claudia Perchinelli, Priscilla Fernandez, Nanette Pageau and Freda Johnson. Also present were Mary Ellen Wooten, Nora Kuehl and Council Member Steve Leal from Ward V.

1. Welcome and introductions; confirm quorum.

Chairman Ivo Ortiz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and turned the meeting over to moderator Freda Johnson. Freda announced that a quorum was present and invited all present to introduce themselves and state their affiliations.

2. Review ground rules for meetings/meeting summary/agenda item order.

Freda reviewed the ground rules and acknowledged the summary of the previous meeting.

3. Call to the Audience.

Freda invited members of the audience to address the CAC. Rob Paulus, representing the Ice House Lofts, said he supports a signal at 18th Street and Park Avenue and he read from and submitted a petition signed by numerous people also in favor of a signal at 18th Street. Tom Kusian, representing Tucson Food Services, spoke in favor of a signal at 18th Street. He said that access to his store, the 17th Street Market, is important. A representative with a business in the area spoke in favor of a signal at 18th Street because a signal at 19th Street would affect customers coming to his street. Santino Cannizzaro of the Ice House Lofts said that the proposed median in Park Avenue at 18th Street would cause home values to drop due to the median constricting access to their homes, and that medians increase accidents. He prefers the signal to be located at 18th Street.

CJ Roberts, Praxair, said he had seen many accidents at 18th Street, but never seen any at 19th Street. If a median were placed at either 18th or 19th Street, it would mean his large trucks would not be able to access his lot from Park Avenue, causing truck drivers to go through neighborhoods. He feels that a median would cause a safety issue, and is against a median and signal on Park Avenue. Billie Moss, a resident on 17th Street said that the median across 18th Street would cut off access to the north and bring more traffic into the

neighborhood. Al Garcia, South Park Neighborhood, said that right now there is no traffic signal between the tunnel and the intersection. He said that going from the South Park Neighborhood at the pedestrian crossing, he is concerned that a signal is ill advised and endangers people. Regarding the intersection at 18th Street, he goes on Toole Ave. now to get downtown. Al wants Park Avenue left the way it is. Todd Shipman, a resident of the area said he wants open access at 18th Street because Cherry Ave. will be closed to them. Paul Hoffman asked about the status of property acquisition. Grant Getz, a resident of 18th Street said he needs access across Park Avenue and the proposed raised median on Park Avenue restricts access.

4. Project Schedule – AECOM.

Edie Griffith-Metty distributed copies of the project schedule, updated to include the June 17, 2009 Open House at the Quincie Douglas Center from 5:30-7:00 p.m. She said that on June 15, 2009, all project documents would be available to the public.

5. Project updates on Kino Parkway/22nd Street intersection and widening to Tucson Boulevard – Project Team.

Status update on property acquisitions

Janice Cuaron reported on the status of property acquisitions being done through the firm Tierra Right-of-Way. They will contact property owners starting on the north side of 22nd Street and all businesses at the intersection. Interviews will be conducted to discuss relocation and options for property owners. For now, Janice said businesses on the south side of 22nd Street would be left alone. Janice reported that a home had been foreclosed, and the City contacted the bank to stop the eviction of the homeowner. The City has made an offer to the bank and the resident will be allowed to stay in the home. Elaine Ward asked if all properties to be taken are on the north side. Janice said yes, that those residents are impacted. Janice said she is not certain if Walsh Brothers will be affected, but Purcell Tires will not.

Park Avenue traffic signal update

Edie Griffith-Metty presented background information on activities leading to the selection of a signal at 19th Street. The Task Force with representatives from Millville, Armory Park and Santa Rita Neighborhoods unanimously endorsed the selection. Edie suggested that further direction from the CAC is needed. Sandra Zepeda clarified that the original reason to have a signal on Park Avenue was because truck traffic was backed-up coming off Highland Ave. George Kalil said that the Millville Neighborhood will meet the last Tuesday of June and he invited people from the other neighborhoods to attend and discuss the matter. He said discussion should take place about the possibility of eliminating the median at 18th Street. Brett DuMont encouraged people to attend this meeting June 30 at 5:30 pm at 829 East 17th Street. Claire Fellows said that she has reservations about a signal at 18th or 19th and she observed that Armory Park opposes a signal at 18th Street. In response to a question from Bill Seitz, Edie said that 18th Street goes through to Five Points and to I-10, and there is some fear this would become a thoroughfare. Claire asked that with the 21st Street ramp connection onto Kino Parkway, made specifically for trucks, why would there be a need for a signal at Park Ave? George said that he is concerned about Millville Neighborhood becoming a dead zone. After

further discussion it was agreed to table discussion on this topic until the Millville Neighborhood Association meeting on June 30, 2009.

Jay Van Echo said that there is enough traffic to warrant a signal at 19th Street if 18th Street is closed. Council Member Steve Leal acknowledged progress made on this important project to date. He encouraged consideration of all the pros and cons of two possibilities for signals. There needs to be a shared frame of reference and everyone needs to understand each other. He said that it is a challenge to enhance the livability of neighborhoods and get traffic to 22nd Street.

Bike circulation at SPUI ramps

Edie Griffith-Metty said that cyclists and pedestrians would share a path and that there would be a 20-foot radius at the connection of the southbound entrance ramp. There will be curb cuts at a 90-degree angle. Jamey Sumner asked if it would be possible to provide a tunnel for cyclists. Jay Van Echo said that it would be cost prohibitive and not necessarily safer for cyclists. He said that bike circulation would be looked at more closely. Bill Seitz asked about the 'jug handle' configuration to get pedestrians and cyclists across traffic lanes. Edie said that at the northbound exit, there would be a jug handle up onto the bridge and it would have a 25-foot radius. Crossings will be at grade. Jamey said that everything should be clearly marked for motorists to know that pedestrians and cyclists will be crossing. Les asked if it will be possible to stay on the road and go straight to get over the bridge instead of using the jug-handle. Jay said that the option of going straight is always available for bicyclists.

Lighting options for the Kino Parkway Bridge

Edie Griffith-Metty presented an overview of lighting options. She said that there would be no ambient lighting but bent pole lighting is acceptable. High mast lighting extends up to 80-90 feet. Elaine Ward asked how many bulbs there are in the high mast light and will they interfere with the art concept. Response was made 4-8 bulbs and these high mast lights are separate poles away from the bridge, and the art elements will be at the bridge piers. George asked about different types of lights to be used on the UPRR Bridge. Edie said that consideration needs to be given to impacts on residents of the Parkway Terrace Neighborhood. Light from the high mast poles would spill over into the adjacent neighborhood, so using them on the UPRR Bridge would not be ideal. Jamey said that he does not want to see the art concept cluttered and that he likes the high mast lighting and observed that the foundations of lights can be decorated. Ivo Ortiz said that taggers probably couldn't reach up to the high mast lights. Edie said that more discussion about lighting would take place during the design phase of the project.

6. Results of the Design Charette.

Edie Griffith-Metty provided copies of a summary of issues identified by the CAC at the Design Charette and she reviewed this material along with Darlene Showalter and Mary Ellen Wooten. Concerns documented from the Design Charette included seven traffic and land use issues, four art and aesthetic issues and three issues associated with landscaping.

Darlene reported that the landscaping proposed is realistic and is illustrated in the 3-D model used at the Charette. She acknowledged that the cost of buffer walls needs to be monitored while being careful and creative. She said that with regard to palm trees in the medians, they provide the least shade value and are a challenge to maintain. She added that the City would prefer not to have them though they could be transplanted elsewhere. Ivo expressed support for transplanting. Darlene said that she knows a palm tree is a signature tree in the project area. Elaine said that there should be no desert brush or thorny plants near the bike path. Jamey offered that he likes flowering trees like the deeper shade of desert willow. Darlene said that there might be a visual impact from the microwave tower as one goes over Murphy's Overpass.

It was clarified that Barbara Grygutis, the project artist, would prepare a planning document for the area east to Tucson Boulevard and there would be a new call to artists for this area. With regard to the mural at Parkway Terrace, Mary Ellen said that the options are to hire an artist to recreate the earlier work, create a new mural or relocate the mural so that it faces the cul-de-sac. She said that there are eleven frames on the wall with three of them having tile on them. She said that it was likely done through the youth program at the Arts Council. Ivo Ortiz asked for consideration that the mural commemorate the life and contribution of former CAC member Louis Padilla. Jamey Sumner concurred and added that a plaque should commemorate the service and dedication of all the CAC members in this project.

The changes to the 3D model presented in the Design Charette were shown briefly to the CAC. The CAC members were invited to get a closer look at the 3D model on the computer screen after the meeting if they wished to. The CAC was thanked for their participation and efforts in creating the "pre-cept" and taking it to the concept we now have to move forward with.

7. Discuss future meeting dates and agenda items.

Janice Cuaron said that the next meeting of the CAC would be in the fall. Jamey reminded people of the Millville Neighborhood Association meeting June 30, 2009.

8. Call to the audience.

Al Garcia, South Park Neighborhood expressed concern about the meeting June 30 and urged that all residents on both sides of 18th and 19th Streets be notified. Grant Getz, a resident of 18th Street would like to see a vote about the light at 19th Street. He said that information about the median was added later. Jeanette Seitz, South Park Neighborhood, reported concern about problems with wiring be addressed when lighting is designed. She said that thieves take out wiring to get at the copper. Karen Shipman, resident of 18th Street said if 18th Street is to be closed, she would like to be notified of the exact reason for this. She said that residents are there 24 hours per day.

9. Adjourn.

Les Pierce moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.