



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



Kino Parkway – 22nd Street Intersection Improvements Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #14 Meeting Summary

A meeting of the CAC was held from 6:00-8:00 pm on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 in the Multipurpose Room of the Quincie Douglas Library. In attendance were appointed members Bill Seitz, Brett Dumont, Ivo Ortiz, Les Pierce, Claire Fellows, George Kalil, Jamey Sumner, Cindy Ayala, Sylvia Campoy, Dirck Schou and Wright Thomas. Absent was Sandra Zepeda. Project staff present included Janice Cuaron, Edie Griffith-Mettey, Alejandro Angel, Dave Dobler, Darlene Showalter, Darlene Danehy, Claudia Perchinelli, Jay Van Echo, Nanette Pageau, Priscilla Fernandez, Britton Dornquast, and Freda Johnson. Also in attendance from the City of Tucson were Jim Glock and Grace Ochoa.

1. Welcome and introductions; confirm quorum.

CAC Chair Ivo Ortiz opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He said that a quorum was present and then he turned the meeting over to moderator, Freda Johnson.

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

Freda reviewed the ground rules that were developed at the first meeting of the CAC. Comments were invited from CAC members about the summary of the previous meeting held April 2, 2008. Without objection, the summary was accepted as distributed.

3. First call to the audience

Freda announced that this meeting would have two “Call to the Audience” sessions, one at the beginning and another at the end of the meeting. She explained to everyone that per public meeting laws, this is when the observers would have a chance to speak but the CAC is not allowed to respond. No one appeared to address the CAC at this time.

4. Project schedule – DMJM Harris.

Edie Griffith-Mettey distributed copies of the project schedule, which runs to early November 2008. She said that things are on track, and that comments from CAC members will be sought.

5. Report from Millville Neighborhood Association meeting on 4/23/08 – TDOT, DMJM Harris.

Edie Griffith-Mettey summarized the issues raised by the Millville Neighborhood Association at their meeting of April 23, 2008. The issues pertained to access and circulation in the northwest quadrant of the intersection project area. Edie stated the recommended improvements that the Millville Board requested at the April 23 meeting included a traffic signal at Park Ave and 19th Street, a traffic signal at Santa Rita and 22nd Street, extending Santa Rita south thru to 23rd Street, and extending 23rd Street west to

Park Ave. Brett Dumont, Millville Neighborhood Association Vice President, said that they also had raised issues of safety and access in the northeast quadrant. George Kalil, President of the Millville Neighborhood Association, raised questions about recommendations in the May 2, 2008 Technical Evaluation of Improvements Requested by the Millville Neighborhood Association on April 23, 2008. Alejandro Angel, Traffic Engineering Manager for PSOMAS on the project team, had written this report. George said that the issue of distance between traffic signals with regard to the requested signal at Santa Rita was of concern since Millville people measured the distance as 991.5 feet between the centerline of Park and 22nd Street and the centerline of Santa Rita and 22nd Street. In response, Alejandro presented background on the Technical Report and clarified that the City requirement for distance between traffic signals is a quarter mile, not 1000 feet. In addition, he said that a signal at Santa Rita is not in the best interests of the community and does not meet the City's spacing requirements. He added that a median opening would be provided on 22nd Street at Santa Rita and that trucks could make turns at non-peak times at that location. He pointed out that the report recommends a connection on 21st Street to the southbound off ramp from Kino, which would allow vehicles to make a left turn onto 22nd Street at the SPUI signal. Alejandro also summarized options for a traffic signal at either 18th Street or 19th Street where preliminary traffic counts indicate a signal is probably warranted. Claire Fellows commented that she is opposed to a signal at 18th Street.

George Kalil suggested that with regard to a signal at Santa Rita, this could be timed to coordinate with other traffic signals. Jay Van Echo responded by saying that adding another signal at Santa Rita can create problems because it would disrupt the other signals in the vicinity that currently provide gaps in traffic, and those gaps create opportunities for vehicles to make turns. George said that the Technical Report indicated that 1000 feet between signals would be OK. Alejandro disagreed with this conclusion and reiterated that the City policy is for a quarter-mile between signals.

George brought up the topic of road counts at 18th Street and said that his operation at Kalil was closed during part of the days when the road count was done. He said that he is trying to speak for the neighborhood and that there have been three Board meetings and a general meeting on this project.

Jamey Sumner said that the City is being responsive to the access issues for the Millville area, and that good will is being demonstrated.

Ivo Ortiz asked if the ramp at 21st Street would help Kalil operations. George responded by saying that with a 70-foot trailer, going downhill on a narrow roadway, it would be difficult to get to the inside of the ramp to go east. Brett Dumont said that at the Millville meetings, there is appreciation for the overall effort and that the SPUI is supported by Millville, but with the requirements requested by the Board. He added that the Millville requirements would help Pueblo Gardens and South Park.

Sylvia Campoy asked about the size of the neighborhood. George said that it is north of 22nd Street and used to be part of the South Park neighborhood. It extends west of Park

where it is 90% industrial. He said that businesses in the area own some residences and that Kalil bottling employs 380 people. Sylvia asked what the role of the CAC is in this process of endorsing or not endorsing the SPUI. Jay said that the Technical Advisory Committee for the project makes a recommendation that is presented to the CAC to endorse (or not). Then a letter goes to the Mayor and Council with the CAC's recommendation for or against. Jay said that some action from the CAC is needed in order to move forward. Brett referred to a remark earlier by Jay that issues or proposals in response to the Millville requests are not 'set in blood'. He asked what the project team could do. Jay said that the team will look at signals at either 18th or 19th Streets at Park, that they will look at and evaluate the acquisition of 23rd Street to Santa Rita and would look at a connection to the ramp at 21st Street. He said that the team would not recommend a signal at Santa Rita because it doesn't meet the spacing requirements for traffic signals, and that installing a signal when it is not warranted can create a dangerous situation. Brett urged consideration of the signal at Santa Rita because it would help all businesses in the area. Brett added that he was skeptical about coordination with the Union Pacific Railroad. Jay responded by saying yes it takes time, but it's not a fatal flaw, and he has a history of working productively with railroad representatives.

Bill Seitz acknowledged that it is unfortunate that the railroad bisects the City and that Kino is a major thoroughfare that is hard to get onto sometimes. He said that he could ask for a signal at the entrance to his subdivision, but if everyone did that, getting around on city streets would be impossible. Bill said that the problem of access occurs throughout the City and he thinks something must be done here. Cindy Ayala described the frustrations people have along Fairland, 36th Street and Cherrybelle with more trucks using these streets. She commented that trash comes off trains in her neighborhood. She said she wants to see the project go forward. Jamey said that it costs us economically if we don't have a good circulation system. Sylvia said that neighborhoods are not 'special interests' and that she understands the need to move forward. She asked for work to be done to bring the parties together. Claire asked that the CAC move on to the next agenda item.

6. Continue review and discussion of Kino/22nd Street intersection alternatives and ultimate endorsement of preferred alternative – TDOT/DMJM Harris.

Claire said that she believes the access issues in the northwest quadrant have been addressed. She moved to vote for the preferred alternative. Bill Seitz seconded the motion. George said that he cannot vote on this. Ivo said that Millville is unique with a combination of commercial and residential and that he prefers to defer to residents who are living with trucks in their neighborhoods. Wright Thomas said that he agrees with George on the issue and that he preferred Alternative 3, the partial cloverleaf. Brett said that he agrees with George as well that there are too many unanswered questions. Jay said that the team had addressed all the issues and that there is a strong possibility that a signal can be installed at 18th or 19th Streets, and that the City is investigating the extension of 23rd Street to Santa Rita. He also said that the 21st Street access to the ramp off Kino is a strong possibility. Ivo asked if the ramp could be moved to 20th Street but Jay said the off ramp is too high at that point for a connection. George commented that it has been intentional for trucks to go out 19th or Santa Rita in order to avoid residential

areas. Les Pierce asked if the connection to the ramp would interfere with tunnels for bicycle and pedestrian circulation. Jay said no. Claire said that access issues have been well addressed for herself and her neighbors. She said that she likes the signal at 19th Street. Dirck Schou said that the CAC should have one more month to work on the access issues in order to meet with elected officers of neighborhood associations. Cindy Ayala agreed with this. Ivo asked George if the ramp connection at 21st Street would help. George said they need to talk some more with the project team. Jamey asked George where on 22nd Street his trucks go. George said they need to travel for two blocks to cross Park. Jamey said that a designated truck route is needed and that signs would help direct traffic.

Sylvia Campoy asked that if this were deferred for one month, what additional information the CAC would get. An observer asked that the traffic modeling that was shown to everyone before be revised to include the new connections and signals to see how the circulation works. Les Pierce said that she understands that the Santa Rita signal doesn't meet the City standard. Brett asked if the Santa Rita signal is a dead issue. Response was made that it doesn't meet the City's warrant for spacing. Wright Thomas said that he could live with this if the 21st Street access is a reality. Claire asked what would happen if the CAC doesn't endorse the recommended alternative. Project team members said that it would be up to Mayor and Council on whether to move forward. George said he didn't know that the Santa Rita signal was illegal and he said that the ramp at 21st Street is a new idea. He said he had surveyed 18 neighbors about keeping the Santa Rita signal and they all agreed. Alejandro reiterated the rationale for not recommending the signal at Santa Rita. Ivo said that he would like to see 21st Street reserved for trucks only. Dirck asked that George, Brett and Claire talk over the situation; Claire declined saying she didn't need to do this. Dave Dobler asked the group to consider two questions: Are the overall objectives of the project best served by the SPUI? And, is access in and out of Millville better or worse than it is today?

The question was called and a vote of those present on the motion to vote on the recommended alternative passed six votes to four. It was clarified that the vote is contingent on follow-up by the project team to address additional access in the Millville neighborhood at 18th or 19th Street, at 23rd Street to Santa Rita and at access to a ramp off Kino at 21st Street.

7. Review and discuss alternative alignment report for 22nd Street, between Kino Parkway and Tucson Boulevard – DMJM Harris.

This topic was postponed to the next CAC meeting.

8. Discuss future meeting dates.

It was agreed that either June 4 or June 25 were acceptable dates for the next CAC meeting at the Hardesty Center. Details of this location would be provided to everyone.

9. Call to the audience.

Mr. Becksted asked that a PowerPoint presentation be provided to demonstrate circulation in the northwest quadrant with the options discussed. Mr. Garcia noted that

Santa Rita is a dead end at 22nd Street. Minnie Almader asked that for meetings about the project along 22nd Street to I-10, there be discussion about accommodating people who don't have cars. Marcos Rodriguez asked about Item 7, the alternative alignment report that was to have been reviewed and discussed.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm