



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



Kino Parkway – 22nd Street Intersection Improvements Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #15 Meeting Summary

A meeting of the CAC was held from 6:00-8:00 pm on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at the Patrick K. Hardesty Midtown Multi-Service Center, 1100 S. Alvernon Way. In attendance were appointed members Bill Seitz, Brett Dumont, Ivo Ortiz, Les Pierce, Claire Fellows, George Kalil, Jamey Sumner, Sandra Zepeda and Dirck Schou. Absent was Sylvia Campoy, Wright Thomas and Cindy Ayala. Project staff present included Janice Cuaron, Edie Griffith-Metty, Alejandro Angel, Dave Dobler, Darlene Showalter, Claudia Perchinelli, Bill Schlesinger, Darlene Danehy, Britton Dornquast, Nanette Pageau, Priscilla Fernandez and Freda Johnson. Also in attendance from the City of Tucson was Dennis McLaughlin from the City Attorney's Office.

1. Welcome and introductions; confirm quorum.

CAC Chair Ivo Ortiz opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He said that a quorum was present. He asked for a moment of silence to remember the fallen Tucson Police Officer Erik Hite and his family. Following this, he turned the meeting over to moderator, Freda Johnson. Introductions were made of those present.

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 May 7, 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. Marcos Rodriguez of the Parkway Terrace Neighborhood Association spoke about the need to include his neighborhood in planning for both the 22nd Street widening and the Kino/22nd Street project. Dick Basye spoke about the need for cost effectiveness in planning these projects. Al Garcia reported that the old building at Cherry Avenue and 22nd Street might be converted into a strip mall.

4. Project schedule – DMJM Harris.

Edie Griffith-Metty reported that the schedule for the project has been extended. Brett Dumont asked about the status of proposals from the Millville Neighborhood Association. Edie said that these would be discussed later in the meeting.

5. Procedural review of May 7, 2008 CAC vote on interchange alternatives – Dennis, McLaughlin, City Attorney’s Office.

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the action of a secret ballot taken at the May 7 meeting and said that it was not a legal vote under the open meetings regulations. He said there should be a roll call vote or a voice vote so that the public will know how people on the CAC voted. He said that the motion is pending. In response to a question, he said that a show of hands would be acceptable. He said that it does not matter if the CAC attendance at this meeting is different than the attendance at the May meeting. Jamey Sumner said he is concerned that he, as a Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) representative, does not have a vote on the CAC and he asked that there be response from the City Attorney’s Office on this matter. Discussion followed about the City’s Roadway Policy under which the CAC was formed. Dennis said he would follow up on this matter.

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

Freda reminded the group that the motion was on the table to accept the recommended alternative, the Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) with contingencies addressing 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.

Ivo asked for consideration of issues raised in a letter from Brett Dumont to Jim Glock that Brett had shown him a bit earlier. Brett said that the Millville Neighborhood Association feels strongly that a signal is needed at Santa Rita and 22nd Street and that it would not be timed to east-west traffic. He said he was asking for this on behalf of a majority of people in the area, including residents. He said that the Millville area is blocked off further by the SPUI. He was asked if the City had responded to this letter and Brett said no. Ivo asked if research has been done on the access issues in the Millville neighborhood. Janice Cuaron said that this would be done once the City gets CAC endorsement for the SPUI and the other alternatives are taken off the table. Dirck Schou asked if action does not rule out a light at Santa Rita. Janice said that a signal at Santa Rita is not justified at this time.

George Kalil affirmed that he represents Kalil Bottling on the CAC and that in the letter Brett wrote there are 192 businesses in the area that provide services to the citizens of Tucson. He expressed concern about forcing traffic out through one traffic signal. He observed that there are pedestrian signals all over town. He said that the proposed signal at Santa Rita would be activated only when a vehicle needs to cross. He said he wanted to see Santa Rita connected to 23rd Street in the South Park area. Regarding the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), he said TAC member Carl Lattimer, representing Kalil Bottling, disputed the result. This was done in a letter to Janice Cuaron after the TAC meeting in February. He re-emphasized his desire to see a signal at Santa Rita and 22nd Street and he added that the 21st Street access to a ramp was not addressed to his satisfaction at the last meeting.

Janice responded by saying that with regard to a signal at Santa Rita, placement of signals is governed by an ordinance and a signal at Santa Rita does not meet warrants. If in the

future, warrants are met, then Mayor and Council can approve a signal at that time. A signal at either 18th or 19th Street will meet signal warrants. Ivo asked if a signal at 21st Street would be feasible because of safety issues. Edie Griffith-Metty said that there would be a stop sign at 21st Street for safety reasons. Sandra Zepeda asked if a signal at Santa Rita Avenue appeared in any other alternatives. The response was no; there had been a signal at Highland Avenue in the cloverleaf alternative. Brett asked if issues in his letter could be put on the table. He said cost effectiveness is an issue. He said that there is a signal at Forbes Boulevard and Grant Road one block west of the freeway and that signal has not been removed.

Jamey Sumner said that the CTAC has been engaged in all kinds of transportation projects over the past 25 years. CTAC has no more power than this CAC, but there is a seat at the table for all corridor projects. He advocated for designated truck routes. He said that the CTAC approval of the SPUI was made with stipulations to work with the neighborhoods.

Claire Fellows called for the question and the motion to endorse the SPUI with contingencies read by Freda. The motion, made by Claire Fellows and seconded by Bill Seitz, passed 6 to 2 with Dirck Schou, Les Pierce, Claire Fellows, Bill Seitz, Sandra Zepeda and Ivo Ortiz affirming the motion and George Kalil and Brett Dumont opposing it.

7. Review and discuss Alternative Alignment Report for 22nd Street between Kino Parkway and Tucson Boulevard – DMJM Harris.

Edie Griffith-Metty presented an overview of the project and the alternatives developed. Claire asked why there was a 20-foot wide median on top of the bridge. Edie said that this is to accommodate turn lanes in the future. Edie reviewed the evaluation process and distributed copies of an outreach summary that documents the many meetings sponsored for the project. She said that the next phase is to undergo environmental review, which will take up to six months.

Ivo asked about the status of homeowners on the north side of 22nd Street. Edie said that a report is in process and that most people seem to be ready to move. With regard to businesses there, Edie said there are a few and the team will talk to them. She said that the majority of people are willing to sell. Janice said that all three alternatives had impacts to homes to the north. Real estate representatives from the City explained the options regarding relocation. Janice noted that many people present in the audience at this meeting are interested in this issue. Claire asked when the project would start. Edie said it falls into the 2012-2016 budget and it would last 1.5 to 2 years. Ivo asked if vegetation, both native and non-native, could be salvaged. Edie said that she would look into this. Darlene Showalter of McGann & Associates Landscape Architects and Planners said that she had talked to the City's Landscape Architect and that he is open to salvaging plants. Janice said that the CAC has an important role in determining how the project will look.

Ivo asked about the status of the billboards in the area and whether or not the one on the north side would be taken down. Edie said that the one to the north would be taken down but the billboards on the south side are considered private property. Janice said that these billboards are subject to ongoing litigation. Ivo said that the CAC could make a recommendation.

Jamey Sumner said that the CTAC recommends a 3-D representation of the connection to Aviation Highway so that people can envision this project better. Edie said that Dave Dobler is working on a 3-D project.

In conclusion, Edie asked the CAC members to provide any additional comments within the next two weeks.

8. Overview of design charette process/lead-in to art theme – Dave Dobler/Barbara Grygutis.

Dave Dobler said that because Barbara could not be present at this meeting, the topic is deferred. He acknowledged the work of the CAC since October 2006 and said that the CAC will be providing important design help in the coming months.

9. Discuss future meeting dates.

The date of July 16 was suggested but Les could not be there then. July 17 would work for most and confirmation of this and the location will be communicated to the CAC and interested public, by Priscilla Fernandez.

10. Call to the audience.

Dave Kay spoke with regard to the residents on the north side of 22nd Street. He said that the Lopez family members are 50-year residents. He urged early buy-outs for people like them. He also expressed concerns about relocation costs and the home values in the depressed housing market.

Dick Basye commented on the status of the 22nd Street overpass and its being substandard. He observed that the pavement was cracked but the pillars are not a problem. He asked that the 20-foot median be reduced to 8-feet to save money.

Marcos Rodriguez of the Parkway Terrace neighborhood, expressed concern about pricing of homes. He also said that residents in his area don't feel part of the process. He asked if consideration would be given to a sound wall or privacy wall and how pedestrians will be treated. He said that things are vague and he and his neighbors are cautious. He urged that sound barriers be installed. He said that the cul-de-sac needs more detailed planning. He asked what would happen to the mural on 22nd Street. He commented that the bike lane off 22nd Street would cross a ramp and that this is unsafe. He said an on-ramp is needed on the west side. He asked for better graphics at meetings. He said that there is a double standard regarding walls—you tell us walls create graffiti but we want help.

Cyndi Masterson, who lives on 23rd Street, asked for an attractive sound barrier since 22nd Street will be in her front yard.

11. Adjournment.

Without objection, Ivo Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.