

Meeting Summary

City of Tucson Department of Transportation
Ward 4 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)

July 29, 2009, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Clements Center, 8155 E. Poinciana Drive

ATTENDEES:

Ward 4 CDRC Members

Shirley Bila, South Harrison Neighborhood Association (NA)

Rudy Lopez, Rita Ranch NA

Keith Miller, Mesquite Ranch NA

Ken Moyes, Rita Ranch NA

Al Wiruth, Rita Ranch NA

Rick Hanson, Civano Neighbors NA

Ward 4

Max Torres, Aide to Council Member Shirley Scott

Guest

Tom Willard, Rita Ranch NA

City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) Staff and Consultants

M.J. Dillard, TDOT Project Manager

Alejandro Angel, Psomas Project Manager, Central Segment

Steve Hagedorn, Landscape Architect, Logan Simpson Design, Central Segment

Craig Allison, Engineering and Environmental Consultants, Inc. (EEC) Project Manager,

Old Vail Road/Mary Ann Cleveland Way intersection improvements

Melissa Benton, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

Jan Gordley, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

Alice Templeton, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

MATERIALS:

- Agenda
- Invitation for Aug. 26, 2009, Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road public meeting
- May 27, 2009, CDRC Meeting Summary

INFORMATION PRESENTED:

Public Involvement Process Update

- A public involvement team member is now attending the Houghton Road/Old Vail Road intersection improvements construction meetings and sending weekly updates to the CDRC members. CDRC members are welcome to attend these construction meetings as well.
- To maintain regular and consistent communication on the months that the CDRC does not meet, an e-mail update will be sent to CDRC members.
- The target meeting date for CDRC meetings are the last Wednesday of the month. The exact date depends on meeting facility availability.

Houghton Road Corridor – Update

- The 30 percent preliminary plans have been completed for Houghton Road between Speedway Boulevard and Interstate 10.

Public Art

A call to art planners has been distributed by Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC). Sally Krommes, Public Art and Events Coordinator, TPAC, is putting together a selection panel. A citizen representative will be needed from Ward 4. (Additional selection panels will be created when individual artists are sought.) Any CDRC members who are interested in sitting on this panel can contact Max Torres. The call to artists can be viewed on www.tucsonpimaartscouncil.org.

Northern Segment – Update

Broadway Boulevard/Houghton Road Intersection, Final Design

- Broadway Boulevard/Houghton Road intersection final design is under way and working towards 75 percent plans.

Central Segment – Updates

Irvington Road to Valencia Road, Final Design

- Irvington Road to Valencia Road final design is under way.
- 75 percent plans will be complete prior to the public meeting.
- The Irvington Road to Valencia Road public meeting will occur Aug. 26.
- A copy of the public meeting exhibits will be sent to the CDRC prior to the public meeting.
- Coordination is occurring with Arizona State Land Department. A federal flood plain has been mapped at the Atturbury Wash, south of Poorman Road.
- Changes to the plans have been made based on public input.
 - Skip building the four-lane interim section and go directly to constructing six lanes.
 - Preserving the palo verde trees near Civano.
 - Directional median opening at McGraw's/Boulderfield Drive for Highland Trails neighborhood.

- Reconfiguration of the circulation at Secrist Middle School to avoid safety problems on Houghton Road and reduce neighborhood cut-through traffic.
- Rearrangement of the median openings between Golf Links Road and Escalante Boulevard to address concerns at Austin Point.
- Realignment of the entrance to the fire station and design of an emergency signal at Seven Generations Way.
- Directional median opening at Forest Glen.
- Revision of the drainage concept at Poorman Road to avoid ponding at the southeast corner of the intersection.
- Bus pullouts for future transit.

Landscape Design

Steve Hagedorn, Landscape Architect, Logan Simpson Design, presented the landscape plans that are being considered for Houghton Road from Irvington Road to Valencia Road. (See attached PowerPoint.)

Landscape goals/concepts for the Houghton Road Corridor:

- Preserve existing landscape throughout the Corridor, whenever possible.
- Use exclusively native plant materials within the project.
- Provide for water conservation throughout the project.
- Enhance the landscaping at the major intersections along the corridor and develop green nodes with more color and a heavier density of plantings at the intersections.
- Preserve the wash corridors.

Southern Segment – Updates

Old Vail Road/Mary Ann Cleveland Way Intersection, Construction

- This project is using the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) process.
- For future projects, 100 percent plans will be submitted before a contractor is brought on board.
- At the Houghton Road/Old Vail Road intersection construction meeting, construction crews will be reminded of the importance of staying alert and obeying traffic laws while on the roadway in the construction area.
- Developers are applying for safety funds from the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).
- The City of Tucson (COT) is coordinating construction efforts with the developers.
- The schedule for the replacement of light poles at the Houghton Road/Old Vail Road intersection will be provided to the CDRC.
- There will be opportunity to discuss the design of monument walls and the relocation of the living memorial at the Houghton Road/Old Vail Road intersection at the next CDRC meeting.

Southern Segment, Consultant Selection for Design

- A request for proposals will be forthcoming for the project area of the former project consultant, Castro Engineering. This segment consists of Houghton Road: Valencia Road to I-10 (not including the Houghton Road/Old Vail Road intersection or the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge).
- As requested, the CDRC will have the opportunity to select a representative to sit on the committee. (Citizens do not typically sit on an engineering selection committee.)
- Ken Moyes was selected to represent the public on the selection panel.

Southern Segment, Speed Limits

- Speed studies are being conducted for the southern segment in order to recommend new speed limits to be presented to the Mayor and City Council.
- Speed limit information will be provided at the next CDRC meeting by TDOT Traffic Engineer, Diahn Schwartz

Union Pacific Railroad Bridge, Design

- The Union Pacific Railroad Bridge project design is under way.
- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the funding source, has given permission to move forward to 30 percent plans.
- Bridge selection reports have been completed. Structural Grace will be the engineering consultant on this project. Structural Grace has established a relationship with Union Pacific Railroad.
- Pima County will be managing the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge project. Dave Zaleski will be project manager and attending the CDRC meetings.

Input by CDRC members:

- Check with Pima County and COT on rules regarding biking on multiuse pathway when bike lanes are present in roadway.
- Where possible, place trees where they can provide shade for path users.
- Ocotillo are a concern in the median because of previous history of them falling over.
- Request was made to swap the location of the multiuse paths (place the asphalt path away from the roadway, with the decomposed granite (DG) path closer to the roadway.)
- Add a yellow line to encourage directional use of the path.
- Request for additional neighborhood meeting with South Harrison NA to talk about schedule of projects in implementation plan and general safety and circulation issues
- Look at culvert and median design and how it will affect rainwater harvesting efforts, and also review merit of additional costs associated with culvert design.

Schedule

- The next public meeting will occur Aug. 26, 2009, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Desert Sky Middle School.
- CDRC members are encouraged to attend the public meeting.
- E-mail containing displays will be sent to the CDRC members prior to the public meeting.
- Displays will be posted to the Houghton Road Web site the day of the public meeting.
- Request to use Civano community center or Senita Valley Elementary School for future central segment public meetings.
- The next likely CDRC meeting will be late September 2009

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.