

Meeting Summary

City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT)

Ward 4 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)

Nov. 17, 2010, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Clements Center, 8155 E. Poinciana Drive

ATTENDEES

Ward 4 CDRC Members

Rick Hanson, Civano Neighborhood Association (NA)

Rudy Lopez, Rita Ranch NA

Keith Miller, Mesquite Ranch NA

Ken Moyes, Rita Ranch NA

Al Wiruth, Rita Ranch NA

Moon Joe Yee, Old Spanish Trail NA

Guests

Tamara Dillon

TDOT Staff and Consultants

M.J. Dillard, TDOT Project Manager

Alejandro Angel, Psomas Project Manager

Steve Hagedorn, Landscape Architect, Logan Simpson Design

Nina Borgia-Aberle, Houghton Road Corridor Art Planner and Houghton Road:

Irvington Road to Valencia Road Project Artist

Blessing Hancock, Houghton Road Corridor Railing Artist and Houghton Road:

Irvington Road to Valencia Road Project Artist

Melissa Benton, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

Jan Gordley, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

MATERIALS

- Agenda
- Public art master plan rough draft
- Art agenda
- Implementation plan map
- CDRC neighborhoods map
- Aug. 17, 2010, Ward 4 CDRC meeting summary
- Meeting evaluation form
- Comment form

INTRODUCTIONS

- Jan Gordley opened the meeting expressing appreciation to the CDRC members for their long-term participation in the Houghton Road Ward 4 CDRC.
- Jan reviewed ground rules for CDRC meetings and outlined the importance of showing respect and consideration for each other.

- Melissa Benton reviewed the parking lot items.

PROJECT UPDATES

Houghton Road Corridor General Update

- Work on the Houghton Road Corridor is moving forward as planned.
- Houghton Road, from Speedway Boulevard to Interstate 10, is planned to have six lanes.
- The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is administering the funding of the Houghton Road Corridor project.
- The implementation plan may be updated after the RTA Board meeting in January. TDOT will likely ask the RTA to move forward on the Valencia Road to Old Vail Road segment design, which recently received federal funding.

Houghton Road and Broadway Boulevard Intersection

- The Houghton Road and Broadway Boulevard intersection design is moving to 95 percent design completion. The Park-and-Ride lot is at about 90 percent design completion.

Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road

- TDOT is waiting on Pima County's local match money for this segment. The City will be meeting with the RTA Board in January to discuss this issue.
- Southwest Gas installed a new 12-inch gas line the entire length of the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road segment. Pima County Wastewater raised manholes in the area. Work with Qwest caused delays, but final design plans will be submitted by the end of the year.
- Construction on the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road segment should begin in spring or summer of 2011.
- Pima County is planning a dual path called the Urban Loop that would encircle the City of Tucson. Houghton Road, from Julian Wash to Pantano Wash, is located in this project area.

Houghton Road and Valencia Road Intersection

- 30 percent design plans were submitted for the Houghton Road and Valencia Road intersection in September. The team is currently working toward 75 percent design plans.
- The timing of the Houghton Road and Valencia Road intersection construction is scheduled to coincide with the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road construction. Construction of the intersection is anticipated to start after work on the road begins, but will be completed at the same time.

Houghton Road: Union Pacific Railroad to I-10

- TDOT received \$800,000 in federal funding for the Houghton Road: Union Pacific Railroad to I-10 segment. Psomas has received notice to proceed for this segment, and survey work has begun. Design should start early next year.

Houghton Road and Union Pacific Railroad Bridge

- The Houghton Road and Union Pacific Railroad Bridge project was delayed by a design change from the Union Pacific Railroad. Design is in progress. Project Manager Dave Zaleski will present at another CDRC meeting once the design plans have progressed to 30 percent complete.

LANDSCAPE UPDATES

- Steve Hagedorn reviewed the landscape goals for the Houghton Road Corridor:
 - Preserve existing landscape
 - Exclusive use of native plant material
 - Water conservation
 - Enhance intersections (green nodes)
 - Preserve wash corridors
- There have been a total of 1,624 plants inventoried for the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road segment.
- Of these plants, 859 are viable (healthy) plants. 105 of these plants will be preserved in place, 632 transplanted on-site and 122 removed from site.
- The total number of plants included in the landscape plans equals 5,095 plants. This includes the additional plants that TDOT will be adding to the project area once construction has been completed.

ART UPDATES

Public Art Master Plan Update

- Nina Borgia-Aberle provided an updated copy of the public art master plan rough draft, which is anticipated to be finalized on Dec.15, and Nina encouraged everyone to send additional input for the plan prior to that date.
- The public art planners are soliciting feedback from the Rita Ranch community regarding the design of the Rita Ranch entry walls.

Irvington Road to Valencia Road Project Artist Update

- Nina shared the public art recommendations for the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road segment:
 - “Art that can be integrated within the Greenway is an important opportunity within the Irvington to Valencia section of roadway. The Greenway affords a unique opportunity to create art that creates a destination. Artists interested in working closely with the landscape architects and design team in an effort to create a holistic integration of art and landscape that is cohesive with the vision of the Greenway Project are of special interest.”
 - “A collaboration between artists and landscape architects is recommended in the areas surrounding the artwork. Non-traditional seating (boulders) and adequate shade near the sculpture(s) could enhance the space for pedestrian users (cyclists, runners).”
- Blessing Hancock presented samples of work that Blessing, Joe O’Connell and Nina have designed for previous projects. The art for the Houghton Road Corridor will be unique and based upon the surrounding community.
- The Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road project artists are getting artistic inspiration from the nature and details of the scenic Houghton Road Corridor.

Houghton Road Rail Standard Update

- Railing concept designs are still being looked at for the Houghton Road Corridor, contingent upon engineering requirements.

PARKING LOT

- Greenway location and funding
- Intersection of Rita/Houghton on east side of greenway (drainage ditch)
- Landscaping items: Valencia to I-10
- Schedule of light pole replacement/sidewalks – Old Vail
- Southern segment plans
- Implementation plan schedule
- Walking path too close to street
- Timeline for walls at Rita Ranch
- Union Pacific Railroad updates
- 404 permits
- Walking/biking north of Pantano
- Homeowners' brick wall between Rita Road and Old Vail

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.