

Meeting Summary

City of Tucson

Ward 2 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)

Houghton Road, Northern Segment: Speedway Boulevard to 22nd Street

Jan. 30, 2007

Tucson Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway Blvd.

ATTENDEES:

Ward 2 CDRC Members

Mike Collins

Dominique Drentea, Casas de Santo

Paul Gegenheimer

Richard Hagenah, Houghton Neighborhood Association (NA)

Frank Salbego, Eastside NA

Tom Stefanek, Mesquite Trails NA

Ward 2

Katie Bolger, Aide to Council Member Rodney Glassman

Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) Staff and Consultants

M.J. Dillard, TDOT Project Manager, Houghton Road Northern Segment (Speedway Boulevard to 22nd Street) and Central Segment (22nd Street to Valencia Road)

Jay Koesters, PB Project Manager, Northern Segment

Jan Gordley, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

Arizeder Urreiztieta, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

Guests

Cornell Drentea

Tim Tracy

HANDOUTS PROVIDED

- Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) brochures
- Invitation postcards for Feb. 12, 2008, public meeting
- Agenda

INFORMATION

Meetings and the Public Involvement Process

Arizeder Urreiztieta opened the meeting by asking CDRC members and project team members to introduce themselves. M.J. Dillard welcomed Jay Koesters as the new project manager representing PB, the project engineer.

The agenda for the evening was distributed, and Jan Gordley reviewed material related to the public participation process, including the permitted scope of review of the CDRC, as it derives from City of Tucson ordinances.

There was a question from the CDRC about how to locate the applicable ordinances online, and the team agreed to provide the location. Another question addressed the role of the Houghton Area Master Plan (HAMP) and the CDRC's role therewith. Additional information about the history of the HAMP was provided.

Arizeder provided an overview of public involvement and public input on the Houghton Road, Northern Segment project, beginning with the first public meeting held Sept. 13, 2007. Other contact highlights:

- Casas de Santo neighborhood meeting
- Meeting with residents whose properties are adjacent to Houghton Road immediately north of Fifth Street
- Contact with affected businesses and the Ward 2 office during geotechnical drilling
- Other contact with, and updates for, the Ward 2 office

Arizeder also shared statistics from the Sept. 13, 2007, public meeting. Approximately 124 people attended the meeting, and about 50 comments were documented at the meeting and in the two-week comment period that followed the meeting. Comments are posted on the project Web site.

The Feb. 12, 2008, public meeting at Gridley Middle School is being advertised through newspaper ads and a mass mailing, in addition to communications to elected officials. The meeting will feature a brief presentation, followed by a period for Q&A. In other aspects, it will follow an open-house format.

Project Information and Discussion

M.J. gave an overview of the Houghton Road Corridor background, covering topics such as the Houghton Road Corridor Study, the HAMP and the RTA plan, which calls for six lanes on Houghton Road. She summarized project attributes: In addition to the roadway widening that will include bike lanes and bus pullouts, the project will improve the intersections and drainage, add a median and controlled access to reduce congestion and enhance safety, add a dual-path greenway on the east side and pedestrian improvements on the west side, and add native landscaping and art elements.

M.J. described the project as being near the end of the Design Concept phase, which should be complete in the spring of 2008.

There was a question from the CDRC as to how long traffic engineers estimate six lanes will be sufficient to accommodate the traffic that is projected. Traffic projections are based on the period through 2030. A follow-up question asked whether eight lanes were

feasible. Eight lanes are not feasible due to the accompanying right-of-way acquisitions that eight lanes would necessitate.

Jay provided a brief project overview that covered the following topics:

- The iterative nature of design plans
- Right-of-way
- Access design and planning
- Geotechnical considerations
- Utilities
- Traffic report

The CDRC asked whether it would be advisable for the City to carefully consider building and development permits in the project area during the design phase. Proposed development plans are evaluated as they are submitted to the City, and then the City coordinates design efforts.

There was discussion both in favor of and in opposition to CDRC members contacting other CDRC members, residents, and possibly CDRC members from Ward 4. Jan indicated that Gordley Design Group, which manages the project Web site, would consider ways to make the site more interactive and dynamic for the public. An RSS feed was discussed.

Frank Salbego, on behalf of the Eastside NA, invited M.J. and Arizeder to its March 5, 2008, meeting at the Ward 2 Eastside City Hall. It was agreed that the invitation would be further considered after attendance and participation at the Feb. 12, 2008 public meeting had been gauged.

It was agreed that the next meeting date would hinge on where City officials are with an Implementation Plan (to articulate prioritization of project construction) submitted at the beginning of March. If the City Manager's response to the Implementation Plan were not yet ready, a March meeting would be unlikely. Team members were asked to consider avoiding the third Wednesday of each month. In addition to the Implementation Plan, other agenda items suggested and planned for a future meeting were:

- Intersections
- Traffic data
- Comments from the Feb. 12, 2008, public meeting
- Modes of communication with the CDRC and within the CDRC

The meeting was adjourned.