

Meeting Summary
City of Tucson
Ward 2 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)
Houghton Road, Northern Segment: Tanque Verde Road to 22nd Street
Oct. 6, 2009
Tucson Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway Blvd.

ATTENDEES

Ward 2 CDRC Members

Dominique Drentea; Casas de Santo neighborhood
Paul Gegenheimer; interested property owner
Richard Hagenah; Houghton Neighborhood Association
Frank Salbego; Eastside Neighborhood Association
Carol Zoch; Eastpointe II Estates NA

Staff

Katie Maass; Ward 2
M.J. Dillard; City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Joe Vaskovic, Jay Koesters; PB
John Hucko; Olsson Associates
Melissa Benton, Jan Gordley, Alice Templeton; Gordley Design Group

HANDOUTS PROVIDED

- Fact sheet on public process
- Agenda
- Implementation plan
- Neighborhood representation map

INFORMATION

CDRC membership and responsibilities:

- About 50 meetings have been held over the course of the Houghton Road Corridor public process.
- Public participation process involves informing and empowering the public.
- Voters voted for Houghton Road plan, now we can inform on RTA plan.
- Today's meeting will discuss art projects and landscaping.
- Question raised about lighting. City to create a fact sheet for a later date, possibly the next CDRC meeting before the next open house.

History of the Houghton Road Corridor:

- M.J. Dillard gave brief history:
 - Eastern edges of Tucson are rapidly accelerating in growth.
 - Studies were poised to address how to handle the growth, create live-work situations and reduce traffic, but no funding source was available for studies.
 - Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) funding now is available for construction over the next 15 years.

- Items on the Web site that we identified as project basics. Too much emphasis on the art and art planner for a total project update in a nutshell.
- Pima County wants a 50-foot dual path greenway on east side of Houghton.
- Addition of second bridges over Pantano and Agua Caliente washes and Tanque Verde Creek.
- The Houghton Road Corridor is 13 miles.
- The corridor was originally divided into three segments to develop the corridor concepts. Now it is divided into 11 individual projects, and these were used to develop construction schedules (implementation plan).
- Some Federal permits will be needed for work in some drainageways.
- Construction will be performed according to the implementation schedule as funding comes in over the next 15 years.
- Open houses, CDRC committees, Ward 4 CDRC and focus groups have provided input.
- Intersection at Houghton and Old Vail started construction in June and should be finished early next year.
- Irvington to Valencia segment is scheduled to start at end of next year.
- Broadway intersection is being developed to 75 percent design plans and construction is planned to begin in 2011.
- Information is available on Web site.
- Ward 2 and Gordley Design Group go to all the meetings and are a common link for public interests between the Ward 2 and Ward 4 CDRCs.

Introductions:

- Alice Templeton has replaced Arizeder Urreiztieta at Gordley Design Group.
- The CDRC representation map was introduced. Attendees introduced themselves, referencing the location of their homes on the CDRC map.
- Issues to be discussed later will be recorded on list known as “parking lot.”

Project updates:

- M.J. Dillard: Utilities are being worked on, project is at 30 percent design and going to 75 percent on the Broadway intersection.
- Joe Vaskovic: Current design work includes Pima County wastewater coordination, relocation of sewer/water lines and redesign of storm drains, culverts. Finishing design on roadway edge geometry, medians, turn lanes and roadway.
- CDRC members raised concerns about two large electrical boxes blocking motorist view at Broadway intersection.
- M.J. Dillard said signaling and box would all be redone.
- Concern expressed that past box culverts weren't designed well in regard to water flow.
- Broadway intersection work projection about eight months.

Introduction of landscape architect – John Hucko of Olsson Associates:

Landscape concepts:

- Will preserve natural vegetation where we can.
- Will use existing and transplanted existing vegetation.
- Supplement with nursery-grown stock, using only native vegetation, mesquite, palo verde and cacti.
- Commercial and residential existing landscape will be taken into consideration to promote continuity.
- Needs of walkers, joggers and cyclists will be taken into consideration.
- More developed presentation on specific ideas will be brought to next meeting.
- Mesquite, palo verde and desert willow will be used to shade pathways.
- Will work in conjunction with City of Tucson landscape architect.
- More vegetation at intersections and at washes.
- A passive harvesting system will be included by contouring ground to direct water to vegetation.

Art planner update – Sally Krommes, Tucson Pima Arts Council:

- Many rules – Americans with Disabilities Act, RTA, engineering, safety – apply to the art process.
- It will be a one-year process to discuss art and its place in the corridor.
- This is the second project in the City of Tucson, along with Grant Road, to have an art planner.
- Panel recently selected the artist planner; final contract should be done in six weeks.
- M.J. Dillard said art planner would then meet with CDRC groups to discuss type of art and location.
- PowerPoint presentation showed nationwide examples of public art to prompt ideas.
- M.J. Dillard noted that drinking fountain inclusion is complicated but will be looked into.
- Graffiti abatement is available, and technology has made it much easier to handle.
- The art planner will work with community and team to decide good locations.
- One percent of all capital projects is set aside for art. Corridor has \$1 million total art funding.
- We anticipate distributing the art funding evenly along the corridor, but that is flexible if there are specific areas that everyone would like to showcase.
- Art planning team is Nina Borgia-Aberle (tiler), Blessing Hancock (computer/digital imagery) and Stephen Grede (painter). They will create the art master plan (themes, color, locations) with public input. Call to artists will follow. Selected artists will meet with neighborhoods to discuss concepts.

Questions and answers:

- Dominique Drentea asked who pays for bus stop shelters/stops? M.J. Dillard said the City of Tucson has a contract with a private company that pays for, and maintains, the standard purple bus stops if they can advertise on them. Artist designed shelters are expensive and paid for outside that process. Dominique thought it would be good to know about bus stops in conjunction with the art

process. M.J. said the City needs to talk with Sun Tran to discuss how many bus stops there will be, and where they may want shelters.

- Frank Salbego voiced concern about money spent on Park and Ride in proportion to Sun Tran bus usage.

Review “parking lot” items:

- Street lighting
- Culverts/drainage
- Rainwater harvesting
- Tree sizes
- Bus shelter quantities/locations
- Future CDRC/open house meetings dates and times
- Sun Tran presentation

Adjourn/team availability for individual questions:

The meeting was adjourned at about 7 p.m.