

Meeting Summary

City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT)

Ward 4 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)

March 31, 2010, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Clements Center, 8155 E. Poinciana Drive

ATTENDEES:

Ward 4 CDRC Members

Rudy Lopez, Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association (NA)

Moon Joe Yee, South Harrison NA

Al Wiruth, Rita Ranch NA

Ken Moyes, Rita Ranch NA

Guests

Nina Borgia-Aberle, Houghton Road Corridor Art Planner

TDOT Staff and Consultants

M.J. Dillard, TDOT Project Manager

Alejandro Angel, Psomas Project Manager, Central Segment

Dave Zaleski, Pima County Department of Transportation Project Manager

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

Melissa Benton, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

Jan Gordley, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

Alice Templeton, Gordley Design Group, Public Involvement

MATERIALS

- Agenda
- Implementation plan map
- Public art master plan rough draft
- Neighborhoods map
- Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road public meeting invitations
- Meeting evaluation form

INTRODUCTIONS

- Jan Gordley addressed the group about the challenging times facing the community in terms of decreased funding and personnel. She noted how far the Houghton Road project has come despite the challenges. Construction is progressing. She expressed appreciation for the CDRC members and their support, the RTA funding, and M.J. Dillard's leadership and hard work.
- Review of old parking lot items:
 - Houghton Road Railroad Bridge update
 - Greenway location

- Landscaping items (salvaging trees, maintenance)
 - Speed limits on Old Vail and Rita roads
 - Schedule of light pole placement
 - Southern segment plans
 - Implementation plan schedule
- Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road public meeting will be held at Rincon Vista Middle School on April 13. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and answers and conclude in an open house format. About 10,000 residents, property owners and businesses received the public meeting invitation.

PROJECT UPDATES

- M.J. Dillard said the project is moving forward as 11 individual projects. She detailed the three most current projects.
 - Houghton Road: Old Vail Road and Mary Ann Cleveland Way intersection is under construction. There were unexpected delays due to utility relocations, excessive rain and the unexpected need to demolish and reconstruct large three-barrel culverts due to construction deficiencies in the existing culverts. June is now the goal for the completion date. Member called it a good-looking intersection.
 - Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road 90 percent design plans are complete. Construction is anticipated to begin by the end of the year, contingent on right-of-way acquisition and utility relocations.
 - The Houghton Road and Valencia Road intersection design has begun. Construction will begin after the Houghton segment from Irvington Road to Valencia Road, but will conclude at the same time.
 - The Houghton Road and Broadway Boulevard intersection is at 75 percent design. Plans include a Sun Tran Park & Ride lot to be built on the northwest corner.

ART PLANNER UPDATES

- Nina Borgia-Aberle handed out the art planners' assessment of the area and recommendations about where to place art. She said the corridor has been assessed from several perspectives: community character, history, natural environment, culture and engineering details. The planners hope to tie in art with objects that exist, such as a retaining wall. The team has talked with people, reviewed meeting materials and driven the area to observe where landmarks or objects are placed. The team is looking for input on where to place art in the assessment.
- Nina reviewed the public art map, which will be placed online. There is a tremendous amount of pedestrian rail along wash areas and elsewhere. Nina's team does not create the art, but creates the master plan that artists will follow. Rail should have a standard look, and artists could add art elements to the rail. Rail elements are not to scale on the map. The basic idea is to give continuity.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD BRIDGE TO INTERSTATE 10 UPDATE

- Dave Zaleski provided information on the history of the Union Pacific Railroad bridge at Houghton Road and I-10 and the project plans and referred to a map of the area. He said the current bridge was functionally obsolete.
- He said the new structure would be a six-lane bridge that will tie into the Houghton Road and bridge intersection and taper down to two lanes south. The new Bridge will be constructed to meet the bridge standard of 40 tons, and will not have the vehicle restrictions currently imposed on the existing bridge. The construction cannot interfere with rail operations. The replacement bridge will be funded with Federal Highway Administration and Regional Transportation Authority money.
- The new bridge will need to meet environmental requirements, including bat habitat. Federal environmental process is starting up. The team should move into final design by the end of the year. Some right-of-way acquisition needs to take place.
- Dave noted that while the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge is not part of the art for the roads process, aesthetic enhancements are going into bridge design, and an architect is working on those aesthetics.
- The bridge construction will have an anticipated duration of 16 to 18 months. The railroad controls the schedule and can limit access, which can make it take longer to build.

GENERAL

- Alice Templeton distributed a public meeting evaluation form to obtain CDRC member input regarding the public process.
- The next CDRC meeting will be tentatively scheduled for late May, depending on the level of interest from CDRC members.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.