

**Houghton Road, Northern Segment: Speedway Boulevard to 22nd Street
Public Open House; Thursday, September 13, 2007
East Tucson Baptist Church
Comment Summary**

(Summary reflects comments received at the open house and during the comment period, two weeks after the event. Comments are typed from handwritten originals and are unedited.)

Roadway/Traffic	Drainage	Environmental	Art and Landscape	Construction/Time Phasing	General Comments
<p>If Camino Quince has full access, Calle del Este should also have full access and vice versa so traffic on the one will double. Overall access has to be minimized or six lanes would be a waste - can some access be closed to Houghton in favor of diversion to four lane 22nd, Broadway and Speedway? i.e. Closing Camino Quince and Calle del Este would divert traffic to Broadway and 22nd.</p>					
<p>When will Harrison Road be finished? There appears to be little work still required. The workers are rarely there working. Yet, the barriers and speed restrictions are still there. It's been at least 18 months. What's up with this?</p>					
<p>Will signal lights be synchronized so that those going through Houghton Road won't have to stop at every intersection all the way from Tanque Verde Road to Interstate 10? Even at 2 a.m., try going the speed limit and making any sequence of green lights? There must be some way to help traffic to flow through. I also like the new signals with countdown timers on walklights - makes planning for stopping at signals (or not) easier.</p>		<p>Provide for animal crossings through washes?</p>	<p>Provide for animal crossings through washes?</p>	<p>Provide for animal crossings through washes?</p>	<p>Provide for animal crossings through washes?</p>
		<p>We always need new roadways. However, I am concerned with increased noise levels in the nearby residential areas. Would like to know what will be done for noise abatement. Thanks.</p>			
<p>I'm one of the business managers on the southwest corner of Broadway and Houghton. My main concern is the access to mine and other businesses at our location. Also, the length of the project, and the diversion of traffic from our corner. Please address these concerns to minimally affect business.</p>					
<p>Is there a plan to close Windstorm Drive and extend 5th Street east crossing Broadway? If so, we would oppose this.</p>					<p>What's going to happen to my property taxes during and after construction?</p>
<p>The intersection of Camino Quince and Houghton needs to be studied for traffic flow. In the morning and afternoon, school traffic (bus, car, and foot) converges creating a very hazardous situation at this intersection. With many gravel trucks traveling north and south at great speeds there is very little time for such to stop and therefore hitting a school bus or car. This study should take into account peak periods traffic, type of traffic and the placement of a flashing/stop light.</p>					
		<p>Thanks - Please note there is a wildlife corridor used by javelina and other animals in the landscape strip between Sunstream Lane and Houghton. I live on Sunstream and we see animals using that hilly buffer all the time.</p>			

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Six lanes are excessive! Our way of life in east Tucson will suffer from an equivalent freeway development. The resulting noise, light pollution, and disruption of animal life will degrade our lifestyles and the reasons we are living in Tucson.					
How does the roadbed cross section get applied to the existing roadway? What is the traffic flow in/out of every intersecting street?		Will the road use sound deadening asphalt? A huge concern of mine is traffic noise permeating the neighborhoods.		Duration of project? Start date?	Provide a forum to explain your proposal. What is your proposal?
		Thank you for this open house and explaining your ideas for Houghton Road improvements. Because of the present noise that will become worse please build noise stoping walls along Houghton Road.			
I am also concerned that there is not enough room for the proposed six lanes and median. At the intersection of Vicksburg and Broadway, the road already sits right next to the house. Where are they going to divert to get all of the lanes?		I live next to the wash at Broadway and Houghton. The projected six lanes and median will put the road right up next to my property. I am now in a cul de sac. The road will now cause much more noise and I am concerned that there will be no barrier between the road and existing properties. My neighborhood consists of families with children. We need some type of barrier wall put up.			
If they do six lanes for traffic, how will the people who live on the east side of Houghton Road make a left turn onto Houghton to travel south on Houghton? That seems like it would be very dangerous.		Will they put a wall along Houghton Road to try to block out some of the traffic noise?			
Camino Quince and Houghton needs traffic control. Camino Quince to Soleng Tom School should be widened and a median installed to have traffic flow to Los Reyes.					
Concerned about median at Camino Quince for Soleng Tom School. There should be a median left turn lane for southbound traffic.					
Bicycle lanes are crucial, together with restricting cross-street/side streets and also parking lot cutouts.					
<p>Are you going to keep the center turn/merge lane for easy access to developments? Or are you going to put in all that useless concrete work and raised median which takes away a useful lane for turn merging.</p> <p>Am I going to have to go down to the next intersection, make a U-turn, come back and turn into development? (Gas is expensive.)</p> <p>Expand by one lane on each side of Houghton which equals four, not six, lanes. That's when problems start and undesirable vagabonds and traffic starts - crime rises, people become afraid and don't venture out at night for fear of theft or worse. From what I and others have witnessed, the police and sheriffs in the area are useless.</p>				<p>Are you going down one side of Houghton finish and go back on the other side to minimize impact to residents?</p> <p>Are you going to work through the night or impact rush hour traffic and screw everything up?</p> <p>How long is this fiasco going to take?</p>	<p>Is this project going to be a screwed up mess like Harrison Road and Houghton at Rita Ranch?</p>

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<p><i>Comment transcribed from flip chart at open house:</i> The two-mile loop — Camino Quince to Los Reyes to Calle Del Este to Houghton — has been a jogging/walking loop for Rancho Del Este subdivision for 33 years. We would like to continue having the access (or path) availability.</p>					
<p><i>Comment transcribed from flip chart at open house:</i> Soleng Tom traffic exits at Camino Quince. Light needed, even though traffic exiting school is "supposed" to turn right, they don't. If they follow signs and turn right, they should then go to Los Reyes and turn left to Broadway or right to Calle Del Este. Therefore, you have "two" heavy exits to Houghton — Calle Del Este and Camino Quince.</p>					
		<p><i>Comment transcribed from flip chart at open house:</i> People living on Calle Magdalena have road noise 24/7. How will you address noise levels with increased traffic?</p>			
					<p><i>Comment transcribed from flip chart at open house:</i> Not having an open forum with brain storming was a cop-out. Seems it would have been more beneficial to have presentation and then audience input/questions.</p>
					<p><i>Comment transcribed from flip chart at open house:</i> Sure hope they don't divert the money to elsewhere like Catalina Highway.</p>
<p><i>Comment transcribed from flip chart at open house:</i> Synchronize traffic signals to favor main thoroughfares at peak hours. For example, if someone travels Houghton at 35-40 mph, there should be the ability to proceed through at least one intersection without having to stop at another red signal light, every street? Consider something that works like on Speedway heading west at 1645 to 1730 p.m. to downtown or Broadway heading east from Campbell Avenue at 2130 to 2330 p.m. — smooth driving with "synched" signals.</p>					

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<p>I think that the design should match at least the improvements that were done on Harrison between Golf Links and Speedway and also the widening that was done to Golf Links between Harrison and Houghton. I think the speed limit should remain 40-45 mph and that there should continue to be access to Packard from Houghton Road. It is the only access to our neighborhood. Thanks for the opportunity to provide this input.</p>		<p>One of my neighbors who did attend the open house came by last night to encourage our input to your team. Her backyard shares a border with Houghton Road so she is very concerned about the traffic noise, congestion, etc. My view is that she should have thought of that when she purchased her home. Houghton Road was there first and as a major arterial roadway, it was inevitably going to be widened. Perhaps a grade change as was done on Craycroft, north of River Road would help with the noise issue.</p>		<p>I also believe that this road improvement widening should have happened 10 years ago and is way overdue. Tucson is well over 1 million in population now, not counting the County residences that are out here on the east side, and this north/south corridor is in desperate need of capacity increase. Just try to commute on it during morning rush hour or in the evening before dinner time. Many drivers all along Houghton Road get impatient with the long waits in the traffic line and make dangerous and desperate moves to get out in the traffic flow.</p>	<p>I was unable to attend the public open house held Sept. 13, 2007, so I didn't hear any details. I did however read the information that you have on this Web site. Very well done, thanks for that.</p>
<p>What will you do for entry and exit from Packard to Houghton during construction and upon project completion? We suggest installing a traffic light for safety reasons. Provide walkways and easy access for pedestrians.</p>		<p>How do you plan to control noise? We suggest walls like they have built in Phoenix. Provide sufficient lighting. Use high-quality rubberized asphalt.</p>			
<p>By adding additional lanes (especially six) would compromise the beauty, safety and air quality of the people who live in the area, not to mention property values. Please leave Houghton as it is for now. No one wants a highway in their backyard.</p>			<p>Homes/neighborhoods are established and the desert beauty should remain untouched.</p>		<p>We needed to be proactive not reactive when we allowed all these neighborhoods to be built along Houghton Road. Roads should have been incorporated then, but now its too late.</p>

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<p>The speed of vehicles going past the front of our home. The possibility of accidents from the increase in traffic and speeding. Congestion from six lanes of traffic on Houghton moving onto four lanes at Speedway and Broadway. Congestion from six lanes of traffic on Houghton going north down to two lanes once you cross Speedway. Access onto Houghton Road going northbound from 5th Street, especially during high traffic times - what kind of access will there be? We do not feel that this section of Houghton Road (Northern Segment - Speedway Boulevard to 22nd Street) warrants an expansion to six lanes. We would like you to consider at least keeping the Northern Segment of Houghton Road to a four lane roadway with no expansion in the future to six lanes. We are concerned about what having six lanes of traffic will do to our property value in the future in the event that we wish to sell our home. Having six lanes of traffic in front of our home could affect a buyer's decision. Are there any plans for a frontage access road with a barrier wall?</p>	<p>What will be done to provide adequate drainage? There is a real problem now with erosion. We currently have a dirt access road to our driveway. There is also a drainage problem already from that access road onto our property. How will this all be addressed?</p>	<p>Some of our concerns: The increased noise level from traffic; The increased pollution from more vehicles traveling on the road. What will be done to protect the wildlife (javelina, coyotes, bobcats, ect.) in our area that currently have established trails crossing back and forth from our properties on the west side of Houghton Road to the east side of Houghton Road?</p>	<p>Consider changing the bikepaths and greenway areas to the west side of Houghton to provide a wider barrier between the traffic lanes and our property.</p>		<p>We attended the meeting held on September 13, 2007, regarding the Houghton Road, Northern Segment widening from Speedway Boulevard to 22nd Street. We appreciate the information we received that night and talking to the representatives. We are one of the five homeowners who live on the west side of Houghton Road, north of 5th Street. Our homes face Houghton Road. We have some concerns regarding the Houghton Road expansion.</p>
<p>What kind of access will we have to our driveway? We have asked this question at a previous meeting and again at this last meeting. We have pointed out on the map where these five homes are to the project representatives at the meeting. So far, we have not been given a direct answer. Houghton Road is lower than the entrance to our property. There is a hill now in front of our property (Lot 78). We currently have a dirt access road to our driveway. Safety is also a concern for entering and exiting our driveway into traffic and in an emergency situation. We would like to see plans for what is proposed before it's all decided. It would be helpful if a project representative could come out and meet with us five homeowners to address our concerns on the access to our properties.</p>					<p>We would like to be on your mailing list to receive information concerning this project. Also, you may e-mail us at this address. Thank you for taking the time to read our concerns.</p>
<p>I feel that widening Houghton to a four-lane corridor would be sufficient to meet the needs while keeping Tucson the beautiful city it is. One more lane would not make that much difference in driving but would impact the area tremendously.</p>		<p>By using high-quality rubberized asphalt the noise level will be kept down and that is something we all agree with. Closing off Packard Street or others will be a mess and imposition to all living in Casas de Santo subdivision and just redirect traffic to another area but not solve anything. If the city plans on putting a six-lane highway then a silencing wall should be implemented to help reduce noise and appearance. I realize that Tucson needs to grow with its people but I don't see how this huge obstruction will help. The roadway will decrease our property value and put a road in my backyard. The noise as it is now is incredible and I can't image what it will be like when it doubles. My vote is no to a six-lane highway and yes to a four-lane road.</p>	<p>Harrison is a perfect example of what it will look like and the outcome would be perfect. With many trees in the median and trees near the sidewalks it could be a beautiful road.</p>		<p>The widening of Houghton Road is of great concern to me and the residents who live along Houghton. After visiting the Open House on September 13th it became clear that our input is probably worthless since no one could answer any questions we had.</p>

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<p>Enlarge Houghton Road only to four lanes from 22nd Street to Speedway. While we can understand progress, we need to safeguard our homes and lives, and keep noise and pollution level down. Provide walkways and easy access for vehicles and pedestrians.</p>	<p>Provide adequate drainage solutions for Houghton Road as water drains to the north.</p>	<p>Use high-quality rubberized asphalt.</p>	<p>The median proposed on Houghton Road should be fully landscaped with sound absorbing native trees. It should also be professionally maintained by the City.</p>		<p>Our property taxes should be used to make life better for all Tucsonans. However, the proposed changes would lower our property value, or quality of life and degrade our entire house development. We expect you to take the above suggestions seriously and consider our situation, not all change is good.</p>
<p>At the meeting of September 13, 2007, regarding subject improvements, we found out that the City plan includes enlarging Houghton Road from two to six lanes. Upon completion, the new corridor is expected to be reclassified as a highway and given a highway number. Additionally, there is some consideration regarding Packard Road being closed completely as an access to and from Houghton Road. This change would bring the road too close to our back and front yards, thus significantly increasing: - The congestion of traffic to our entry and exit to and front Houghton Road. - The congestion caused by changing from six lanes (proposed Houghton Road) to four lanes at Speedway Boulevard causing traffic bottlenecks. - The possibility of accidents from excessive traffic and speeding and not enough barriers to our properties.</p>		<p>This change would bring the road too close to our back and front yards, thus significantly increasing: - The noise level due to more trucks and cars. - The pollution emitted from more vehicles and especially trucks which will accumulate in our yards and homes. - The loss of natural open desert (this is supposed to be a scenic corridor). - Trash/litter thrown from cars and trucks (possibility of fires caused from thrown cigarette butts).</p>			<p>As a consequence to the above points, we also believe that our property value will decrease.</p>
<p><i>Comment transcribed from phone voicemail:</i> I live in the Highland Trails Subdivision. I want to voice my opinion that we want median access on to Houghton Road heading south, if at all possible, when doing the redesign of Houghton. Otherwise we have to go down to Irvington when we go south. Please take this into consideration when heading south from the Highland Trails Subdivision.</p>					
<p>Concerns: - The congestion of traffic to our entry and exit to and from Houghton Road. - The congestion caused by changing from six lanes (proposed Houghton Road) to existing four lanes at Speedway Boulevard causing traffic bottle necks. - The possibility of accidents from excessive traffic and speeding and not enough barriers to our properties. We ask that the city seriously consider the following recommendations: - Enlarge Houghton Road only to four lanes (not six) from 22nd Street to Speedway. While we can understand progress, we need to safeguard our homes and lives, and keep noise and pollution lower. - Provide walkways and easy access for pedestrians.</p>	<p>We ask that the city consider the following recommendations: Provide adequate drainage solutions for Houghton Road as water drains to the North.</p>	<p>Concerns: - The high noise level from more cars and trucks. - The pollution emitted from more cars and especially more trucks which will accumulate in our yards and homes. - The loss of natural open desert (this is supposed to be a scenic corridor). - Trash/litter thrown from cars and trucks (possibility of fires caused from thrown cigarette butts). We ask that the city seriously consider the following recommendations: - Reduce speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph to contain the already high noise level. - Use high-quality rubberized asphalt.</p>	<p>The median proposed on Houghton Road should be fully landscaped with sound absorbing native trees. It should also be professionally maintained by the City.</p>		<p>Concerns: The property values of our homes will decrease considerably. Conclusion: We believe that the Houghton expansion should be limited to only four lanes in this primary residential area. Please keep us fully informed regarding the progress of this plan. Thank you very much.</p>

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<p>I would like to have Houghton Road only to four lanes; switch the speed limit to 35 mph; use high quality asphalt. Do not block access to communities by closing Packard Road to and from Houghton Road. Please put up streetlights.</p>			<p>Have Houghton Road be fully landscaped and professionally maintained; and provide walkways.</p>		
<p>I am concerned that this project will increase the noise, propensity for accidents from speeding traffic and bottlenecks from getting in and out of our subdivision by way of Packard Street out to Houghton Road.</p> <p>Reduce the widening of Houghton Road from six lanes to four. Reduce speed limit along Houghton to 40 mph along this expansion portion. Install a light at the intersection of Packard and Houghton to allow controlled access for moving in and out of this subdivision. Provide walkways and easy access for pedestrians.</p>	<p>Ensure adequate drainage for Houghton Road is part of the construction plans.</p>	<p>Ensure the plans include putting up a barrier wall along the subdivision's outside structure to protect residents from the added noise and possible accidents from traffic out of control on Houghton Road.</p> <p>Use high-quality rubberized asphalt for final street construction.</p>			<p>While I'm all for expansion and road improvements, I don't want to be kept prisoner in my own neighborhood awaiting traffic to clear for minutes on end trying to leave our subdivision! Nor do I want to see the added traffic threaten youth and pets that reside in this neighborhood and enjoy a safe lifestyle.</p>
<p>An elementary school resides on Camino Quince just south of Broadway. This intersection showed far more traffic than non-light intersections on your map. This prompts us to suggest that a light be installed here.</p> <p>At minimum, the speed limit should be reduced. Currently, the speed limit is 45 mph and it is far too rapid for this area. Houghton is so close to an elementary school and the Broadway Boulevard Grocery Strips. It is more than challenging to pull out of the roadways and parking lots to merge with the traffic flow; it is downright hazardous. Another area we lived in (San Diego) waited for a child to be hit before they installed a light. Is Tucson ready for that tragedy? Our final comment is our support of additional limited access roadways/bypasses as Tucson inevitably grows into the future.</p>		<p>Like so many other residents, we have an additional concern of road noise. We would like to request the addition of concrete walls on either side of Houghton to buffer the sound pollution.</p>		<p>We feel that to minimize the negative impact to the North/South flow of traffic, this project section should not begin until the Harrison Road section has come to completion.</p>	<p>We recently attended the Open House on the Houghton Road Project and want to share our perspective as residents. Thank you for taking the time to review a few of our comments and concerns. Here are a few suggestions for the project that may reduce impact and allow for the local improvement that we all agree needs to take place. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

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<p>I was dismayed to see a six-lane divided highway projected up this far on Houghton. In my opinion, it makes Houghton almost a defacto freeway from south to north. In my area, there are fewer plots of land slated for development than are found farther south on Houghton (i.e. Rita Ranch), so I think four lanes should be the maximum size for the Houghton Road development from 22nd to Speedway. The road development on Harrison is quite nice, and I had hoped Houghton Road would be similar to it.</p> <p>During the meeting the representatives discussed extending 5th Street to create an entrance into Sienna and closing off our current entrance at Windstorm. What we really need right now are designated right and left turn lanes into Sienna. It is a dangerous turn to the right because many following cars swerve out from behind the turning car into the median. A left turn may put you right on a collision course with one of them!</p>		<p>I also continue to be concerned about noise abatement. I noticed from your Web site that you plan on using rubberized asphalt. Anything else that can be done is critical to maintain the quality of life we have. Houghton Road is already noisy; if it becomes much noisier, we will not be able to open windows at night to sleep. There should also be a limit to the size of trucks using Houghton Road, especially those that use their air brakes at all hours of the night.</p> <p>Also please consider any lighting design to ensure that our dark skies prevail. Many of us are amateur astronomers, and are concerned that additional lighting will degrade what little we have left of our dark skies.</p>	<p>All utility poles should be moved underground. For anyone having their backyard immediately adjacent to Houghton Road, this is the least the City can do to help enhance the transition.</p>		<p>Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the Houghton Road improvements. I live in the Sienna Development on Houghton (between Speedway and Broadway). In the future, I think it would help if you would have a short presentation at the public open houses so most of the very general questions could be answered at one time. Also, a schematic of the road development on your Web site would be</p>
<p>We have been told that the properties immediately to the north and south of Sienna are slated for luxury home development (no more than 11-13 homes on each property). I am sure those developments would not appreciate the traffic from our 90+ homes being run through their areas. Please consider an alternative to accessing the Sienna development (one that keeps our 'no outlet' design.)"</p>					<p>helpful; it was not there when I checked it on 14 September. Thank you for entertaining my comments.</p>
<p>Use high quality rubberized asphalt. Provide walkways and easy access for pedestrians. If Houghton Road is widened to six lanes it will have adverse effect on our property and will most certainly lower property values in our very peaceful neighborhood. Reduce speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph to contain the already high noise.</p>		<p>Please consider changing Houghton Road to only four lanes from 22nd Street to Speedway. While we understand progress, we need to safeguard our homes and lives, and keep noise and pollution lower.</p>			
<p>Don't design and build a new highway that is incapable of handling the increased flow of traffic once it is completed (i.e. build it right the first time). Consider ingress and egress of neighborhood traffic making it safe for entering and exiting neighborhoods.</p>			<p>All sidewalk and wall areas must use southwest art as décor to enhance the look and feel of the highway.</p>		<p>Don't forget the new homes that are planned for the east side of Houghton.</p> <p>Speed limit should not exceed 45 mph.</p>

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<p>We believe widening Houghton Road to six lanes would place an unacceptable burden on the residents accessing the homes off of Packard Road and on the east side of Tucson in general.</p> <p>Admittedly, traffic requirements will increase on the east side of town as housing developments grow to the south of town and Vail. However, we think the plan should be to siphon off this traffic into western Tucson from roads south of Speedway (i.e., Broadway Boulevard, 22nd Street and Golf Links) which would greatly reduce the need for more than four lanes leading to Speedway Boulevard. Alternately, residents of towns south and east of Tucson should use I-10 to access the City.</p> <p>We recommend the city consider expanding to only four lanes, as originally planned and reducing the speed limit to 35 mph.</p> <p>The four-lane road median strip should be as narrow as possible to allow for sidewalks on both sides of the road. Many people use the sides of Houghton Road as walking/jogging paths, and many local residents like to walk to the shopping centers at Houghton and Broadway, so sidewalks should be included in your plans.</p>		<p>We are concerned about the increase in pollution to the natural open desert recreation areas of Saguaro National Forest, Sabino Canyon and the Catalina and Rincon Mountain areas as well. Protecting the east side of Tucson is important because there is no natural outlet for the pollution to escape.</p> <p>Residents of the Packard Road area, and other residential areas adjacent to Houghton Road between Broadway and Speedway, are already subjected to considerable noise from Houghton Road with the heavy trucks using their engine brakes and very noisy motorcycles.</p> <p>We recommend forbidding the use of engine brakes by all trucks. In fact, very large semi trucks should be banned altogether. We also recommend the use of high-quality rubberized asphalt for the road surface to reduce noise.</p>	<p>Expanding Houghton Road to six lanes would most surely place traffic right in our backyards, devaluing our homes and creating unacceptable noise. We would expect compensation for any devaluation of our home sites.</p>		
<p>Concerning the Broadway to Speedway portion of the project to widen Houghton Road from 22nd to Speedway, and specifically the Casa Santos II area accessed by E. Packard Street:</p> <p>Request only four lanes, with no landscaped median; only a center left turn lane accessible to north or south traffic.</p> <p>Request the largely unoccupied east side of Houghton be used for the expansion.</p> <p>Request the E. Packard not be closed as it is the only access for 45 homes. What is called E. Sierra Street (and which seems to be an alternate access) is now only a one-car-wide fire access lane with closed gate that cannot be widened without partially destroying a home on one side or the other due to building code distance restrictions. E. Sierra Street now leads into a private property condominium area that has some one-car-wide street lanes and speed bumps.</p> <p>Reduce speed limit on this portion of Houghton to 40mph.</p>		<p>Ensure the pavement is surfaced with rubberized asphalt to reduce road noise level.</p> <p>Construct a tall noise-abatement wall to replace the low brick wall of Casa Santos II that abuts Houghton.</p>	<p>I accept the need for road and traffic flow improvements around the outskirts of Tucson, but I respectfully request that in our area it be done in such a way as to not compromise the safety and comfort of our residents and with no reduction of the market value of our homes.</p>		

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<p>Our home backs up to Houghton. If a six lane road is built, it will practically be in our backyard. We have many questions such as: How will we in this area get onto a six lane Houghton from the only entrance - Packard?</p>		<p>Will sound barriers be installed? Will there be an enforcement to prevent trucks from "jake-breaking" when they approach Speedway? They certainly do it now!</p>			<p>My husband and I attended the "open house" on Thursday, September 13th and were disappointed in the organization of the affair. We thought there would be a presentation by the City and then we, the people in attendance, could be heard on our concern. There was a good crowd, and it was difficult to get to the maps, and to find anyone representing the City who knew the answers to our questions. What about the impact this will have on the value of our property?</p>
					<p>We need another meeting so that you may present and we may be heard. I plan to contact Carol West. Maybe she will have some input.</p>
<p>Limit Houghton Road expansion to only "four lanes" from 22nd Street to Speedway. Significant depreciation of our property values, losing Packard Road as entrance and exit from our subdivision to Houghton Road, addition of median on Houghton Road, which will result in raising taxes to pay for City maintenance. I oppose the six lane proposed expansion of Houghton Road for all the above stated reasons!</p>		<p>Noise level, traffic congestion, air pollution, loss of our scenic corridor, significant increase in trash/litter thrown from cars and trucks.</p>			
<p>Please do not make Houghton Road a six-lane highway. There are too many homes off this road to make Houghton a high-speed roadway. It would be very dangerous for children to play here. Why cannot Houghton be as nice as Houghton road is? It will ruin the value of our homes if it is made into six lane highway. I think making Houghton road to six lanes is ill conceived.</p>		<p>The noise level is very high now. Imagine what it will be like with all the trucks and cars speeding. The pollution from these trucks and cars will cause breathing problems for people that live along the highway especially the fumes from diesel trucks.</p>			

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Comment Summary**

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Roadway/Traffic	Drainage	Environmental	Art and Landscape	Construction/Time Phasing	General Comments
<p>Additionally, we learned there is some consideration regarding Packard Road being closed completely as an access to and from Houghton Road.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need more information about this. What are you considering as an alternative entrance/exit? 2. There will be a road directly across Houghton Road, from Packard, to the approximate 13-acre development planned there. That makes an exit/entrance opposite each other, across Houghton, at Packard. Have you considered this? 3. If you're considering having "us" exit/enter on Speedway, that won't change the situation/closeness to the Speedway/Houghton intersection. 4. Our development was designed and accepted for entrance/exit to be at Packard. Safety and convenience are of our utmost concern, and thus Packard shall remain as our entrance/exit from our development. <p>We believe that this change will bring the road too close to our back and front yards, thus significantly increasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The congestion of traffic to our entry and exit to and from Houghton Road. - The congestion caused by changing from six lanes (proposed Houghton Road) to existing four lanes at 	<p>What will happen to the current drainage ditches and drainageways along Houghton, both cemented and natural? What will happen to the drainageway (cemented) from our development (NE end) to the drainage ditch (cemented) paralleling Houghton Road?</p> <p>Provide adequate drainage solutions for Houghton Road, as water drains to the north.</p>	<p>How will you mitigate the coyote (and other animals') corridor across Houghton between Speedway and Broadway? How can you put in this big project and still maintain the "scenic corridor" designation? We believe that this change will bring the road too close to our back and front yards, thus significantly increasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The noise level from more cars and trucks. - The pollution emitted from more cars, and especially more trucks, which will accumulate in our yards and homes. Houghton Road already is a "catch-all" for carbon monoxide and other fumes, for pedestrians, as well as residents along Houghton Road. - The loss of natural open desert (this is supposed to be a scenic corridor). 	<p>Fully landscape the proposed median on Houghton road with sound-absorbing native trees. It should also be professionally maintained by the City.</p>		<p>Regarding the September 13, 2007, and the above subject, we found out that the City plan includes enlarging Houghton Road from two lanes to six lanes. Upon completion, the new corridor is expected to be reclassified as a highway and given a highway number.</p>
<p>Speedway Boulevard causing traffic bottle necks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The possibility of accidents (including injuries to property and residents, and even possible deaths) from excessive traffic, speeding, and not enough barriers to our properties. <p>Suggested solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enlarge Houghton Road to only four lanes from 22nd Street to Speedway Boulevard. While we can understand progress, we need to safeguard our homes and lives, and keep noise and pollution lower. - Take the space for additional lanes, etc. from the east side of Houghton, since it is at a lower elevation from our development at Packard. - Provide walk-ways and easy access for pedestrians, on both sides of Houghton Road. - Provide safe passage for pedestrians and students to cross Houghton between Speedway Boulevard and Houghton Road (to walk to friends' homes, other areas for exercise or to Walgreen's or other businesses between Broadway and Speedway). <p>How close to our development will the project be, with all improvements for a four or six lane corridor? For us to give more realistic responses, we need to see how much of our cu</p>		<p>Trash/Liter thrown from cars and trucks (possibility of fires caused from thrown cigarette butts), and possibly into yards fronting Houghton Road. We believe that this change will bring the road and its walkways and bikeways, etc., too close to our back and front yards, thus significantly decreasing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our property value. 2. Our privacy and solitude. 3. Our health, due to noise and air pollution. 4. Our personal, as well as our property's safety and security, from people and vehicles being too close to our homes. 5. Our mountain views, by adding trees and/or other sound barriers. <p>Suggested solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph to contain the already high noise level. Note: The present noise level on Houghton Road (two lanes with a median), measured from homes that are closest to it, is between 70 and 90 dB. 70 dB is the equivalent to factory noise level or loud orchestra. With four to six lanes on Houghton, we expect this level to rise significantly. - Do use high-quality rubberized asphalt. 			<p>We don't have enough information to give you knowledgeable input. Your information does not visibly show how our "corridor" will affect us...with a "before" and "after" aerial view, or even a drawing.</p> <p>Do whatever it takes to alleviate our concerns, giving us first-look at proposals to alleviate our concerns.</p>

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<p>The original plan, still on the RTA Web site, is to widen Houghton Road from Golf Links to Catalina Highway from two to four lanes. Neighbors attending the meeting advised that they were told that plan now includes six lanes. I believe six lanes are too many for this primary residential area. The quality of life of residents living alongside Houghton will be greatly affected negatively by the increase of volume six lanes would entail. The stretch between Golf Links and I-10 does not include homes in the same proximity to the roadway as in the northern segment.</p>		<p>I strongly recommend and request that the Houghton Road improvement include rubberized asphalt to greatly reduce traffic noise. I strongly recommend and request that RTA provide a noise barrier wall, tastefully decorated to blend in with the surrounding environment to alleviate the increased traffic noise.</p>		<p>Please send me a tentative beginning and completion date for the Houghton Road Northern Segment construction. None is currently available on the Web site.</p>	<p>I couldn't attend the September 13, 2007, meeting. However, I do have the following comments/suggestions/questions. I strongly recommend and request that the RTA prohibit through commercial vehicles which comprise a tractor/trailer combination with exclusion for delivery vehicles to commercial enterprises located along the Houghton Corridor. Thank you for your action in this matter.</p>
<p>I want to express my opposition to the proposal to make Houghton Road a six-lane highway from 22nd Street to Speedway. I realize that the current configuration is not adequate but a six-lane highway will be too invasive to the homes and businesses along that route. I believe a four-lane roadway will be adequate and have less negative impact on the area. Noise levels, increased traffic, increased accidents, speeding and increased litter will just be exacerbated by six lanes. While four lanes will also have its effect, it will be much less than six. I am opposed to the thought that Packard could be closed as an access to Houghton. Such a decision would have a very negative impact on the entire neighborhood. Please do not consider such an action.</p>					
<p>The congestion of traffic to the entry and exit to and from Packard Lane.</p>		<p>The noise level from more cars and trucks! The pollution emitted from more cars and more trucks which will accumulate in our yards and homes. The loss of natural open desert. Trash/litter thrown from cars and trucks.</p>			