

**Houghton Road, Southern Segment: Valencia Road to Interstate 10  
Public Open House; Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007  
Desert Sky Middle School  
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.)

- 1) Is the typical section clearly shown and understandable? Yes-13; No-2  
2) Are the alignment concepts clearly shown and understandable? Yes-13; No-2  
3) Are the access points clearly delineated/defined? Yes-13; No-2  
4) Are the pedestrian/bicycle improvements clearly shown and understandable? Yes-12; No-2

Roadway/Traffic	Drainage	Environmental	Art and Landscape	Construction/Time Phasing	General Comments
<b>Comments Received During the Open House</b>					
Will be interested in more details on bike/ped access points at destinations/shops/neighborhoods.  Glad to hear posted speed 45 mph.			Will sidewalks along Houghton Road connect with sidewalks at shops and neighborhoods? Shade along multiuse path would be welcome.		I'm a Bike Advisory Committee member and will want to get more feedback from that group on proposed bike facilities and design.
The added lanes of Houghton Road at Valencia Road are a fatal accident and/or road-rage occurrence waiting to happen. Drivers pass on the right illegally all the time!  What about a monorail? Major north/south Kolb Road and Valencia Road: east/west light rail with parking at e & q.					It was good that there was an RTA rep there. More importantly, I think rather than, or in addition to an open house, a PowerPoint presentation should be done depicting it for all. This would really clear some muddy waters.  A formal didactic presentation needs to be done to clarify for all the proposed widening.
	It is imperative that the widening does not put Rita Ranch in a flood area designation by FEMA. I'm outside the 100-year flood plain. I heard this project may create an artificial flood area.				
Is the I-10 interchange included in this project?					
				What is the proposed start date for the I-10/Valencia Road segment?	

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Will bus service (normal) be put into the new Houghton Road (i.e. pullouts, etc)?		Will trees be planted so close to the roadway that they will rub large vehicles in the future?  How much noise of more vehicles on the new Houghton Road will affect the residences?			
Very clear and concise.					
We are also desperately in need of improvements from Houghton Road down to Sahuarita Road.	During monsoons, there is limited access to the freeway, to Tucson, to emergency services, etc.				
Forty-five mph may be too low of speed for Houghton Road – what will the night speed be?  Remove one lane at the Rita Road/Houghton Road intersection on west side going over to east side (Rita Ranch side); will save 12 feet of pavement on west side.  Need to verify that UPRR will only have two tracks. We keep hearing a third track will be built but bridges only show two tracks. I think we are being sandbagged by UPRR.  Still have some concern that the end of pavement on the west side will push walking path (even if one walking) real close to homes and have problems with electrical lines/poles.		Need to address sound for homes to west where fences/homes are lower than Houghton Road even now.	Who actually will enhance walking path on east side to look like the drawings? Current walkway doesn't look like development drawings.		Use 53- or 48-foot trailers vs. 40 foot as proposed.  What can we do to help homeowners on west side of Houghton Road who wish to raise their brick walls higher than currently approved by City code? Presently homeowners would have to request code variances. Also, can RTA funds be used to increase brick walls?
Start ASAP and make it six lanes – it is needed now!					

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					Great! Looking forward to completion. I wish it had been done many years ago.
I believe not enough consideration was taken for those living west of Houghton Road. The road is being widened too close to our homes. Only a couple of businesses are affected south of Rita Road. The road needs to be widened to the east.		I would like to know current noise levels and projected noise levels.  What happened to Houghton Road's status as a scenic route, which could not be widened? I bought my home with this understanding.  What besides the rubberized road is being done to soundproof the area? I hear nothing else is being done.  The homeowners have been misled as to its scenic road status, thus lowering our property values due to excessive noise. What financial considerations will be considered - lower our property taxes, raise our walls?			I just wish you will put homeowners first and not the people who own the commercial property to the east.
Please consider the privacy of the properties abutting Houghton Road east of Rita Road - you are raising the road anywhere from 3.5 feet and up so homeowners deserve to have their back walls raised to eight feet without having to pay for zoning variances or permits. Since the City is saving so much money by not installing noise abatement walls, they should be able to make this accommodation for homeowners.  Please also see that there is a curb on both the east and west boundaries of the road for safety of pedestrians. There is no way drivers in Tucson drive at 45 mph unless the posted speed limit is under 25 mph.					
		Please do not spend scarce RTA funding or other taxpayer dollars on a sound wall along any part of Houghton Road. Rubberized asphalt will work fine along with appropriate landscaping. Too much cost for benefit.			

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Roadway/Traffic	Drainage	Environmental	Art and Landscape	Construction/Time Phasing	General Comments
Move road to east and leave more buffer for Rita Ranch homeowners on the west side of the street.					Why don't you widen Valencia Road between Kolb Road and Houghton Road? It has a lot more traffic!
					All design and engineering personnel were very well informed in their areas. They eagerly answered all questions and gave explanations in layman's language.
		No lighting? Not sure if horse riding will occur on the DG path.		The bridge between Mary Ann Cleveland Way and I-10 done last?	This all does sound great! Please start tomorrow!
<b>Comments Received During the Two-Week Comment Period Ending Dec. 1, 2007</b>					
There was only one thing I saw that I thought was an issue. They will be raising the road service in some areas.  I thought maybe another solution to consider, and one that I think I would like better if I lived along the road, would be to build a new second wall outside the existing wall. It could be built higher with the appropriate foundation. I think a double layer wall would also offer more protection against vehicles and debris penetrating their home and/or yard in the event of an accident.		What is bad is that the property walls aren't real tall, and with the road raised up several feet, it would be an issue of safety, sound, and privacy.  Homeowners can't just add several feet to the height of the wall. It has to be approved by the city and the HOA, but the real issue is that the current wall foundations would not support a wall of a height to accommodate the new road height and increased traffic. The walls would have to be completely redone, which would be quite costly for homeowners.			They really took a lot of time into consideration on the Houghton Road project. I also think it is good that they are building the road to anticipate the future growth and services.
I would prefer the City/County expand the road further to the east, even if it means buying the desert land rather than putting the bike path over there, put it to the west side of the road preserving more distance to the existing houses.  Also, there is an "access" road also adjacent to the drainage area, and I'd like to know how that road will be integrated in the concept design so that even more traffic won't bypass the light at Rita Road and Houghton Road.	Because my property is adjacent to the drainage area, I'm concerned that further paving and the height of the road with respect to my property will be a problem.				I was unable to attend the Nov 15th public open house since I was on business travel.
<b>Comments Received: 13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>