



living streets alliance

The mission of Living Streets Alliance is to advocate for a thriving Tucson by creating great streets for all of us.

September 6, 2018

To: Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild & City Council

Re: **Complete Streets Community Engagement Summary**

Honorable Mayor Rothschild and City Council Members,

It has been our honor and pleasure to work in partnership with the Tucson Department of Transportation over the past 18 months in support of Complete Streets for Tucson. In addition to key events like the Policy Development Workshop and keynotes by Gil Penalosa, and numerous presentations to neighborhood groups and affiliate organizations, we have worked to help engage the community in both learning more about complete streets as well as in articulating their desired outcomes for a Complete Street policy.

Part of our community engagement strategy has included a series of “Rethinking Streets” workshops to engage community members and a wide range of additional stakeholders from different sectors in the Complete Streets conversation. During these 2.5-hour workshops, utilizing a technique called Appreciative Inquiry, participants work together to articulate their vision for Tucson’s streets and arrive at shared themes/recommendations to guide the policy.

There are two kinds of workshops: Stakeholder Dialogue workshops for up to 100 people (hosted in central locations) and Community Dialogue workshops meant for groups of up to 20 people (hosted at times and locations as requested by each group to demonstrate a model where we “go to them” instead of asking them to “come to us”). For the latter, LSA trained 20 different staff and volunteers as facilitators so that any neighborhood, congregation, civic association, etc. wishing to do a workshop could be accommodated. LSA provides a meal and offers transit passes to workshop participants. Community Dialogue workshops can be done in Spanish and/or modified to accommodate groups with varying needs, while Stakeholder Dialogues are meant to engage a more traditional audience. (Note: Members of select Tucson Boards and Commissions as well as Mayor & Council offices were invited and encouraged to attend Stakeholder Dialogues workshops.)

To supplement the workshops and demonstrate an additional non-traditional engagement method which doesn’t require people to alter their daily routines to participate, LSA is also developing a pop-up community engagement kit where youth will be employed to do on-street engagement, supported by LSA staff, at everyday community destinations or places where community members are naturally convening such as schools, grocery stores, libraries, community centers, places of worship, etc. The pop-up engagement will be conducted in English and Spanish and will primarily target neighborhoods where people are likely to have greater barriers to participating in longer meetings.

Complete Streets policies are blanket policies that cover an entire jurisdiction. Given the general, big picture nature of the policy which will not specifically impact any given community until the City begins to work on implementation steps, coupled with LSA's limited grant dollars available to do this work, LSA has focused primarily on the *quality* of public engagement rather than the quantity. That being said, best Complete Streets policies include directives to develop a community engagement plan to conduct inclusive and equitable public engagement. Therefore, to help inform future engagement efforts in implementing this policy, LSA developed the community engagement model described above with the goals of:

- Piloting a more grassroots community engagement model where community members are trained and offered stipends to host workshops with their own neighborhoods or other circles they belong to
- Demonstrating a “go to them” (instead of a “come to us”) engagement model that can be used to supplement traditional open houses for future transportation projects
- Sharing information about what Complete Streets are and how they can benefit the people of Tucson
- Gathering broad input to help inform the policy vision
- Garnering support for Complete Streets
- Raising awareness about the Complete Streets initiative so that people are in a better position to come to the table when the implementation work begins with real impacts on real communities which is when meaningful and inclusive engagement will become critical

To date, LSA staff and other trained facilitators have hosted eight Community Dialogue workshops (107 participants total) and two Stakeholder Dialogue workshops (135 participants total) with more scheduled in the upcoming weeks. While the focus is not on the quantity of people engaged, LSA is making every effort to reach out to a diverse sample of Tucson's population with these workshops such as residents of registered neighborhood associations, families with school-age children, low-income seniors, youth with disabilities, refugees, and undocumented immigrants among others to capture a diverse set of concerns to help inform the policy and its implementation. Here's a list of the workshops held and scheduled:

- 5/14/18 – Complete Streets Community Dialogue Workshop (at AZ School for the Deaf & Blind, with youth participants, 8 participants)

- 6/20/18 – Complete Streets Stakeholder Dialogue Workshop (at Dunbar Auditorium, open city-wide, 85 participants)
- 6/28/18 – Complete Streets Community Dialogue Workshop (at Pima County Housing Center, with Menlo Park Neighborhood residents, 19 participants)
- 7/17/18 – Complete Streets Community Dialogue Workshop (at Ward 3 Council Office, with various neighborhood residents, 10 participants)
- 7/25/18 – Complete Streets Community Dialogue Workshop (at Ward 6 Council Office, with various neighborhood residents, 21 participants)
- 7/28/18 – Complete Streets Community Dialogue Workshop (at Ward 3 Council Office, with various neighborhood residents, 11 participants)
- 8/18/18 – Complete Streets Stakeholder Dialogue Workshop (at Fire Central Station, open city-wide, 50 participants)
- 8/19/18 – Complete Streets Community Dialogue Workshop (at Mission Church, with various faith-community members, 7 participants)
- 8/23/18 – Complete Streets Community Dialogue Workshop (at Ward 2 Council Office, with various neighborhood residents, 14 participants)
- 8/26/18 – Complete Streets Community Dialogue Workshop (with Paisanos Unidos, 17 participants)
- *scheduled 9/10/18* – Complete Streets Community Dialogue Workshop (at Strauss Manor, with residents of a low-income senior housing facility)
- *scheduled 9/19/18* – Complete Streets Community Dialogue Workshop (at the Lost Barrio, business owners and beyond)
- *scheduled 9/22/18* – Complete Streets Community Dialogue Workshop (at Pima County Housing Center, with Tucson Emerging 2030 District members)
- *Dates TBD* - Sunnyside School District, TUSD Family Resource Centers, The International Rescue Community/Literacy Connects, S.N.A.P.P. (South Side Neighborhood Associations Presidential Partnership)

To date, recurring themes/recommendations that have emerged from these workshops include the prioritization of:

- safety;
- connectivity;
- accessibility;
- equity and inclusivity;
- streets that focus on people and increase the appeal of walking/biking/public transit;
- shade/vegetation/water harvesting;

- sense of place and local character;
- land use and neighborhood destinations; and
- funding prioritization for creating Complete Streets including infrastructure investments in public transit and safe, separated facilities for different modes of transportation.

In addition to the more in-depth workshops, LSA is in the process of contacting all registered neighborhood associations to offer informational Complete Streets presentations. So far, presentations have been delivered to Feldman's, Mountain View, and Barrio Kroeger Lane neighborhoods as well as the Downtown Neighborhoods and Residents Council (DNARC) and several more are scheduled in the upcoming weeks. LSA staff has also given similar presentations to a variety of stakeholder groups from different sectors and will continue to connect with more in the coming months. So far, 224 people have been reached through 14 presentations.

Thank you for your leadership and vision, and for the opportunity to be involved in this process. We look forward to seeing a Complete Streets policy adopted that will provide enhanced safety, mobility, and quality of life for all Tucsonans and are happy to assist in any way that we can moving forward.

Sincerely,



Emily Yezman
Executive Director