



City of Tucson Transportation Department
Ward 4 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)
Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2019, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Clements Center, 8155 E. Poinciana Drive, Tucson, Ariz.

Meeting Summary

ATTENDEES

Ward 4 CDRC Members

Rudy Lopez, Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association (NA)
Keith Miller, Mesquite Ranch NA
Mike Tone, Rita Ranch NA
Al Wiruth, Rita Ranch NA

City of Tucson Transportation Staff and Consultants

Michael Marietti, Tucson Transportation Project Manager
Sean Samsel, Psomas Project Manager
Kevin Thornton, Psomas Project Manager
Britton Dornquast, Regional Transportation Authority MainStreet Business Outreach
Teresita Finch, Gordley Group
Jan Gordley, Gordley Group
Lori Lantz, Gordley Group

Guests

Linda McArthur, Sonoran Desert Willow Estates HOA
Frank Pyrdeck, South Harrison NA
Scott Slatkovski, Sonoran Desert Willow Estates HOA

MATERIALS

- Agenda
- Implementation plan map
- CDRC neighborhoods map
- Meeting evaluation form
- Comment form
- Fact sheets - Houghton Road: 22nd to Irvington; Houghton Road: Valencia to Mary Ann Cleveland Way; Houghton Road Bridge over UPRR/UPRR Bridge to I-10
- April 30, 2019, Ward 4 CDRC meeting summary

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING PROTOCOL

Jan Gordley opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming, recognizing the hard work and contributions of the Ward 4 CDRC members since they began meeting 12 years ago, in 2007. More than 49 CDRC and public meetings have been held during this time. Jan reviewed the rules of the meeting to ensure a smooth process, then asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

PROJECT UPDATES

Houghton Road: Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Bridge to Interstate 10

Michael Marietti confirmed for the committee that this project continues under construction and is expected to be completed on schedule in December 2019.

Houghton Road: Bridge over the UPRR

This project has completed construction. Bat boxes are in place under the bridges.

Houghton Road: Valencia Road to Mary Ann Cleveland Way

Sean Samsel gave an update on this project and responded to questions.

- Design is near 100% completion, pending final confirmation of utility designs
- All right-of-way (ROW) offers have been accepted and right-of-entry is obtained, with acquisitions expected to be finalized by end of the year
- Utility relocations are ongoing, and will continue through the end of 2019
- Construction is scheduled for 2020
- Intersection work will occur by quadrants, to maintain traffic flow; driveway access and two-way traffic access will be maintained
- During construction it is the contractor's responsibility to maintain the quality of road, such as repairing potholes and raveling

Houghton Road: 22nd Street to Irvington Road

Kevin Thornton presented the update on this project and responded to questions.

- 60% plans were completed in August 2017, then project was put on hold

- Project restarted in January 2019
- 90% plans should be complete in late 2019
- Design completion anticipated in 2020
- Construction is scheduled for 2021
- Design plans include:
 - Six travel lanes, curbed outside edge and median, and bus turnouts
 - Multi-use lanes in both directions, sidewalk on the west side and multi-use path on the east side
 - Traffic signals and turn lanes at Old Spanish Trail, Golf Links, and Escalante
 - PELICAN pedestrian signal, bus storage and circulation improvements at Secrist Middle School
 - Drainage improvements for all-weather access
 - Retaining walls
 - Lighting and public art
- Improvements at Pantano Wash include:
 - Improvements to existing bridge, construction of new adjacent bridge
 - Bank protection and underpass for future linear park connectivity
 - Grade control structure to protect bridges

Kevin reviewed some specific design updates to improve safety:

- Moving the northbound public bus pullout at Secrist Middle School to encourage student use of the PELICAN crossing
- Installing School Speed Zone signs with flashing beacons to encourage compliance
- Adding a speed enforcement zone and adding three signs to reduce speeding, with potential locations near McGraw's or northbound between Escalante Road and Secrist Middle School
- Two stage left-turn lanes near Falcon Point Drive, 29th Street, and Sky Castle Way
- More complete plans for this project as well as details for the Secrist Middle School configuration will be at the public meeting

- Public artist Carolyn Braaksma has been selected to design art for this section. Examples of her past projects will be available for review at the public meeting.

Kevin Thornton reviewed details of the noise study for this segment, including the assessment process and traffic condition models used. Model inputs include vehicle speeds, traffic volumes, vehicle mix, elevations, ground type, receiver elevations, and existing barriers.

Noise abatement is considered if models show noise levels reach 66 dBA or higher and a 15 dBA increase between existing and future noise levels.

All of the following criteria must be met for noise wall construction to be considered:

- A reduction of at least 5 decibels (dBA)
- The barrier must benefit two or more adjacent receivers
- The cost of the barrier will not exceed \$35,000 per benefitted receiver (using a cost of \$25 per square foot)
- A majority of the property owners must approve the mitigation
- Mitigation is for only the first floor of multi-story residences
- Barriers must be less than 10 feet tall
- No mitigation will be provided for undeveloped properties unless building permit issued prior to the final environmental document

Results of modeling using RTA criteria:

- Six Locations met the future 66 dBA criteria
- A 10-foot barrier was evaluated at these locations; however, none of the locations met the 5 dBA reduction criteria
- Noise barriers would not meet the RTA noise abatement criteria

PARKING LOT CONCERNS AND CDRC INQUIRIES

Sean Samsel reviewed CDRC concerns and responded to questions.

- Roadway profile, property impacts and noise concerns for 10 homes at southern end of segment
 - Roadway slopes are contained within the existing ROW, with no impacts to properties
 - New roadway will be reconstructed very close to existing roadway grade in this area
 - Road cannot be lowered due to water line impacts and drainage conveyance needs
 - Noise study was conducted, methodology considers roadway profile, noise levels did not meet RTA requirements for mitigation
 - Final noise study is posted on the project website
- Rita Ranch Monument Replacements

Sean Samsel reviewed drawings and locations of two replacement monuments. The existing monuments were surveyed and similar construction detail was developed for the replacement monuments. Locations will be the southwest corner of Valencia Road and Houghton Road, and the northwest corner of Old Vail Road and Houghton Road.
- Atterbury Wash at Houghton Road drainage currently consists of two 32" x 48" pipes. Future plans call for a 2-cell 8' x 4' box culvert which would convey a 100-year rainstorm event completely under the roadway
- Development of Arizona State Land (ASLD) parcels south of Valencia

The Houghton design team has coordinated with ASLD, with planned median access at the following locations:

 - Full opening at future main Spine Road (signal if warranted in future)
 - Partial left-in opening at southern end of western parcel
 - U-turn opening 700' south of western parcel – future access point to east
- ASLD may have been approached to change the access plan. Psomas will look into this.

Status of Public Art Coordination

Sean Samsel gave an update on the public art process for the Valencia Road to Mary Ann Cleveland Way project and responded to questions. A layout of the site and artist renderings illustrated the concept.

- Simon Donovan and Ben Olmstead are the project artists
- A site was selected on east Houghton Road south of Jumping Cholla at the very north end of the ASLD parcel (125' right of way is available to accommodate the site)
- Art installation will be gabion horse sculptures
- Site amenities will include benches, decomposed granite pathway, landscaping and lighting

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

The committee members took turns asking additional questions about the projects, Parking Lot items and other issues. Jan noted that a public meeting is being planned for Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2019 and notification will be emailed to the committee. Team members will be available at the meeting for questions about Houghton Road project status, noise walls, landscaping, public art, the ADOT traffic interchange at Interstate 10, and Pima County south Houghton Road projects.

PARKING LOT

Lori Lantz reviewed the Parking Lot list with the committee:

- Southern segment plans alignment
- UPRR Bridge update – bat populations and boxes
- Public art opportunity on retaining wall in 22nd to Irvington project
- Frequency of meetings
- Where will traffic go during construction - alternate routes at Harrison and Irvington
- Rough spots on bridge pavement

Two items were removed as resolved, “Southern segment plans alignment” and “Rough spots on bridge pavement”. Two items were added, “Replace rocks and dirt near properties removed during utility work” and “Block/brick walls on southern section”.

The final Parking Lot items to be carried forward to the next meeting are:

- UPRR Bridge update – bat populations and bat boxes
- Public art opportunity on retaining wall in 22nd to Irvington project
- Frequency of meetings
- Where will traffic go during construction? Alternate routes near Harrison and Irvington
- Replacement of rocks and dirt removed during utility work near properties
- Block/brick walls on southern section properties

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m. Following the meeting, team members addressed individual questions about specific areas utilizing project roll plot maps and 90% plans for Valencia Road to Mary Ann Cleveland Way and 60% plans for the 22nd Street to Irvington Road segment.