



City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Ward 4 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)
Monday, Oct. 17, 2016, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Clements Center, 8155 E. Poinciana Drive

Meeting Summary

ATTENDEES

Ward 4 CDRC Members

Rudy Lopez, Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association (NA)
Keith Miller, Mesquite Ranch NA
Ken Moyes, Rita Ranch NA
Bob Small, Civano NA
Michael Tone, Rita Ranch NA
Al Wiruth, Rita Ranch NA
Moon Joe Yee, Old Spanish Trail NA

City of Tucson

Teresa Smith, Ward 4

TDOT Staff and Consultants

M.J. Dillard, TDOT Project Manager
Sean Samsel, Psomas Project Manager
Alejandro Angel, Psomas
Chenggang Zhang, Psomas
Jan Gordley, Gordley Group
Lori Lantz, Gordley Group

Guests

Davita Mueller, Rita Ranch NA
Howie Hibbs, Old Spanish Trail NA
Vicki Hibbs, Old Spanish Trail NA

MATERIALS

- Agenda
- Implementation plan map
- CDRC neighborhoods map
- Meeting evaluation form
- Comment form
- Fact sheet - Houghton Road: 22nd to Irvington
- Nov. 13, 2014, 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 nine years ago, in 2007. Jan also thanked Ward 4 and Teresa Smith for their ongoing assistance and arranging for meeting space. Jan introduced M.J. Dillard, COT Project Manager, and asked her to introduce the project team. M.J. also thanked the CDRC for their work over so many years, and noted that the Houghton projects have won many awards, including MPA's Common Ground Award for collaboration, and both the ADOT Excellence in Partnering Award and APWA National Project of the Year Award for the Irvington to Valencia project. M.J. introduced the project design team from Psomas. Jan mentioned a new member for South Houghton Neighborhood Association, Ed Thibodeaux, who was unable to attend tonight. She asked the rest of the attendees to introduce themselves. Lori Lantz reviewed the rules of the meeting to ensure a smooth process.

PROJECT UPDATES

M.J. Dillard provided updates on the Houghton Road Corridor projects progress since the last Ward 4 CDRC meeting in 2014.

Houghton Road: Broadway Blvd. to 22nd Street

- Design and construction started with Phase I at the Houghton/Broadway intersection, Phase II with Sun Tran Park & Ride, and then Houghton Road: Broadway Blvd. to 22nd Street.
- All three projects were combined for savings in time and budget.
- The public art Mare & Foal sculptures are very popular.
- The project ribbon cutting will be held Oct. 18, at 9 a.m. at the Sun Tran Park & Ride.

Houghton Road: Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad

- Design for the bridge is completed and funding is in place.
- Bids will be reviewed at the end of October, and the contractor may start construction as early as the end of November.
- The anticipated timeframe for completion of the bridge project is two years.
- The new construction project manager has bridge experience.
- In response to a question about the bad potholes on the roadway, M.J. noted that the contractor will maintain the roadway while building the new bridge.
- The road will be constructed from the bridge all the way to the Mary Ann Cleveland Way intersection.
- A natural gas line at the north end of the project is being replaced by El Paso Natural Gas.
- Bats were blocked from roosting and nesting in the bridge structure by sealing cracks when bats were not present; bat boxes were tested as alternative habitats and the preferred boxes will be added as part of the project.

Houghton Road: Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad to Interstate 10

- The road from the bridge to the Interstate 10 interchange will take just 6 to 8 months for completion of construction, once design is finalized and construction started.

Houghton Road: Valencia Road to Mary Ann Cleveland Way/Old Vail Road

- Design of this section is anticipated to be started next year.

Houghton Road: 22nd Street to Irvington Road

- Concept plans were developed in 2008.
- These concept plans will be used as a starting point for design.
- An open house will be held at 60% design, anticipated in mid-2017.
- This project includes the Pantano Wash bridge.

Implementation Plan Review

- Change in implementation plan order was due to:
 - Needing infrastructure upgrades at Golf Links due to development
 - Concerns about the bottleneck at Pantano Bridge
 - Upcoming projects on or near Valencia
 - Increased development interest just south of 22nd

Other projects connecting with or near Houghton Road and Valencia Road:

- Valencia Road: Kolb Road to Houghton Road will start design by early 2017
- Diamond Ventures Valencia Road Extension east of Houghton Road
- Valencia Road: Wilmot Road to Kolb Road is designed and ready for construction

Pavement Preservation Projects

City of Tucson pavement preservation schedule graphic was reviewed by M.J. Dillard.

Project Funding Details

M.J. reviewed the status of current funding for City and RTA projects and options going forward. The City of Tucson is looking for additional federal dollars for unfunded projects, and RTA is considering new bonding. Current projects are coming in under budget.

Public Art Process

The public art process is coordinated by the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona (AFTS), a non-profit organization that oversees all City of Tucson public art.

- AFTS will put out a call to artists for the Houghton Road: 22nd Street to Irvington Road project.
- AFTS and TDOT will put together a selection panel.
- The panel will review, narrow down, interview and select an artist for this project.
- Community meetings will be held with the artist to discuss ideas.
- Art concepts will be presented by the artist to the community and then fine-tuned.
- Public art will be constructed in coordination with the project contractors.

Street Lighting

- All arterial roads in the City of Tucson are required to have street lighting.
- COT is converting all sodium vapor lights to LED lighting that is Dark Sky compliant and will reduce light pollution.
- Al Wiruth was concerned that adding street lighting along highways would limit capability for military airplanes to make emergency landings on the roadway.
- M.J. noted that lighting is being added due to pedestrian fatalities, and that public safety is of primary importance.

Website

The Houghton Corridor website is being redesigned and updated.

CDRC General Questions and Discussion

- Mike Tone noted that there is a steep incline by McGraw's Cantina.
- If a retaining wall is utilized, a design like natural rock can be considered.
- M.J. noted that McGraw's will retain access.
- Secrist Middle School will get a HAWK/Pelican crossing, and the team is working with them on traffic circulation and school needs. The design improvements would help with student drop-off and pick-up in front of the school.
- Drexel Road will also get a traffic signal.

PARKING LOT

Lori Lantz reviewed the parking lot items. No items were added to the parking lot.

- Intersection of Rita Road/Houghton east side of greenway (drainage ditch)
- Landscaping items – Valencia to I-10
- Schedule of light pole replacement/sidewalks – Old Vail
- Southern segment plans alignment
- Timeline for monument walls at Rita Ranch
- Homeowners' brick wall between Rita Road and Old Vail
- Art process for Rita Road segment
- UPRR bridge update

VISITOR COMMENTS

Davita Mueller asked to be kept in the loop about the public art process and panel members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. Team members brought a project roll plot so attendees could ask individual questions about specific areas following the meeting.