



City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Ward 4 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)
Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Clements Center, 8155 E. Poinciana Drive, Tucson, Arizona

Meeting Summary

ATTENDEES

Ward 4 CDRC Members

Rick Hanson, Civano Neighborhood Association
Laura Hinyup, Houghton South NA
Rudy Lopez, Rita Ranch NA
Keith Miller, Mesquite Ranch NA
Regina Musetta, Houghton South NA
Al Wiruth, Rita Ranch NA

City of Tucson (COT)

Teresa Smith, Ward 4 Council Administrative Assistant

TDOT Staff and Consultants

Michael Marietti, TDOT Project Manager
Sean Samsel, Psomas Project Manager
Chenggang Zhang, Psomas Project Engineer
Chelsea Marshall, Wheat Design Group
Laura Mielcarek, Wheat Design Group
Jan Gordley, Gordley Group
Stephanie Stanley, Gordley Group

Guests

Tom Willard, Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association
Robert Alcaraz

MATERIALS

- Agenda
- Implementation plan map
- CDRC neighborhoods map
- Landscape plant displays (2)
- Meeting evaluation form
- Comment form
- Houghton Road fact sheets: 22nd to Irvington, Valencia to MAC Way, Bridge over UPRR/Bridge to I-10
- Feb. 8, 2018 meeting summary and parking lot
- October 16 public open house invitation

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING PROTOCOL

Jan Gordley opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming. Jan also thanked Ward 4 and Teresa Smith for their ongoing support and arranging for meeting space. She encouraged the members to attend the public open house on October 16 at 6 p.m. She reviewed the rules of the meeting to ensure a smooth process, then asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

PROJECT UPDATES

Michael Marietti provided updates for several segments along Houghton Road Corridor.

Houghton Road: Bridge widening at UPRR

- Last deck pour scheduled for Saturday, October 6. Deck construction is on track to finish in November but may have clean-up tasks in December. Traffic lanes should be open before Thanksgiving.

Houghton Road: I-10 and Houghton Traffic Interchange

- ADOT to provide update on this segment at open house on October 16.

Houghton Road: UPRR to I-10

- The contractor's bids were opened on August 16 and they have chosen a good contractor, Borderland, whose bid was below the engineer's estimate. A partnering and pre-construction meeting is scheduled on October 3. They will likely start on the west side of the road first.

Houghton Road: 22nd to Irvington

- Plan to continue design next summer. There are so many utilities to relocate that it will take about a year to relocate all.

Houghton Road: Valencia to Mary Ann Cleveland Way

Sean Samsel presented a PowerPoint Presentation to review this project and parking lot items and answer questions.

- 60% design plans were completed in May 2018.
- Currently working on design plans, with completion of 90% plans anticipated November 2018.
- Design completion scheduled for second half of 2019.
- One more CDRC meeting and public meeting planned near design completion.

PARKING LOT ITEMS

Houghton Road and Rita Road intersection:

- Turn arrows are being provided in all directions at the intersection of Houghton and Rita Road.
- Dual right-turn lanes on eastbound Rita Road reduced to a single right-turn lane based on committee feedback and revisions to traffic projections.
- Southbound and westbound left-turn lanes configured initially as single lane; dual lanes will be opened when needed based on future traffic growth.

Noise Study:

- Noise study was completed for this segment in summer 2018.
- Methodology used follows the adopted Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) policy.

- Points were sampled all along the residential section to create a noise model.
- Model takes into account the distribution of traffic and roadway alignment.
- Predictions for future traffic noise levels come out of noise model.
- Noise model sample was taken in summer 2018 with snowbirds out of town.
- Conditions don't have to be at peak to create an accurate noise model. Model takes into account the number of cars and is based on that, not most noise in a day.
- If predicted future noise levels reach 66 decibels or higher, the evaluation moves into second phase of testing.
- Predicted noise levels for residential receivers did not exceed 66 dBA or substantially exceed existing levels, so no noise mitigation was found to be warranted in this segment.
- City looks at the most effective way to mitigate noise issues.
- Houghton Road does not have any noise abatement walls.
- Tests are taken from yards, not inside house, so replacing windows would not be considered a noise abatement measure.
- More information will be available at the public meeting.
- **Action Item (Sean):** Find out date measurement was taken and take school traffic into consideration.

Access and curbing:

- Having three lanes access to the southern-most entrance of Fry's should reduce traffic congestion.
- Rita Road and Rees Loop will have an opening for U-turns. If traffic movement warrants, it can be changed to a double left turn lane on Houghton Road going south before Rita Road. A lot of people will choose to take a right turn out of the full access opening and go down and make a U-turn.
- The pavement width on Rees Loop and Rita Road is sufficient for striping.
- Regarding traffic control within the commercial property, city policy is to not put stop signs on private property/commercial driveways.
- Developers maintain stop signs on private property.

Curbing:

- Fully curbed median is planned on Houghton through this entire section.
- Outer curbing and storm drain system will extend from Jumping Cholla Drive through commercial driveways to the north.

Utilities:

The project team has met with utility companies and quite a bit of relocation is expected; gas, electric and telecom will all have relocations. Design modifications were made for less impact to water and sewer lines.

- Tucson Water lines will remain located on the shoulder/edge of pavement, not in travel lanes.
- Three utility poles at Rita Road will be relocated due to widening.
- No water main work is planned near Valencia Road.

- Pima County plan for Esmond Station Park is for water service off of Mary Ann Cleveland Way, not Houghton Road.

Public Art:

- Artist selection committee has been assembled and includes representatives from the Ward 4 office, Rita Ranch neighborhood, TDOT and engineering design team, Vail School District, and Arts Foundation for Tucson/Southern Arizona.
- Artist interview scheduled for Oct 12. Design meetings late 2018.
- The committee requested that the artists be available at the upcoming open house so the public can give input on concepts.
- Artist presentation of concepts to the CDRC is included in the process.

Rita Ranch Neighborhood Monument Replacement:

Sean presented options for replacement of Rita Ranch monument.

- Existing monuments at Rita Road and Old Vail Road can remain in place.
- A potential location for a replacement monument is on Rita Road near residential areas.
- The design team can work with Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association on exact placement locations.

Landscaping:

Landscape architect Wheat Design Group has completed the native plant field survey and is currently working on identifying areas for protect-in-place and planting layouts. Concept boards were displayed to facilitate discussion on the landscape design.

- No tall grasses will be included in seeding.
- Plant size in recovery zone for vehicles will be 2-3 feet tall.
- Plants are tagged if they're going to be salvaged. Trees up against existing walls will not be impacted by construction.
- The sidewalk is about 35 feet from the closest private property walls.

PARKING LOT ITEMS – OTHER

Stephanie Stanley read the list of additional parking lot items pertaining to other sections of the Houghton Road corridor. No comments were made about any of the items.

- Southern segment plans alignment
- UPRR bridge update
- Public art – retaining wall – 22nd to Irvington
- Frequency of meetings

VISITOR COMMENTS

No visitor comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 p.m.