

DOWNTOWN LINKS CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MONTHLY MEETING

MEETING SUMMARY Monday, November 9, 2009

FROM: TDOT Project Manager Shellie Ginn

Chair Gene Caywood called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair, Gene Caywood, Old Pueblo Trolley
Chuck Bressi, Iron Horse Neighborhood Association
John Burr, Armory Park Neighborhood Association
Christopher Carroll, El Presidio Neighborhood Association
Charles Davis, Barrio Anita Neighborhood Association
Susan Gamble, Warehouse Arts Management Association
Susan Marshall, Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Richard Mayers, West University Neighborhood Association
John Sedwick, Fourth Avenue Merchants Association
Mary Ellen Wooten, Tucson-Pima Arts Council

PROJECT TEAM PRESENT:

Shellie Ginn, Tucson Department of Transportation
Michael Barton, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Joan Beckim, Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations, Inc.

<p>1. <u>Meeting Called to Order</u> Quorum confirmed. Meeting started at 5:35 PM.</p>
<p>2. <u>Introduction of Committee Members and Staff</u> CAC and Project Team Members introduced themselves.</p>
<p>3. <u>Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2009</u> Minutes approved as written. Stand approved as submitted.</p>
<p>4. <u>Call to the Audience</u> No comments.</p>
<p>5. <u>Announcements</u> Susan Gamble announced the results of recent Warehouse auctions in the downtown area. She was pleased because with the successful purchase of certain warehouses, some of the arts organizations that will be displaced on Congress Street will be able to move there.</p>
<p>6. <u>Staff Reports and Presentations to CAC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on Stakeholder Meetings – Michael Barton, HDR Michael Barton updated the Committee on stakeholder meetings and integration of the Modern Streetcar project with Downtown Links.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Monthly meetings are now being held with the UA to discuss impacts to the USA building, possibly adding access onto 6th Street and other right-of-way issues.- The Project Team has held meetings with the RTA and property owners who are interested in advanced acquisitions.- Several meetings were held with Benjamin Supply to discuss access issues and how their needs could be accommodated.

- Meetings were held with each of the project artists focusing on some of the project areas that they are interested in.
- Meetings were held with MainStreet to discuss several impacted businesses and coordination with Tierra Right-of-Way. The Team is working on preliminary assessments by meeting with property owners about the property acquisition process.
- James LeBeau at Wildcat Storage has expressed concerns. The City will continue to try to mitigate some of those issues. The Landscape Architecture team is doing some water harvesting within the corridor and will determine the impacts those will have on the right-of-way in front of Wildcat Storage. Once they do that, then they will hold more discussions with Mr. LeBeau.
- The Project Team is meeting with the Land Use team to take the Land Use document to the next level so that it's a meaningful piece for use by properties along the corridor.
- The Modern Streetcar final design has allowed the City to issue contracts to final designers. The 8th Street drainage schedule will need to be developed. Teams under contract are GLHN for the maintenance and storage facility, and the contractor for track work is URS.

● **8th Street Drainage and Roadway Configuration – Michael Barton, HDR**

A design charrette was held with all project-related designers to come up with track alignments for the Modern Streetcar which is different from what Downtown Links has been showing. Because of storage and maintenance needs and office space, the charrette came out pushing for a connection with Downtown Links with a direct connection to 5th Avenue instead of 8th Street. (See the PowerPoint presentation from the November 9 meeting at <http://www.downtownlinks.info/Documents/DowntownLinksCAC11-09-09.pdf>)

Also, there are a host of utility issues that exist in the area. TDOT is working with Tucson Water and the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) to look for ways to relocate the lines around the culvert construction and is coordinating all efforts with utility track work on 4th Avenue. The Team will have a rendering to show the CAC at the next meeting.

Another issue is the 8th Street drainage improvements and discussions about getting that work done in advance of the Modern Streetcar project. Meetings with the design teams have indicated that the two projects may have to be built together because of clearance over the existing culvert. The track bed may need to be integrated into the roof of the culvert and because so many utilities are being moved, coordination is vital so the work can be done at one time even though different sections are funded with different funds. There are still talks about starting construction in March in advance of the Modern Streetcar, but that may need to be changed depending on how the Streetcar elements will be built. The Team will keep the CAC apprised of the plan. Designers are also trying to work out how to handle elevation of Stevens Avenue. There may need to be a retaining wall along the railroad right-of-way. The bicycle connection will remain north of the railroad and south of the roadway so they are also taking a look at the 2-way traffic conversation on Sixth Avenue which will remedy access issues with Benjamin property. From the perspective of 4th Avenue businesses, it will benefit them if all construction takes place at one time. The Team will continue working with the Streetcar Team to determine the projection of the start of construction depending on when rail is delivered. They don't want construction getting underway during monsoon season. Overall, the less disruption the better.

● **Update on Project Artist Meetings – Mary Ellen Wooten, TPAC**

Mary Ellen Wooten from the Tucson Pima Arts Council reported that the project artists were brought together in September to update them on Downtown Links and they were also given a tour of the project route. Cork Marcheschi from San Francisco said that he was very interested in the area in between where Barraza and Broadway come together and the 4th Avenue Underpass for a gateway entry feature. Joe O'Connell remains undecided but is interested in the west section and the Seventh Street crossing. Joe also created the Bike Church on Main and Davis, and the Griffin on Scott Avenue. Richard Posner is being thought of for the deck. Posner and Joe O'Connell have met with the Dunbar Spring neighborhood as the artists work towards developing a concept. Living Lenses from Berkeley has expressed interest in a project along the route where there is space with an open site line to A Mountain. TPAC is still working to encourage one of the project artists to be interested in the Sixth Avenue Bridge. If not successful, the best course may be to bring in another artist from the roster for one of the smaller remaining commissions.

7. Next Steps

• **Items for Future Meetings**

- Follow up on previous issues, focusing on the two advanced portions of the project, but they will be sure to address future items in the next few meetings. Will continue to work on renderings to present to CAC.
- Update CAC on underpass design under railroad and other pertinent discussions. Michael Barton said they have submitted a concept to the railroad so by the time of the next meeting, we can review the comments received.
- Update on the Broadway connection and consideration of alternatives and discussions with ADOT.
- Presentation of 30% plan review of western end of project.

• **Confirm Future Meeting Date**

The next CAC meeting will be in February or March. The Modern Streetcar CLG meeting is on December 3 so everyone is invited to attend to learn the latest information on that project.

8. Call to the Audience

Sherry Teachnor spoke representing Benjamin Supply. She indicated that discussions to address Benjamin Supply's issues regarding access and parking are moving forward. All is working out and she wanted to thank the CAC.

9. Adjournment at 6:30 PM.