

DOWNTOWN LINKS CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MONTHLY MEETING

ACTION REPORT AND SUMMARY

Monday, February 9, 2009

FROM: TDOT Project Manager Shellie Ginn

Chair Gene Caywood called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

- Chair**, Gene Caywood, Old Pueblo Trolley
- Vice Chair**, David Bachman-Williams, Tucson/Pima Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Charles Davis, Barrio Anita Neighborhood Association
- Chuck Bressi, Iron Horse Neighborhood Association
- John Burr, Armory Park Neighborhood Association
- Christopher Carroll, El Presidio Neighborhood Association
- Daniela Diamente, Dunbar-Spring Neighborhood Association
- Gerald Juliani, Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission
- Korey Kruckmeyer, Pie Allen Neighborhood Association
- Susan Marshall, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee
- Richard A. Mayers, West University Neighborhood Association
- John Sedwick, Fourth Avenue Merchants Association
- Mary Ellen Wooten, Tucson-Pima Arts Commission

PROJECT TEAM PRESENT:

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

AGENDA ITEM/COMMITTEE ACTION

STAFF ACTION

AGENDA ITEM/COMMITTEE ACTION	STAFF ACTION
<p>1. <u>Meeting Called to Order</u> Quorum confirmed. Meeting started at 5:34 PM</p>	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>
<p>2. <u>Introduction of Committee Members and Staff</u> CAC and Project Team Members introduced themselves.</p>	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>
<p>3. <u>Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2009</u> Minutes approved as written. Stand approved as submitted.</p>	<u>POST APPROVED MINUTES ON PROJECT WEB SITE</u>
<p>4. <u>Call to the Audience</u> No audience members came forward to speak.</p>	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>
<p>5. <u>Announcements</u> Shellie Ginn reported that there was a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on February 5. Feedback was obtained on Downtown Links west end cross sections from the fire department and Sun Tran. TAC will continue to gather more input in the coming weeks.</p>	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>
<p>6. <u>Staff Reports and Presentations to CAC – Michael Barton, HDR</u> Michael Barton reminded group that this work is in progress. The focus tonight is on the west end and the 8th Street drainage as it relates to the project. Michael Barton presented a PowerPoint to the Community Advisory Committee. (Presentation available http://www.downtownlinks.info/CitizenAdvisoryCommittee.aspx)</p> <p>The first part of the presentation focused on the west end piece that is being advanced for design and construction, specifically: 6th Street/I-10 to</p>	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>

Granada Ave and 6th Street/Main Ave to Church Ave. Cross section drawings were presented, showing suggested rights of way, pedestrian sidewalks, bike lanes, median space, buffer and vehicle travel lanes, in addition to several aerial map perspectives on the alignment and rights of way considerations. M. Barton also presented information on access issues under consideration by Traffic Engineering, sample pedestrian/bike designs, and connectivity. Barton mentioned that it was recommended that no trees be planted in the median because of maintenance issues, rather to look at desert landscaping and water harvesting for medians.

Specific feedback on the west end section included:

- CAC Vice Chair David Bachman-Williams commented that as a Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) representative he applauds the ample bike lanes: 6 ft. bike lanes with double white lines. He also said it was good to see no two-foot gutter being designed here because gutter seam is hazardous to cyclists.
- Mike Barton mentioned the Project Team will meet with Davis School and TUSD regarding access and connectivity around the school and Hughes Place road. He also referenced feedback that came from the series of Land Use/Urban Design meetings: Barrio Anita/Dunbar Spring neighborhoods would like pedestrian and bike access via Hughes Place, integrating Greenway access, and the access issues and RR crossings/no whistle zones. There will be an access study on the west side section, with the neighborhoods, traffic engineering, TUSD and the schools involved.
- CAC member John Sedgwick is concerned about not having dual right turn lanes to enter onto the frontage road. Backed up traffic will impede Greenway pedestrian/bike access. Mike Barton said we plan to meet with Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to discuss this issue and that the combination of two closely spaced signals with a sharp turn.
- CAC Chair Gene Caywood suggested moving Hughes Place alignment east and move the median opening to the east to allow access for vehicles to turn east off of Hughes.
- CAC member John Burr expressed concern on how vehicles will access the businesses on the south side of the road. It appears motorists will be forced to go through the underpass before they can turn around to access the businesses.
- CAC member Richard Mayers requested more information on the Pedestrian Light Control Activation (or Pelican) crossing. The group emphasized that it is important to signalize the crossing, and to make it usable and safe for both pedestrians and bicyclists.
- CAC member Charles Davis said the current Granada Ave/6th Street intersection alignment, line of sight, and crossing are dangerous and we need to respond to that. Also the northbound bike lane at Granada/6th stops and then continues again.
- CAC member Daniela Diamente questioned the width of the medians from traffic engineering perspective. Michael Barton explained median width allows for crosser 'refuge' from traffic, landscaping and vehicle turn radius.
- CAC member Korey Kruckmeyer commented on the sidewalks on the south side of 6th Street at Main Ave and the difficulty in accessing the other side of the street. Michael Barton mentioned on going discussions with the University of Arizona concerning the USA building and access.
- CAC member Daniela Diamente asked if Project Team intends to attend the neighborhood meetings in Dunbar Spring and Barrio Anita to discuss the access issues. The Project Team will be meeting with neighborhood associations within the next month or so to discuss access and RR no whistle zone issues.

According to Barton, the project is at 15% plans right now with engineering and design on the west end. We'll be turning 15% drawings into to the City for

<p>comments shortly.</p> <p>The second part of the presentation focused on 8th Street drainage – Per Michael Barton, the big concern from previous meetings is coordinating necessary drainage improvements related to Downtown Links with the modern streetcar project. Specifically, Downtown Links drainage improvements are slated to start March 2010 and finish by May 2010. Modern streetcar rail construction follows in the area in July 2010. Downtown Link's drainage improvements will tie into the Corps of Engineers' planned improvements at the intersection of 4th Avenue/ 8th Street and finish by connecting into the existing culvert along 7th Street between 5th Avenue and 6th Avenue. The design for this section of the Downtown Links drainage improvements should be done by year end 2009. The intent of the Downtown Links drainage is to integrate our improvements with other planned improvements to address drainage concerns in the area such as larger culverts to lessen area overflow issues related to High School Arroyo. Additionally, the project is being designed to stay within the existing rights of way as much as practical.</p> <p>The Downtown Links 8th Street culverts are being designed as two, 12 x 10 culverts that will replace the existing two, 10 x 10 culverts.</p>	
<p>7. <u>Next Steps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items for Future Meetings <p>Now that Downtown Links is in the design phase, CAC meetings will be as needed. The group agreed to not have a March meeting, to allow time in the coming weeks for meetings with first responders, Barrio Anita/Dunbar Spring neighborhoods, schools, Union Pacific, University of Arizona and other.</p> <p>Questions from CAC member Daniela D about going to Mayor and Council on west end plan. Per Shellie G. since we have an approved Downtown Links alignment, there is no need to return to Mayor and Council for approvals on design for individual areas of Downtown Links.</p> <p>CAC member Christopher Carroll asked what is the timetable for working drawings? We will be done with engineering by end of year 2009, with start of construction in 2010. Need to work with RTA and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm Future Meeting Dates <p>Next meeting is April 13, 2009.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>
<p>8. <u>Call to the Audience</u></p> <p>-Nancy Bender, owner of a warehouse on west 5th Street. Expressed concern about 5th Street being shut down to vehicle traffic. Staff will follow up with her.</p> <p>-Natasha Winnick, Dunbar Spring. Spoke on two issues: 1) I-10 to Granada Ave Need for a left turn lane for access into businesses on south side of the street. 2) When putting in 8th Street drainage, some businesses will only have access off of 5th Ave. We need to explore business access issues during construction.</p> <p>-Joel O'Connell, artist, resident. Is interested in street lighting plans and information on what can go in the medians. Staff will follow up.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>
<p>9. <u>Adjournment</u> at 6:40 PM</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>