

# DOWNTOWN LINKS CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

## MEETING SUMMARY

Monday, June 14, 2010

FROM: TDOT Project Manager Tom Fisher

Chair Gene Caywood called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM at University Services Annex-West.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Chair**, Gene Caywood, Old Pueblo Trolley  
John Burr, Armory Park Neighborhood Association  
Christopher Carroll, El Presidio Neighborhood Association  
Susan Gamble, Warehouse Arts Management Association  
Richard Mayers, West University Neighborhood Association  
John Sedwick, Fourth Avenue Merchants Association  
Mary Ellen Wooten, Tucson-Pima Arts Council  
Daniela Diamente, Dunbar Spring Neighborhood Association  
Charles Davis, Barrio Anita Neighborhood Association  
Korey Kruckmeyer, Pie Allen Neighborhood Association  
Teresa Vasquez, Downtown Tucson Partnership

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

**Vice Chair**, David Bachman-Williams, Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Commission  
Chuck Bressi, Iron Horse Neighborhood Association  
Susan Marshall, Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee  
Gerald Juliani, Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission

### PROJECT TEAM PRESENT:

Tom Fisher, Tucson Department of Transportation  
Shellie Ginn, Tucson Department of Transportation  
Michael Barton, HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Joan Beckim, Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations, Inc.  
Corky Poster, Poster Frost and Mirto  
Caryl Clement, Wheat Scharf Associates  
Britton Dornquast, Pima Association of Governments/Mainstreet Program

#### **1. Meeting Called to Order**

Quorum confirmed.

#### **2. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff**

CAC and Project Team Members introduced themselves.

#### **3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2010**

Minutes approved as written.

#### **4. Call to the Audience**

James LeBeau, owner of Wildcat Storage, says he's not really privy of what's going on but they are excited about the roadway improvements but they would like to make sure that the improvements don't adversely affect their tenants. His understanding is that there is talk of moving the parallel parking that has been there over a hundred years. Adverse position is the rule and if you're using something more than ten years it's pretty much yours. He would like the Committee to keep them in mind and do something that makes sense for them to avoid the adverse position situation.

Randall Swindell, tenant at Wildcat Storage, said that all of the artists who rent space there already have limited parking so he asks that the Committee keep them in mind and somehow come up with a solution to the parking situation there.

## **5. Announcements**

Shellie Ginn announced that Tom Fisher is taking over as project manager for the Downtown Links project. She will still be involved in some capacity, especially with the 8<sup>th</sup> Street drainage project, because of the Modern Streetcar project. She will need to make sure that the different pieces of those two projects are coordinated so that the project can move forward.

Shellie also announced that the RTA has placed a stop work request on projects and Jim Glock is confident that he will be able to secure funding to help fill in the gap during the time the RTA will be evaluating project soft costs. They will do everything they can to move forward with these projects to avoid any type of gaps in the design process efforts.

Tom Fisher gave the Committee a bit of background on himself. He has been in Tucson since 1969 and this is his second go around with the Tucson Department of Transportation. He was the bicycle-pedestrian planner for several years and then went to work for PAG and the RTA and was involved in the formation of the alternate modes component of the RTA plan. He is excited about this project and it seems to him that everyone is moving in the same general direction in terms of mobility options, sustainability, art, and protecting the neighborhoods so he hopes that everyone can keep an open mind as they move forward.

## **6. Staff Reports and Presentations to CAC**

### **• Urban Overlay Meeting Update – Corky Poster, Poster Frost Mirto**

Corky Poster presented an update to the CAC on the Downtown Links Urban Overlay District (DLUOD) and the background study and district proposal. The team originally went before Mayor and Council to recommend three overlay districts, the Warehouse Triangle, 4th Avenue and Iron Horse districts. At that time there was controversy over warehouses coming in from ADOT so Mayor and Council, in approving the land use and urban design plan, asked them to also include a fourth overlay which is the Warehouse Toole District which includes all warehouses on the north side of Toole Avenue from 6<sup>th</sup> Street west and includes Toole Avenue itself, and uses Toole Avenue as its boundary. It also includes the University Services Annex (USA) building because even though it is currently state land and not subject to zoning issues right now, it may not always be state land. The single urban overlay district will be an alternative zoning choice giving property owners in this district the choice of following either the provisions of the underlying zoning district, or the fully developed Downtown Links Urban Design Plan with all of its by-right provisions. A third choice is always available to each property owner which is pursuing his or her rezoning or City Planned Area Development on his or her own property. (Please see the June 16, 2010 draft Downtown Links Urban Overlay District: Background Study and District Proposal at [www.downtownlinks.info/CitizenAdvisoryCommittee/CACPresentations.aspx](http://www.downtownlinks.info/CitizenAdvisoryCommittee/CACPresentations.aspx) )

### **• ADOT Warehouse Update – Michael Barton, HDR**

Mike Barton spoke to the CAC about the disposition of some of the warehouses. There are four warehouses that are being transitioned, 191 E. Toole is being sold to Scrappy's; 197 E. Toole is being sold to Toolshed, LLC; the Steinfeld Warehouse at 101 W. Sixth St. is being sold to the Warehouse Arts Management Organization (WAMO); and the Citizens Building will be under a master lease with WAMO but the property will remain an ADOT property. All other properties that are needed for Downtown Links all still remain under ADOT. Corky Poster added that ADOT has put other warehouses for sale on the private market.

### **• St. Mary's Section Update – Michael Barton, HDR**

Mike Barton gave a brief update on the St. Mary's section. They are at 90% design and are hoping to break ground this fall. The team has met with property owners such as Wildcat Storage, the University of Arizona and also with utilities to discuss access issues and sewer and water systems. They have also met with ADOT on the interaction of the frontage road and permitting. The design team has been meeting to discuss landscaping and water harvesting for this section. Charles Davis asked if a crosswalk would be placed on Hughes for students

walking from Davis School to the Parks and Recreation program at Oury Park. Mike Barton said that there is no plan to put in a crosswalk with this project. Both Parks and Recreation and Community Services have been looking at that area for possible development as discussed during the Land Use segment. Corky Poster reminded everyone that they looked extensively at this property as part of the Land Use segment and it was recommended that Hughes be closed at Grady but that only works after other alternatives are looked at. The Greenway will also include an improved pedestrian path on the north side of Brady with a crosswalk. Mike said there is only funding available for road improvements.

Daniela Diamente said that if the CAC wanted a crosswalk painted on Hughes, she assumed that they would just need to make a motion. **After some discussion, Daniela made a motion that a crosswalk on Hughes Place be funded and included as part of the Downtown Links project. Seconded by Charles Davis. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.**

- **Public Art Update – Mary Ellen Wooten, TPAC**

The four artists are just starting to develop their art concepts and scope out potential locations along the road for their art, which will be sculptural pieces.

Living Lenses is developing a concept that deals with space and time. They are proposing a sidewalk clock near the corner of Granada and St. Mary's at a location with a clear line of site to the top of A Mountain. When one steps into the center of the clock, the viewer activates a signal that will cause a light on A Mountain to flash in approximately 7 seconds. The idea is that in that amount of time, due to the rotation of the earth, you will have physically moved the distance to a location of where A Mountain could have just been.

Joe O'Connell is thinking of a sculptural gateway form, perhaps three-quarters of a large bicycle tire. From the spots where spokes are affixed on a real bicycle tire, jets of water will shoot out when you ride through, providing a little bit of a wet mist. The potential location is west of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue but east of where Links would turn north.

Richard Posner's concept is a tall columnar structure with stacked tires at different degrees of projection, suggesting balanced concentric rings growing larger towards the top. Richard may use real tires of various sizes and treads or may cast a mold. There may be drought tolerant plants that will top one or two 10-foot sculptures. The objective for both Joe and Richard is to create a special sense of a unified place along the bicycle path.

Cork Marcheschi also has an idea of a tall vertical sculpture west of where Barraza Aviation enters downtown and before you reach 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. His work may include imbedded glass globes in a stainless columnar structure with internal lighting.

- **Water Harvesting Update – Caryl Clement, Wheat Scharf Associates**

Caryl presented to the CAC a brief summary of the original design concepts that have been developed for the project. The ideas and concepts for the project were developed as a catalyst for positive community development focusing on environmental stewardship, sustainability and resilience, pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, neighborhood identity, community and social open spaces, heat island mitigation, safety, and health. These goals were accomplished by strategy and plans outlined. (Please see the PowerPoint presentation to the CAC on June 14, 2010 at [www.downtownlinks.info/CitizenAdvisoryCommittee/CACPresentations.aspx](http://www.downtownlinks.info/CitizenAdvisoryCommittee/CACPresentations.aspx) )

- **Railroad Safety Update – Michael Barton, HDR**

Mike spoke briefly on the railroad safety and maintenance activity. The railroad had said earlier that they would perform some maintenance but never went through with that. A meeting was held to review the plans and now they have been told that the railroad wants to do the safety improvements. The traffic engineering team will be meeting with the railroad to discuss this. They don't have that information yet but when they do the team will go out to the neighborhoods to give an update. These safety improvements should coincide with the maintenance activity they planned. These will be temporary safety improvements. These issues will be worked out during the next design phase.

- **8<sup>th</sup> Street Drainage Update – Michael Barton, HDR**

Mike indicated that this piece of the design phase is 75% complete and they are working on the 90% plans. They have been working with the streetcar team who has been designing the rail and connections along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the yard track. An architect is working on the maintenance and storage facility so they have been

working on the roadway connection to Downtown Links. Just to remind everyone, they will go up and over 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue with a new structure so there are grade issues they need to work out to meet up with the existing 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They have also been meeting with Pima County Wastewater and Tucson Water on utility relocations.

There was discussion regarding improvements to the Sixth Avenue Underpass. Tom Fisher said that painting, lighting repair, and landscaping will be noted and should be included in the second phase of the project. Property owners along Sixth Avenue will be kept informed. John Burr asked about the conversation of Sixth Avenue to two-way traffic. Mike said that will also be included in the next phase. John Sedwick asked about the timing of the drainage project, the sequencing, and how intrusive it will be. Mike said they are coordinating the Links improvements with the streetcar project team so work takes place at the same time. Chris Carroll asked about the problem of the enormous amount of rainwater that comes onto 6<sup>th</sup> Street under the wall at Court and Meyer. Mike said that there will be an inlet to pick up that water and direct it into the storm sewer. It will not be harvested.

## **7. Next Steps**

### **• Items for Future Meetings**

- Updates on the RTA's evaluation of Downtown Links and attempts to locate funding to allow the team to continue working on this project
- For all future meetings, updates on the modern streetcar and how that project is being coordinated with Downtown Links
- Updates to define the connection with I-10 and discussions with ADOT about that
- An update on the overall flood control issue and whether or not it will be reduced
- Update on Kino-22<sup>nd</sup> Street interchange

### **• Confirm Future Meeting Date**

The next CAC meeting will be in two to three months.

## **8. Call to the Audience**

No Comments from the Audience.

Shellie Ginn announced that there is a Citizen Liaison Group meeting for the Modern Streetcar and invited the CAC to attend. The RTA has approved an IGA between the City of Tucson and the RTA board to allow them to get advance funding using RTA money while they pursue the last steps to access the TIGER grant funds. The City also issued a Notice to Proceed to Oregon Ironworks on June 3 for the building of the streetcars. Construction of the rails should be complete by mid-2012 in time for the arrival of the modern streetcars which will be tested for several months before the public is allowed to ride them.

## **9. Adjournment at 7:10 p.m.**