



August 30, 2011

Dear Downtown Links Citizen Advisory Committee (DLCAC) members,

We hope everyone survived another hot Tucson summer and had a chance to get out of town for a while. Welcome back to work and the new school year. This is a quick summary to update the CAC on all major parts of the Downtown Links project. The good news is that substantial progress has been made on two of the four phases, which are scheduled to be constructed in the coming months.

8th Street Drainage Improvements

The 8th Street Drainage construction plans were advertised for bids in July and bid openings occurred on Thursday, August 24th. Four construction companies submitted and Borderland Construction is the apparent low bidder. We look forward to working with their team once the contract has been executed and the City issues a Notice To Proceed (NTP), most likely in mid-September.

In the meantime, we will be meeting with the Borderland construction team to discuss phasing, access and traffic control, and protocol for ongoing communications with the City and affected stakeholders. We are planning an open house for the public where the City and the contractor will share this important construction related information. We will notify you of the open house date as soon as it is scheduled.

As part of the 8th street drainage work, the City will also be re-striping 6th Avenue, between 6th Street and 7th Street, for two-way travel to provide better access to businesses in the area. The plans call for two northbound travel lanes (coming out of the underpass) and one southbound travel lane between 7th Street and 6th Street along with a four-way stop at the 6th Avenue/7th Street intersection. There will be eastbound and westbound access to and from 7th Street onto 6th Avenue, although construction will limit access on occasion until the project is completed. Prior to the work beginning, the City will distribute a user-friendly map and details for your information.

The City, together with RTA's Main Street Business Assistance Program, will work with you, business owners and residents, to accommodate your needs during construction. When the dust settles in mid-March 2012, the new drainage system will help eliminate many of the flooding problems in the affected area.

ST. Mary's Roadway Improvements: I-10 to Church Ave.

The St. Mary's roadway plans are nearly complete. At the request of Davis School P.A.A.L. officials and area residents, additional parking spaces have been added to the public lot just south of the school to enhance pedestrian safety and parking demand in the area. We are also waiting for final approval of the sewer and water system relocation plans. At this time, the City anticipates that the project will be advertised for bids in October with construction to begin 45 to 60 days after that.

6th Street Underpass and Links Avenue to Broadway

The 6th Street underpass and Links Avenue segments of the project are still at the 30% design completion and on-hold until further RTA funding becomes available. We will know more regarding the City's ability to move forward with further design efforts once the first two phases of the Downtown Links project have been awarded. The City wishes to continue communicating and coordinating with business owners and residents in the area.

Urban Overlay District

The Downtown Links Urban Overlay District (UOD) is in draft form and under review. There is still time for to review the online draft document and submit comments at www.downtownlinks.info. We are currently working on a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) to accompany the UOD as required for the proposed rezoning overlay district.

Next Steps

Please note that this project update letter is in place of a September CAC meeting. We will notify you soon on the exact date of the 8th Street Drainage construction open house. Please plan on attending. This will be the best time to meet again and discuss project details.

If you need additional project information, I can be contacted at 837-6752 or tom.fisher@tucsonaz.gov.

Thank you,
Tom Fisher
TDOT Project manager