

Project Update - September 2017

Phase 2 - Stone Avenue to Park Avenue

Throughout the month of August, Markham Contracting installed new underground utilities along the south side of Grant Road and prepped subgrade on the south side of Grant Road for the paving of the new eastbound travel lanes.

Beginning early September, Markham Contracting will begin paving the new eastbound lanes of Grant Road from Seventh Avenue to Santa Rita Avenue. During paving operations, side streets along the south side of Grant Road will be intermittently closed as the equipment moves through the area. Additionally, speed limits will be reduced to 25 mph throughout the construction zone. Once the new eastbound lanes are complete, in early October, traffic will be shifted to the new lanes. The contractor anticipates two major traffic shifts to move traffic onto the new lanes. Following the traffic shifts, the contractor will begin work on the north side of Grant Road starting with underground utility installations.

Construction of Phase 2 is anticipated to be complete by the summer of 2018.

Public Art Update

In the City of Tucson, transportation projects allot 1% of their contract amount to fund local, public art to be placed within the project limits. The Arts Foundation contracts with the City to manage the artist selection process for the art program. They implement a "call to artists" in collaboration with the funding department, which is open for 1 month. Once the "call" closes, the Arts Foundation creates a 7 person panel made up of community members, City and/or County representatives, and arts professionals. The panel then reviews all applicants and selects 3 finalists for interviews. From those finalists, one artist or artist team is selected for the project.

For the Grant Road Improvement Project Phase 2, Simon Donovan & Ben Olmstead were selected to complete artwork for the project.



Unity

Created by Simon Donovan & Ben Olmstead

The sculpture they created is called *Unity* and is comprised of five figures, three female, two male. Each one is approximately 10 feet tall. They stand in a circle facing outward, holding hands and leaning far forward. They would tumble forward if not for the cooperation, trust, and collective effort that is required in forming an unbroken ring. Thus the title "Unity".

The sculpture is made of hundreds of parallel, vertically aligned stainless steel plates, each held 1 inch apart. The result is a study of figures with a shifting perception of form as one moves around the sculpture. Additionally, it will be illuminated with amber colored LED lights at night.

Phases 3 & 4 - Alvernon Way to Swan Road

Phases 3 and 4 extend from Palo Verde Boulevard to Venice Place. Similar to other phases of this project, the design will include additional travel lanes, new and wider sidewalks, more signalized crosswalks, improved bicycle lanes, and enhanced landscaping to improve pedestrian and bicyclist use and the appearance of Grant Road. A median and managed access to businesses will improve safety, and will provide a safer and easier way to get to and from residences and businesses in congested areas. Additionally, indirect left turns will be constructed at Alvernon and Swan.

Phases 3 and 4 of the Grant Road Improvement Project are currently in design. The 60% design plans are anticipated to be complete by the end of this year. The construction schedule is currently projected for 2023-2025. In addition, Phases 5 & 6 construction is projected for 2026-2028.

Grant Road Real Estate Update

Acquisition activities are progressing for individual properties located on the north side of Grant Road. The transactions progressing now involve those properties with a direct impact to structures within the new right of way and owned by individual small business owners. Acquisition activities are being staggered to allow for the real estate market to absorb the needs of the owners or businesses being displaced and to do so within a reasonable timeframe to ensure the success of these displaced parties.

Acquisition activities will be phased to allow for successful relocation of displaced parties. The next phase will address the acquisition and relocation of parties whose structures are impacted, then the remaining full acquisitions and relocations will progress for properties anticipated to be specifically impacted by loss of access. The Project Team is working diligently to ensure access can be granted to as many properties as possible, these activities will not progress until the Design Team is certain of the Project impacts. The partial acquisition of property rights will be pursued once the Design Team is sure of the project impacts and all utility needs. The final step of the Real Estate activities will be to obtain Temporary Construction Easements for temporary construction impacts, such as driveway construction activities.

If you have questions related to real estate or property acquisition, please call Tierra Right of Way Services at (520) 319-2106.

Grant Road Land Use Planning Update

City staff are looking forward to meeting with the Grant Road Citizen Task Force and the public later this fall to review suggested revisions to the preliminary draft of the Urban Overlay District (UOD) document for Grant Road between Oracle Road and 1st Avenue. Staff is revising the UOD document taking into account public comments received at the beginning of the summer, as well as the results of an internal evaluation of the City's administrative and review processes for overlays conducted during the summer. Once a date, time, and place for the next Task Force meeting has been established, the information will be posted on the Grant Road website and everyone on the Grant Road Improvement Project email list will be notified.

MainStreet Business Assistance

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Visit www.grantroad.info or email information@grantroad.info for more information.



Grant Road IMPROVEMENT PLAN
Grant Road Improvement Plan Information Line (520) 624-4727



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