

Summary

Dodge-Flower and Oak-Flower Neighborhood Conversation, October 23, 2007

Question 1: What do we already know about Grant Road?

- It's a mess and it's ugly.
- It's crowded and it's a mess.
- Lots of traffic activity involving disabled people from the Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired (SAAVI) (Alvernon Way-Dodge Blvd. and Grant Rd. area).
- Traffic is backed up 1/4 mile.
- Backed up traffic at Grant Rd. and Alvernon Way.
- It's not pedestrian friendly, not friendly for youth or disabled, also.
- Not safe for bicycles.
- Not safe for cars because of buses, bikes and pedestrians.
- The crossing light lasts for only 10 seconds which encourages pedestrians to start walking early and then there's a hazard with right turns (Alvernon Way and Grant Rd.)
- Not enough access to businesses/need right turn lanes.
- Lots of local businesses.
- SAAVI is here.
- It floods.
- People jaywalk (because intersections are hard to cross).
- It (the improvement Plan) needs to start NOW.
- Lots of apartments mean lots of people.
- There's no landscaping.
- Traffic with many emergency vehicles (fire and medical/location to fire station and Tucson Medical Center (TMC)).

Question 2: What characteristics along Grant Road should be preserved?

- Nothing.
- Pre-1900 businesses.
- Local businesses, such as Robert's Restaurant.
- Antique shopping district.

- Fast food restaurants.
- Fry's shopping center.
- Keep the left turn signals after the green light (not before like the one at Swan Rd. and Fort Lowell Rd.).
- Traffic light at Dodge Blvd. and Grant Rd. is needed because of its proximity to SAAVI and the high school; all four crossings needs to be accessible and safe.

Question 5: What characteristics along Grant Road should be changed?

- Add pocket buses between 7:00-10:00 a.m. and 4:00-5:00 p.m. to help people do chores, errands.
- Get rid of the Goldberg and Osborne building at Grant Rd. and Campbell Ave.
- Check out current "mess" at Grant Rd. and Alvernon Way – the backed up traffic needs to be minimized as soon as possible. The traffic light needs to be adjusted and/or needs police patrol to divert Alvernon Way traffic to alternative route such as Ft. Lowell Rd.
- Need longer timed crossing lights and kiosk for shade in the middle/pedestrian island [to allow pedestrians to pause, wait for crossing signal.]
- Need timed crossing lights that flash the seconds.
- Need nice, big bike lane.
- Need parking behind businesses; shaded parking; two level parking.
- Bus turnouts or put buses in center bus lane with islands.
- Make sure SAAVI is safe.
- Add landscaping – shade trees, pocket parks, linear parks, drought resistant plants.
- No left turns.
- Pedestrian bridges – over or under pass.
- Add traffic light at Columbus Blvd. and Glenn St.
- Move pay phones away from buses and relocate closer to the street.
- Get rid of pay day lending businesses, liquor stores, "convenience" stores, and billboards.
- Need over or underground crossing by Doolen Middle School.
- Right turn lanes.
- Need a hawklight and/or clearly marked crosswalk at Alvernon Way and Flower St.
- More hawklights midway between major intersections.
- Look at impact of I-10 on East to West traffic.
- More left turn signals at intersections such as Columbus Blvd. and Grant Rd.
- Add an emergency vehicle lane, particularly around Swan Rd. and Grant Rd.
- Make right turns available South of Grant Rd. on Swan Rd.; this will improve traffic flow and promote more efficient turning – but it could increase cut-through traffic to neighborhoods.
- Add "Michigan left turns."
- Need multiple access points to parking lots.

Question 6: What do we fear and hope for along Grant Road?

FEARS —

- If the timeline isn't met there will be cost overrides and more money will be needed.
- Doubt if local businesses can survive.
- Concern about access to businesses and SAAVI during construction.
- What will happen to local businesses?
- By 2013, the Project will already be obsolete.
- By waiting to start, costs will go up and there will not be enough money to finish.
- It will become a midtown freeway and divide neighborhoods.

HOPES —

- It will eventually cut down cut-through neighborhood traffic.
- It will become a destination route not just a pass through.
- There will be an increase of pedestrian activity to cafés, galleries, and farmers' markets.
- Some of the funding will be spent on sidewalks from Grant Rd. into the neighborhoods.