

## Summary

### *Jefferson Park Neighborhood Conversation, October 24, 2007*

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

- It's noisy.
- Primary structures are single-family residential.
- Grant Rd. is a major demographic divider: it has made two different communities North and South and made it difficult for pedestrians to cross.
- 13 locally-owned businesses in the Jefferson Park (JP) area; many are unique and minority-owned.
- High dollar redevelopment brings in national chains and eliminates local businesses.
- Dozens of small businesses have suffered along I-10.
- There is cut-through traffic in the neighborhoods.
- It's not aesthetically pleasing; it's ugly.
- Businesses on the south side of Grant Rd., in the JP area, have no access by design — this is a "plus" or a "minus" — [voices for each].
- JP neighborhood has diverse, unique landscaping.
- There is more congestion at the signal lights.

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

- Single-family residential character of the area.
- Preserve access to JP area businesses (Auto parts store to Chinese restaurant, Indian market.)
- Preserve local businesses.
- Preserve JP's diverse landscaping.
- Preserve the mountain views and vista.
- The local flavor: funky, unique character of businesses and residences which cannot be replicated by taking it out and then putting it back.
- Residential streets should be residential streets and not feeder streets for the University of Arizona (UA). Examples: Mountain Ave. and Park Ave. Also note that the JP neighborhood has a grant for redoing Park as a pedestrian and bicycle thoroughfare.

**Questions 3 and 4: What do we think will change in the future and How will these changes affect the area?**

- There will be a change in the transportation mode due to global warming. The effects will be necessary space for mass transit; people will want to work from home, shop closer to home and “keep things local.”
- The UA population will continue to grow and the effect will be more UA students who will not fit into the neighborhood’s pattern of single-family residences – this is a unique problem that affects Jefferson Park.
- People will realize there is not enough water to support growth and growth will level off. The effect will be we won’t need three lanes for cars but we will use bicycles and need extra room for parks.
- There will not be a slow down in growth due to a lack of city and county mismanagement of resources and the effect will be more congestion and Grant Rd. “will always be plugged.”
- There will be more sensitivity to environmental building practices and the effect will be that these practices are incorporated into the area and new building technologies are used.

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

- Need new option for ingress and egress into neighborhoods and neighborhoods should not be closed off.
- Improved storm drainage and water harvesting.
- Eliminate cars.
- Provide space for future mass transit, i.e. an extra lane should be planned for now, in addition to six lanes.
- Need a modern streetcar along Grant Rd. in all lanes.
- Reduce Grant Rd. to a total of three lanes.
- Want sidewalks throughout the planning area, expanded to the 1/4 mile boundaries.
- Need grade separated bike paths.
- Need a less hostile environment along Grant Rd. – It’s noisy, fast and not attractive.
- Need traffic calming.
- Use alternative technology for roadway in order to lessen heat temperature – use rubberized asphalt and different colored alternative substances.
- Need to slow traffic.
- No cell phone use along Grant Rd.
- Need sound mitigation that is NOT six-foot walls; need to use acoustical technology.
- Sidewalks should be like a desert path and NOT like on Mountain Ave.; use stabilized decomposed granite, an asphalt alternative.

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

### **FEARS –**

- Project will run out of money and the necessities (not considered amenities by JP) will not be built.
- Loss of locally-owned businesses.
- The effects on locally-owned businesses.
- Don't want to look like Oro Valley.
- That what we say will not be taken into account.
- We as a neighborhood association have a position on Grant Rd. widening and it should be "weighted" – what is the "weight" of our position; we fear the planning process is breaking us down into bits.
- Grant Rd. should not be an alternative freeway.

### **HOPES –**

- Set aside money up front to make sure the neighborhood's necessities are completed.
- More large native trees.
- More environmentally-sensitive building practices.
- Use of sound mitigation materials.
- Recognize the unique character of the areas along Grant Rd. and not homogenize it.
- Design landscaping to retain water along the shoulders and medians – this has not been done well or at all in past road projects.
- Consider that JP lost a row of homes with the Campbell Ave. widening and doesn't want to lose another row on Grant Rd.

### **SUMMARY STATEMENT FROM JEFFERSON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION:**

**We want Grant Road widening project to enhance the Jefferson Park quality of life and not negatively impact it. We also want the project to connect us better with the surrounding neighborhoods and increase our sense of community.**