

Summary

Palo Verde Neighborhood Conversation, November 15, 2007

Question 1: What do we already know about Grant Rd.?

- It's congested (would rather drive on Speedway Blvd.).
- Would rather drive on Seneca St.
- It has potholes.
- It used to be a river (Campbell Ave. – west).
- The neighborhoods have character. There are not a lot of chain businesses (it's a Tucson street).
- It is not bicycle friendly.
- It has obstacles for people in wheelchairs (huge curbs).
- It has cool vintage buildings: Grant Road Lumber, old homes northeast of Campbell Ave.

Question 2: What characteristics along Grant Rd. should be preserved?

- Historic homes.
- Small businesses.
- The Shelter.
- WAGS Restaurant.
- Bobo's Restaurant, The Water Station, The French Quarter.
- Kingfisher Restaurant.

Question 5: What characteristics along Grant Rd. should be changed?

- The Grant Rd./Alvernon Way area. It has been insane since the bridge opened.
- North on Alvernon Way needs right turn lanes by the Fry's (going North).
- It needs more bus pullouts.
- Mid-block crossings.
- It needs better bike lanes with more innovative separation.
- Evolution of small businesses. Their appearance could be improved.
- More permeable surfaces. Less asphalt and more landscaping.
- More sidewalks, which are smoother and even.
- More drainage systems to prevent flooding at Grant Rd./Alvernon Way, Park Ave. and 1st Ave., the dip past Campbell Ave. going West, the right-hand lanes.

- Parking in the front of businesses is only friendly to vehicles. Put parking in the back like at Rincon Market.
- The bad traffic on Seneca St. (from Dodge Blvd. to Alvernon Way) from 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Keep Grant Rd. passable during construction.
- Change the light at Dodge Blvd. Traffic backs-up at Seneca St. It doesn't let too many cars through (maybe four at the most). Replace it with a HAWK light.
- Change the speed limit to 35 mph versus 40 mph.

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

FEARS —

- No walls through the stretch.
- The process of spreading north and south of Grant Rd.
- That long stretches of the road will remain vacant for a long period of time.
- West of Campbell Ave. to Park Ave.: attached to some of the homes (north and south sides).
- Noise during construction.
- Serious issues with traffic during construction.
- If we take everyone's wants we will get watered down.
- Rehab facilities. What will the Grant Rd. Improvement Plan do?
- Forces, who see Grant Rd. as conduit (cross-town), will dominate.
- Increase in noise after construction.
- Closeness of Grant Rd. with the widening (noise).
- By 2013 \$166 million will not be enough.
- Navigating now and later.

HOPES —

- That it doesn't feel like the new stretch of Campbell Ave. when it is completed.
- There will be aesthetic improvements, i.e. trees, more vegetation, low walls (vista), better water management than Speedway Blvd. no vast black parking lots.
- The worst of the trailer parks will be removed.
- The architecture will be smaller (one story buildings to pedestrian scale).
- The sidewalks will continue into the surrounding neighborhoods and improvements will be done in the neighborhoods (like in the Dodge Blvd. area).
- Extending sidewalks through neighborhoods (Grant Rd. to Glenn St.). Need to invite from the neighborhoods.
- There will be bigger numbers on addressing.
- Speed bumps on Seneca St. (good).