

GRANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN TASK FORCE

February 26, 2009

MEETING RESULTS

MEETING TOPICS

- Process Review
- Phase II Scope of Work

PRESENTATIONS

- Phase II steps
- Key concepts and terminology for Preliminary Design Phase
- Key concepts and terminology for Community Character & Vitality
- Community & Public Involvement
- TF Role & Responsibility in Phase II

DISCUSSION

The Task Force was introduced to the scope of work for Phase II of the Grant Road Improvement Plan and their role during this phase of the project. Phase II will be a combination of two separate phases, the Preliminary Roadway Design phase and the Community Character & Vitality phase. Public involvement and communication with the public will continue during Phase II.

- Recap of the January 7, 2009 Recommended Alignment Open House and the January 13, 2009 Mayor and Council Public Hearing.
- Dave Perkins and Phil Erickson presented an overview of Phase II.
 - Preliminary Roadway Design phase
 - Community Character & Vitality phase
 - Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) will continue to be used throughout Phase II
- **Phase II scope of work** – 7- 10 meetings planned that include Task Force meetings and community workshops, more coordination with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in this phase, will meet on a quarterly basis. [Note that during the Task Force Meeting there was a statement that there would be quarterly Task Force meetings for 2009. As stated above the meetings will be a bit more frequent than that].
- **Preliminary Roadway Design**
 - Initial Tasks (February-May 2009)
 - Ongoing property impact mitigation and acquisition (May 2009 – September 2010)
 - Ongoing preliminary design & reports (May 2009 – September 2010.)

➤ **Community Character & Vitality**

- Initial Tasks
- Develop Community Character Concept
- Conduct 8 Community Workshops (May/June 2009)
- Draft CC&V Plan (August-November 2009)
- Public Review of Plan and Implementation Strategies (October to December 2009)
- Will look at land use in more detail during the CC&V phase
- Sub-segments for neighborhood assessment and land use
- The planning team will be developing community character concept alternatives for areas/districts that have been previously identified. Fourteen sites will be selected to do illustrative development concept site studies.

➤ **Preliminary Roadway Design Phase Concepts and Terminology**

- Non-alignment comments received will be addressed in Phase II. Incorporated in this is an access plan, refinement, traffic mitigation, and design guidelines.
- 30% design process for acquiring real estate.
- Mayor and Council direction to work out issues with property owners. Dave Perkins addressed mitigation efforts for the impacts to the shopping center at 1st Ave. and Grant Road and the solution to minimizing the loss of parking and impacts to the property and tenants. Property mitigation concept – shift ILT turn-around east, parking layout redesign (24 spaces gained), driveways relocated, retained bank drive-thru operations, agreed that Mobile Station was full acquisition, reached consensus on partial acquisition (millions \$\$ saved!). Nearing a signing a memorandum of understanding with the 1st Ave. and Grant Road shopping center property owners.

➤ **Roadway Design Process**

- Recommended Alignment Concept
- Geometric centerline
- Initial right-of-way
- Design guidelines
- Businesses will be invited to workshops or one on one meetings during the process
- There are currently survey crews setting control features for the road
- The planning team will submit 15% construction designs to the City for approval before moving forward to 30% construction designs which will also be submitted to the City for approval, this will include cost estimates and construction phasing.

Note: members of the Task Force expressed on-going concerns about construction costs and the ability to fund the improvements through the sales tax measure, particularly given current economic conditions. Staff said that presently the RTA has ample funding to follow through with the projects approved under the RTA plan, and that short term economic fluctuations were accounted for in development of the project budgets. In addition to RTA funding, the city has always considered that other funding sources would be explored to augment that provided by the RTA.

➤ **What makes the Grant Road process different?**

- Early neighborhood and business input to design process
- Established design guidelines
- Ongoing property impact mitigation
- Early property impact mitigation
- Early property acquisition
- Ongoing collaboration with land use and design guidelines

➤ **Community Character & Vitality concept – Create a Plan that provides:**

- Guidance for future urban form and land use along Grant Road
- Recommendations for improving economic vitality of business districts and centers
- Recommendations for implementation strategies
- Collaborative process with neighborhoods, property owners, and businesses along Grant Road.

Note: It was stressed that it is really important to communicate to the public that we will not be rezoning properties along Grant Road. We will be exploring opportunities to refine existing area and neighborhood plans for the areas that front onto Grant Road in order to complement and create consistency with the improvements planned for Grant Road.

Note: There was discussion among the Task Force and the planning team regarding comments made by Sustainable Tucson representatives at the Mayor and Council public hearing on the Recommended Alignment. The Task Force agreed that there should be better communication with this and other community groups to ensure they are aware of the many sustainable elements that are incorporated in the Grant Road Improvement Plan.

➤ **Economic Vitality Concepts**

- Improve marketing of business
- Façade and site improvement loans/grants
- Potential business “incubator” program
- Target business sector opportunities for development on excess right-of-way
- Others

➤ **Implementation Strategies Action Plan**

- Define roles and responsibilities for public and private stakeholders
- Implementation “tool box” of action types (policy or program, organizational, investment)

➤ **Public Involvement & Communication**

- Gather early input from neighborhoods and businesses
- Provide multiple opportunities for public input
- Periodic updates via web, email, mailings and reports to the community
- Encourage active public involvement in workshops and open houses

Note: Rick Kaneen noted that an FAQ newsletter will be released soon and will go out to neighborhood association officers, our mailing list, email list, etc.

➤ **Task Force Role & Responsibility**

- Attend meetings and workshops
- Attend workshops, open houses, and stakeholder forums as listeners
- Assist in communication with your constituencies
- Assist in news media communication
- Review technical information and public input
- Provide input on Phase II decision points

NEXT STEPS

Task Force members were asked to communicate with Liz Beamer by email or phone in the event that they need any information during the next month. In the near future, the Task Force will be asked via email which dates they are most available to meet next.

TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS

Barbara Bird
Dale Calvert
Alice Roe
Michael Midkiff
Judith Anderson

Roy Garcia
Beverly Rutter
Sarah Evans
Jay Young
Mike Humphrey

Susan Alexander
Tom Bush

UNABLE TO ATTEND

Fletcher Sliker
Wayne Cullop

Robert Tait

Jim Hogan