

City to start deciding which buildings on Grant must go

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Planning of the new alignment of Grant Road from Oracle to Swan roads is to begin soon.

City transportation officials will spend about a year determining where a widened Grant will run and identifying which structures fronting Grant will be acquired and demolished.

"At the end of the alignment process, we will have enough information to know which buildings will be impacted," Andrew Singelakis, deputy director of the Tucson Transportation Department, said Thursday.

That's the key question for owners of properties, homes and businesses along the five-mile project corridor. What will stay and what must go is a question that planners cannot answer now.

Transportation officials held "community conversation" meetings last year with those potentially affected by the project, which is not to get underway until 2012.

The widening, which will include landscaped medians, pedestrian crosswalks, bus pullouts and improved signals and intersections, is among the 35 major road projects under the Regional Transportation Authority's 20-year transportation plan approved by voters last May.

Along with approval of the transportation plan, voters also approved a half-cent sales tax that is to raise \$2 billion over 20 years to help pay for the plan's projects.

Singelakis said the alignment study will start this spring and take about a year. After the general path of the newly widened and realigned Grant is determined, planners will begin the more specific process of designing the project.

That will include regular public meetings to take feedback on design elements. A resident-business committee will be appointed and will provide regular input into the design process, Singelakis said.
