

City Seeking Public Input On Grant Road Widening Project

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One of Tucson's busiest streets will get more room but it will also take out numerous homes and businesses. Plans are on the table for the massive Grant Road widening project. Crews will expand it to three lanes in each direction from Oracle to Swan. Construction won't start until crews hear from the public.

More than 800 homes and businesses along the stretch will be affected. But who will stay and who will go is yet to be decided.

Edie Jarolem has lived in her Grant Road home 15 years.

"I was hoping to put improvements in but this is all kind of up in the air, I honestly don't know what's going to happen," she says.

Edie recently paid her mortgage off and the University of Arizona Poetry Center was set to inherit the house but like hundreds of residents who live on Grant, Edie is unsure if she will have to pack her bags and move.

"I don't think I'll have much choice if the city decides to take it," says Edie.

It's inevitable that some residents and business owners will be forced out but city transportation director Jim Glock says it will be up to the community to decide who will be affected. It's a new initiative to gain public input before the city designs the project.

"Getting an understanding of what people would like to see, how they'd like to see the roadway function, what are the important activities they conduct along Grant Road is the process we are about to embark on," he explains.

Glock says it's more than just a widening project, the goal is to give the five mile stretch on Grant a much needed facelift with the addition of wider sidewalks.

The \$166 million project will get underway in five years.

"We're anxious to get out there and get to work on the project because we're worried inflation may erode the buying power of our funding source so the sooner we can set alignments and begin the acquisition process I think we'll be better off. Certainly it will sage the concerns of the community about the uncertainty that we're currently in," adds Glock.

But Edie is concerned that traffic flow on her busy street will only get worse and by the time the project is complete, it won't be enough to support the growing population.

"In a way if they were going to put a freeway here that would make more sense to me because at least it would ease the traffic flow but just widening the road, it just seems like a Band-Aid," she says.

[CLICK HERE to find out how you can voice your opinion on the Grant Road Improvement Plan.](#)

