

GRANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN TASK FORCE

December 6, 2007

MEETING RESULTS

MEETING TOPIC

Refine a draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles for the Grant Road Improvement Plan that will be distributed for public comment.

DISCUSSION

- Task Force members reiterated their commitment to consensus decision making and discussed what procedure they would follow should there ever come a time when, despite best efforts, the group is unable to reach consensus. It was determined that if Task Force members agree that consensus is not possible on a particular topic, the item can be moved forward based on a 75% vote of those present. This voting contingency would be used only as a last resort after efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted. The group also agreed that this decision could be reviewed and modified at a future date if necessary.
- Task Force members shared general impressions from their attendance at public meetings and review of public comments on the website.

PRESENTATION

- Report on public input to date

WORK SESSION

- Task Force members reviewed and refined the draft Guiding Principles for the Grant Road Improvement Plan that will be put out for public comment. Draft Guiding Principles incorporating Task Force input are attached.
- Task Force members reviewed and refined the draft Vision Statement for the Grant Road Improvement Plan that will be put out for public comment. The draft Vision Statement incorporating Task Force input is attached.

NEXT STEPS

- The draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles will be put out for public comment December 14, 2007 through January 25, 2008. Public will be able to comment through the website or via comment cards. It was agreed that the revised documents would be sent to Task Force members for a final review before being posted for public comment.
- The next Task Force meeting will be scheduled in February after the close of the public comment period. The Task Force will finalize the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles at that time. Lynn Slagle will survey Task Force members via e-mail to

determine the date that offers the highest possible attendance. Dates being considered include February 15, 16 and 19th.

- Character Segment Workshops designed to obtain neighborhood and business input along three segments of Grant Road are being scheduled for January 15, 16 and 17. It is hoped that Task Force members will attend one or more of those sessions.

TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS

P. Wayne Cullop	Barbara Bird
Sarah Evans	Roy Garcia
Alice Roe	Beverly Rutter
Marshall Shultis	Mike Humphrey
Moon Joe Yee	Robert Tait
Tom Bush	Fletcher Sliker
Michael Midkiff	Jay Young

UNABLE TO ATTEND

Judith Anderson	Nancy Laney
James Hogan	Jamey Sumner

Draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles next page

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

The improvements resulting from the Grant Road Improvement Plan will enhance safety and balance mobility and accessibility for all users including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and those with disabilities. The Plan will direct the widening of Grant Road to six lanes, also improving its function as an urban arterial street within Tucson's network of streets. The Plan will balance the needs of those traveling through the area on Grant Road with those who live, work and shop along Grant Road.

The community values the scale, character, and diversity of the neighborhoods and businesses along Grant Road and the Plan will reflect these values. The Plan will recognize the diversity of residents and independent businesses along Grant Road, and will help them to revitalize the places in which they live and work.

The Plan will improve the visual character and quality of Grant Road and the land uses along it, and it will define Grant Road as a unique and vital place that ultimately enhances the community and region as a whole.

The Grant Road planning process and its implementation will balance a long range vision with the definition of improvements and programs that fit within the financial resources identified for this project. It will be forward-thinking in its design, consider likely future trends and work to effect positive change to the environment and public health. It will set high standards for community involvement while providing an inspirational model for future Tucson roadway enhancements.

DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Mobility and Access

Mobility and Access mean moving along and connecting with uses on Grant Road – both for people living and working nearby and those passing through; both freeing up motion (mobility) and getting to specific destinations (access). Through mobility and access, the Plan will work toward sustainable transportation both for the local community and the Tucson region by doing the following:

1.1 Balance the transportation needs of those traveling locally with those passing through Grant Road by

- improving Grant Road's role in Tucson's street network and its role for neighbors;
- recognizing all populations using Grant Road;
- increasing the efficiency of traffic flow along Grant Road while designing Grant Road and the context along it to encourage drivers to travel at safe speeds.

1.2 Improve mobility and safety for all those traveling along and across Grant Road, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders, as well as those with disabilities, by:

- recognizing that Grant Road is not the exclusive domain of cars,
- improving access for all modes of travel to neighborhoods, commercial districts, schools, and other destinations;

- improving the physical conditions of the roadway and the pedestrian environment on Grant Road and connecting streets;
- improving transit routes, transit stops, and access to them as well as considering the land uses around them; and by
- considering land use and other needs of transit, bicycle, and walking dependent populations.

1.3 Balance mobility along and across Grant Road with access to businesses, residences, and other destinations along and nearby Grant Road by:

- providing safe vehicular access to properties on Grant Road;
- facilitating both regional and neighborhood traffic access to businesses, including deliveries; and by
- balancing access to neighborhoods with the desire to protect them from cut-through traffic.

1.4 Ensure that roadway improvements support and enhance the community's values regarding the character, vitality, aesthetics, and environment of Grant Road.

- Recognize that different sections of Grant Road may require a different balance of mobility and access

2. Character and Vitality

Character and Vitality mean the health of the places surrounding Grant Road — neighborhoods and businesses; public space and activity, and private investment. Character and Vitality define the overarching goals for aspects of the study area such as housing, neighborhoods, employment, and public space. Through character and vitality, the Plan will work toward economic and social stability for neighborhoods and districts which benefit the greater Tucson region by doing the following:

2.1 Preserve and enhance the scale and character of existing residential neighborhoods by providing appropriate transitions and buffering from Grant Road and the uses fronting onto it to the neighborhoods behind.

2.2 Support opportunities for a range of options for housing tenancy and housing type which serve and expand upon the diversity of residents who live along and nearby Grant Road.

2.3 Preserve and enhance existing valued retail and services, especially independent businesses and the affordable rents and access that support their viability.

2.4 Preserve and enhance opportunities for a range of employment along Grant Road, including restaurants, retail, manufacturing, construction, repair, service, professional office and medical jobs.

2.5 Create a cohesive public realm that adds new public spaces to existing parks, plazas, schools and other community gathering places, forming an accessible network that

supports and is supported by the design and function of Grant Road, and the neighborhoods and businesses along it.

2.6 Leverage the amenity and draw of community and social service organizations to revitalize districts and enhance the public realm with activity along Grant Road.

2.7 Develop districts with multiple uses that will be destinations for neighborhood residents as well as people from the region at large.

2.8 Recognize the differences in demographics, environment, scale, neighborhoods, business types, and other aspects of character; and use them to reinforce the identities of Grant Road's Community Character Segments.

2.9 Work to create safer environments that discourage crime and increase personal safety.

2.10 Support and build upon ethnic diversity in relation to the social and economic vitality in the Grant Road Study Area.

2.11 Encourage private investment that revitalizes opportunity sites along Grant Road.

3. Aesthetics and Environment

Aesthetics and Environment build upon the principles set out in Character and Vitality by focusing on the details of key issues such as climate, utilities, views and the watershed. Through aesthetics and environment, the Plan will work toward human and ecological sustainability of Grant Road and the neighborhoods and districts along it to the benefit of those in the Study Area and the greater Tucson region by doing the following:

3.1 Create an aesthetically pleasing, comfortable, inviting environment, both in the street right-of-way and in adjacent public spaces, that is framed by the buildings and landscapes that front Grant Road.

3.2 Enhance the identities of Grant Road's Community Character Segments through the creation of business clusters, streetscape design, and other elements.

3.3 Capitalize on Grant Road's natural environment and regional scenery through climate adaptation, utilization of desert plants, topography, key views and the integration of aesthetic and environmental design.

3.4 Capitalize on Tucson's culture, through urban form, architectural styles, public art, and other elements.

3.5 Mitigate utility issues including overhead wires.

3.6 Mitigate watershed issues such as flooding, stormwater runoff, ecological health and water harvesting in a holistic manner.

4. Vision and Implementation

Vision and Implementation mean making the Vision for Grant Road's future a reality. Through vision and implementation, the Plan will work incrementally towards long-term sustainability in transportation, economy, livability and ecology by doing the following:

4.1 Define a long-range vision as well as priorities that can be achieved within the budget and timing of the Grant Road Improvement Plan.

4.2 Define cost-efficient and effective phases for successful implementation.

4.3 Protect the viability of businesses during construction by maintaining their visibility, their parking, and access to them.

4.4 Define the improvements so that the vision can be achieved incrementally with both the RTA funding base and additional public and private funding to enhance the improvements.

- Identify and give priority to the implementation of those improvements that provide the most benefit and that address those issues that are a priority concern to the public.
- Identify and pursue additional sources of funding early in the process to ensure that the desired improvements can be implemented.

4.5 Rely on policies and programs in addition to physical improvements in achieving the vision.

4.6 Coordinate new development and revitalization with new and existing amenities and multimodal infrastructure.