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GRANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN TASK FORCE August 6, 2009

MEETING RESULTS

MEETING TOPICS

- Progress Update
- Early Intersection Project Update
- Introduction to Public Art Consultant
- Initial Geometric Alignment Review
- Communication Strategy
- Next Steps

PRESENTATIONS

- Progress Update
- Early Intersection Project: Next Steps, Design Process, Public Involvement Approach
- Public Arts Master Plan: Urban Rock Design
- Initial Geometric Alignment
- Communications Strategy
- Next Steps

DISCUSSION AND WORK SESSION OUTCOMES

Introductory Remarks

Nanci Beizer called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. There were no audience questions or comments at this time.

Progress Update

Melissa Antol presented an update on the activities that had occurred since the June 28th Task Force meeting, including: August 4 TAC meeting, Early Intersection Project design process, reconstruction phasing and property owner outreach. A comment card for input on construction phasing will be mailed and draft construction cost estimates and timeline will be developed by 12/09.

Early Intersection Project Update

Dave Perkins reviewed the Early Intersection Project, noting the July 28th Task Force endorsement Oracle, reviewing boundaries and reasons behind the decision. He overviewed the EIP next steps, preliminary design process and schedule and public involvement approach. Dave stressed the importance of the Context Sensitive Solutions approach in the EIP design process. The first stage of the EIP will begin 12/09 and design will be completed by 12/10. Task Force members inquired about the EIP project cost; costs are initial estimates, it is too early to provide a definitive cost at this early stage of the project.

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Early Intersection Project Next Steps. Next steps include: prepare & implement outreach plan (in progress), present Task Force endorsement & design approach/schedule to EIP stakeholder group, initiate EIP design and right-of-way acquisition (concurrent with Grant Road preliminary design phase), complete design and right-of-way acquisition by end of 2010.

Early Intersection Design Process. Dave reviewed the Grant Road preliminary design process which was divided into Stage 1, representing 15% of the total design and initial design concept report, and Stage II, 30% design, including the final design concept report. He then reviewed the Early Intersection Project design process, divided into the following Stages:

- Stage I (15%) Design Concept Plans (completed end of 2009 for entire project), will include: cross-sections, initial geometric alignments, Design Concept Report, construction cost estimate.
- Stage II (30%) Initial Construction Plans (starts early 2010) includes: responses to Stage I comments, initial roadway and pavement drainage design, initial pavement marking design, utility conflicts, impact mitigation elements, traffic calming, retaining walls and noise abatement options, initial landscape and streetscape design, public art opportunities, right-of-way acquisition cost, construction cost estimate.
- Stage III Preliminary Construction Plans (starts Summer 2010) will include: responses to Stage II comments; roadway and pavement drainage design; signs, signals & lighting plans; utility modifications; landscape, streetscape and public art design; right-of-way acquisition cost; construction cost estimate; special provisions.
- Stage IV—includes draft final plans special provisions & cost estimates (starts Fall 2010)
- Stage V, includes final plans, special provisions & cost estimates (completed by end of 2010). Early 2011 flexibility for final right-of way.

Task Force members asked for clarification regarding the referenced design percentages and Dave explained that the percentages refer to the completeness of the construction plans with 100% being completed construction plans, ready for advertising and bidding.

There was concern about what would be communicated to EIP property owners and tenants about the EIP project decision and the need to clarify that the Task Force endorsed the Grant Road Improvement Process Design Team's recommendation and did not make the decision for an EIP. Dave reviewed once again how the EIP decision making process worked with the RTA.

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Early Intersection Project Public Involvement Approach

Rick Kaneen overviewed the public involvement process for the EIP, including: notifying property owners in the EIP area, meeting with stakeholder groups in the EIP area (such as OARP, Gateway Business Alliance, etc.), holding public open houses at different stages of design for the EIP and keeping the public in the EIP area up to date on the project through email and website notification. Kaneen stressed that the Grant Road project has always sought transparency and two-way communication with stakeholders, who will continue to have input on the design innovations in their area. The Gateway Business Alliance has expressed the desire for more communication with the Grant Road project.

Nanci Beizer asked the Task Force for feedback on the Early Intersection Project design process, next steps and public involvement approach and received the following input:

- The need to be sensitive to the language used in communicating with the public and ensure that the public understands that the Task Force endorsed the recommendation of the Oracle EIP that was presented to them, they did not develop the recommendation
- Concern that the new EIP public involvement process would cause backtracking; therefore, the importance of integrating previous public comments with current public comments to continue to keep the project moving forward . Dave clarified that the entire process was one of refining design elements to adapt to unique intersection/neighborhood needs. The Task Force liked the idea of fine-tuning as the project proceeds.
- The need for a more complete understanding of how construction cost estimates are developed and better definition of how the Task Force provides input regarding costs. It was suggested by the Task Force that a key element of their role is to view the project from a laymen's perspective and provide a "reality check" regarding cost estimates.
- The acknowledgement that physical construction indicating progress will be very meaningful to the community!
- Recognition that the EIP public involvement process will provide a valuable learning opportunity to assess what works and what will need to be improved for application to overall Grant Road project.

Public Arts Master Plan

Melissa Antol introduced UrbanRock Design, the consultants selected for the Public Art Master Plan, and explained their role in creating the public art framework for the project. Jeanine and Russell Rock reviewed their approach for working with the public, the Task Force and artists to create the master plan. The consultants were informed that it was the philosophy of the Grant Road Improvement Project to get local artists involved and were encouraged to "keep it local"

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whenever possible. Melissa Antol reviewed the selection process for the Public Arts Master Plan, which involved the Tucson Pima Arts Council and four Task Force members reviewing proposals from twenty-six applicants and interviewing three finalists. UrbanRock Design was selected because of their vision and approach for developing the Public Arts Master Plan for Grant Road. A Task Force member noted, "It was very interesting to work with this process.... There's a lot more to who they are (Urban Rock). Melissa explained that within the Tucson Arts community, Tucson artists bid on projects outside of Tucson and Arizona and appreciate the opportunity to that and to learn from artists outside of the local community. More information on UrbanRock Design and their approach will be presented in the August 21st Task Force Workshop.

Initial Geometric Alignment

Dave Perkins overviewed the status of the Initial Geometric Alignment including changes to property impacts resulting from: application of design criteria, engineering refinement of centerline and intersections, modifications to improve safety, access, or address neighborhood & property owner comments. Dave noted that there will be more refinements as design continues. Dave reviewed the changed impacts on Grant Road and previously undetermined impacts on north-south streets. He explained the Major Streets & Routes plans and how they were used as guidelines for the refinement of the intersection north/south streets where there were previously undetermined impacts.

The Task Force reviewed a Geometric Alignment booklet containing maps comparing the geometric centerline with the Mayor and Council approved alignment briefing book. Dave noted that the maps will be posted on the website and that public officials have been briefed with this information.

Nanci Beizer asked for and received feedback from the Task Force on Geometric Alignment, changed impacts on Grant Road and previously undetermined impacts on north-south streets. The Task Force had the following comments:

- The Geometric Alignment changes were clear, well presented and a good introduction to the design refinement process.
- The changes make sense conceptually; however, the Task Force asked for more time to endorse specific changes. Dave explained the design team is seeking feedback and not endorsement of the maps, which are at the 15% design concept, and will continue to be refined.
- There was a concern the maps would be difficult to understand without some background and Dave explained that basically the maps were designed so people could look at their property.
- There was a question regarding when more specific design details will be presented? Although there is already a great deal of engineering detail in the refined alignment, the

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design concept will continue to be refined with stakeholder comments until the end of 2009. The Mobility and Access workshops will add to the refinements.

Communications Strategy

Rick Kaneen presented the following communications strategy for the Early Intersection Project and the Geometric Alignment:

- Property owners impacted by the EIP or affected by the geometric alignment refinements will be notified by phone and one-on-one meetings.
- There will be no public announcements until after property owner notification & formal approval of the EIP by Mayor-Council & RTA.
- The Task Force will receive talking points to use if questioned about either the EIP or geometric alignment refinements.
- Task Force members may be asked for assistance with the media when the EIP is announced.
- Geometric alignment maps will be posted to website the week of August 15, 2009 and Nanci Beizer will send notification to the Task Force.

Nanci Beizer asked for feedback regarding the Communications Strategy. Task Force members had no additional comments.

Next Steps

Melissa Antol reviewed the following next steps:

- August 21st Task Force Workshop. Phil Erikson reviewed what to expect at the workshop: an interactive session designed to provide the Task Force with an opportunity to work on Design Concepts for the Grant Road Project including: streetscape and landscape concepts, Public Art Master Plan, mobility & access concepts, character & vitality design concept alternatives.
- Mobility & Access Workshops (November)
- Community Character & Vitality Concept Alternatives Development (December or January 2010)
- 15 percent design/draft DCR and draft Community Character & Vitality Plan (December)

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Task Force Roundtable

Task Force members had the following comments:

- Consider bicyclists and pedestrians as look at access in the August 21st Workshop
- Consider a trolley system so people can jump on and off as travel Grant Road
- When will segment phasing be discussed? Melissa responded that the design team was in the process of collecting the information the Task Force asked for in the July 28th meeting and when that was complete, phasing would be on the agenda. It would probably be around November due to the amount of analysis asked for by the Task Force.



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- Need for a better understanding of the impact of pre-construction and construction on property and business owners, particularly on the EIP Oracle area. Melissa will ensure pre-construction/construction process presentations are scheduled for future Task Force meetings. Task Force members suggested these presentations may also be beneficial in public meetings.
- Thanks to the Design Team for “how smooth and clear this group’s process has been”.

Call to the Audience

Nanci Beizer initiated the second call to the audience. There were no audience questions or comments.

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