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### GRANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN TASK FORCE August 21, 2009

#### WORKSHOP RESULTS

##### WORKSHOP TOPICS

- Streetscape and Landscape Concepts
- Public Art Master Plan
- Mobility and Access Workshop
- Character and Vitality Concepts Introduction

##### PRESENTATIONS

- Introduction to Streetscape and Landscape Concepts
- Introduction to Public Art Master Plan
- Mobility and Access Workshop Review
- Character and Vitality Concepts Brainstorming
- Next Steps

##### DISCUSSION AND WORK SESSION OUTCOMES

###### Introductory Remarks and Call to Audience

Nanci Beizer called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. There were no audience members in attendance at this time. Marshall Shultis announced his intention to resign from the Task Force once an appropriate replacement is found and expressed his regret and gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

###### Introduction to Streetscape and Landscape Concepts

Phil Erickson and Mike Bell present the streetscape and landscape concepts and design. Mike Bell introduced the water harvesting zones:

- Passive water harvesting
- Active water harvesting
- Hybrid water harvesting
- Storm drainage

Phil overviewed streetscape concepts that can change the rhythm along the road and explained how Centers and Districts relate to the context of the area, including:

- Residential District streetscape and potential landscape
- Mixed use Centers and Districts and potential landscape
- Pedestrian mixed use Centers and Districts and potential landscape
- Median landscape concepts for 17' and 6' medians, including plant palettes

Mike Bell noted the local access lane allows more landscaping and how, in each area along Grant Road, a key plant can help identify the uniqueness of the area. Other distinctive elements include paving, benches, median size changes, banners, signs and public art as a functional element of the streetscape.

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## Improvement Plan



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Phil Erickson reviewed streetscape feature concepts including:

- Indirect left-turn streetscape
- Indirect left-turn intersection
- Indirect left-turnaround
- Minor intersections
- Pelican and Toucan pedestrian crossings
- Bus stop enhancements
- Gateway elements

Task Force members worked in small groups around maps to review streetscape and landscape design concepts for the indirect left turn main intersection area and median intersection areas.

### Streetscape and Landscape Activity Comments

Each small group responded to a set of facilitated questions and reported out the following comments: (the consultants are preparing a reporting of the more detailed input from the small group sessions).

- Bus shelters need new design, art, logo. Consider advertising to get bus shelters built for free.
- Put utilities underground and/or make poles same type.
- Have Gateways resemble Miracle Mile with low profile signage.
- Use banners as gateway features.
- Question regarding parameters of gateways – where do they begin and end?
- Use vegetation changes to identify districts, investigate other options such as art
- Consider neighborhood monument signage
- Find a way to prevent cars from jumping the narrow median.
- Break up narrow median with landscaping and lighting.
- Like big trees on activity materials; concerned about blocking business views, signage, risk management. Use umbrella shape profile.
- Concern about visibility associated with using certain landscape features.
- Ensure landscaping can be maintained.
- Maybe neighborhoods and businesses could help maintain the landscaping
- Like Sonora landscaping shown.
- Make landscape pedestrian friendly
- Use creosote and public art
- Question if emergency vehicles can make left-turn at intersections or need to make the indirect left-turn. {Note: emergency vehicles will be able to make the left-turn through the intersection with the use of signal pre-emption to stop approaching vehicles}
- Concerns regarding light strips – what about dark skies/large vehicles
- Improved building will enhance streetscape
- Consider different needs of pedestrians and business traffic
- Ensure human scale for design
- Ensure business visibility
- Residential landscape will provide neighborhood protection, may not need noise walls

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- Ensure consistent Grant Road design and allow for distinct neighborhood/District identity
- Content presented is aesthetically pleasing, good job, happy with what was presented

### Streetscape & Landscape Concepts Task Force Decisions and Input

Nanci Beizer asks for and received Task Force endorsement of the overall direction of streetscape and landscape concepts for further development of design. Task Force members were also asked for input regarding design concepts for indirect left turn design concepts for intersection, turn-around and street frontages and design treatment within the 6' median areas. They had the following streetscape and landscape comments:

- Clarify in public workshops that the streetscape and landscape concepts activity is designed to discuss broad design concepts instead of more technical issues yet encourage and be prepared to respond to any and all type of public input, even if it is more technical to ensure public understanding and participation
- Eliminate some trees on concept drawings to avoid boxed-in impression which could lead people to think they won't be able to see mountain views. Like idea and concept, not the sketches.
- Like concept of tree-lined streets
- Ensure landscaping reflects area – people come here to see the desert
- Concerned about the safety aspect of the 6' median with 6 lanes of traffic. Need to present this concept to the public in a way so they understand this will be a safer road.
- Need protection at narrow medians (landscaping, art...), construct safe designs.
- Nice balance of landscaping between wider and narrower medians.

### **Public Art Master Plan**

Russell Rock and Jeanine Centuori of UrbanRock Design present the public art master plan for Grant Road. They overview elements of a public art master plan: coordinated vision for implementing public art, works in concert with the Grant Road Improvement Plan, balances criteria and needs of all stakeholders and users, provides cohesion to the artwork, is a conduit for expressions of neighborhoods. They reviewed the Grant Road public art master plan process: coordinate with the design team visions and guidelines, determine site types and locations, match site types and art genres, determine art content. Task Force members viewed a PowerPoint slide presentation of various types of public art venues from around the world to illustrate a sampling of the variety of ways that public art can be implemented and to encourage creative thinking by the Task Force in the group exercise. Task Force members worked in pairs to complete a matrix and provide input on locations, components and contents of public art on Grant Road.

### Public Art Activity Comments:

The activity yielded a number of ideas regarding public art possibilities. Each pair reported out the following comments from the activity:

- The pocket park at Grant and Campbell needs art.
- Using light and openness will help with transients.
- Incorporate public art with landscaping on the 6<sup>th</sup> ft. medians.
- Use public art at crosswalks, intersections, and walls fronting the businesses.

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### Public Art Activity Comments Continued:

- Grant and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Grant and Oracle are good areas for public art, they are historic neighborhoods.
- Recognize Yaqui community's culture at Grant and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, the history of Grant Road and Miracle Mile (work with OARP); the historic block between Stone and Park, the Mt. Calvary Church, need for ethnic markers in that area.
- Pelican crosswalk at Castro a good opportunity for public art.
- Need art at the crosswalk of Castro and Grant, down the hill at 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Aves
- Use public art between 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Stone Ave. to slow drivers down.
- Light up the Finishmaster building with LED lights
- Use public art with the indirect left-turns, incorporate in the pavement
- Make Swan and Oracle gateways.
- Campbell and Grant area is an opportunity for a gateway to the U of A
- Stone and Grant area is an opportunity for a gateway to downtown.
- Like the idea of continuity throughout the project.
- Like the idea of sidewalk art for pedestrians to discover.
- Add historic markers for some of the businesses being acquired by the project
- Use art themes that would provide pedestrian shade.
- Use public art with rainwater harvesting.
- Utilize the sun, for example, sun dial, art that lights up timed with the sun
- Public art of different levels and barrier artwork is needed to produce a higher level of safety.
- Mountain and Grant would be a great area for public art relating to bicycles
- Public art shouldn't be gimmicky, avoid "doodads" —think about "substantive things"
- Use art to reflect subcultures along Grant Road, for example, Yaqui Village.
- Would like to see pet friendly artwork to encourage residents to walk their dogs and interact with each other.
- The Task Force is very excited by the Public Art Master Plan

### Public Art Master Plan Task Force Decisions and Input

Nanci Beizer asked the Task Force for input on the proposed process for upcoming community meetings. Task Force members had the following comments:

- This was fun!
- Simplify the activity matrix – less jargon and use of technical terms. Ask public to brainstorm ideas and identify where they could go on Grant Road in key categories (gateway, pavement, bus stops...)
- Work with other organizations that are modifying their area plans, such as the TMC area plan modification at Grant and Craycroft, to coordinate for cohesiveness along Grant Road.

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### Mobility & Access Workshop Review

Dave Perkins reviewed the November Mobility & Access Workshop objectives, organization, and overview. Vince Catalano introduced the Mobility & Access session activities - Activity #1: Community influence on mobility and access (bike innovations, pedestrian innovations). The Task Force breaks into small groups to work this first facilitated activity. Vince reviews Activity #2: Nuts and Bolts of Access Management- Safety Benefits and Applications to Grant Road (cross access driveways, shared access driveways, driveway spacing, local access lane and parking options). Task Force small groups complete this activity. Vince reviews Activity #3: Enhancements to Mobility & Access Innovations (TOUCANS, PELICANS, Indirect Left Turn intersections, enhanced transit stops). A Task Force member observed that from a business perspective Grant Road is currently under-parked and that the under-parking not continue. Signage was also seen as an issue, particularly for non-destination businesses as many big signs will be coming down. It was suggested the multiple businesses could share parking and signage. Signage and a signage policy needs to be integrated into workshop activities

### Mobility & Access Workshop Review Task Force Decisions and Input

Nanci asks for and received endorsement of Mobility & Access Workshop objectives, organization, Guiding Principles integration and Session Activities with the following modifications:

#### Workshop Objectives:

- Eliminate review of guiding principles objective
- Add signage to streetscape objective.

#### Workshop Activities:

- Clarify directions - confusing
- Simplify maps and objectives
- Eliminate Guiding Principles from maps – put them on board instead
- Activity #1: use same colors – simplify problem/solution
- Activity #3- add signage considerations to neighborhoods/streets/businesses (link to parking and Districts)

Ensure public knows what to expect regarding refreshments in PR notifications.

### Character & Vitality Concepts Alternatives

Phil Erickson goes over the Community Character and Vitality concepts brainstorming, specifically detailing the district at Grant Road and Fontana. He reviews:

- Western Centers (center, land use, building form, other issues)
- Central Centers (center, land use, building form, other issues)
- Eastern Centers (center, land use, building form, other issues)

The Task Force breaks into small groups for a design exercise on future uses for remaining properties and buffering of existing neighborhoods. Phil Erickson goes over land use concept options and directs the small groups to apply the concepts using “playing pieces” that represent different concepts on a the properties along a section of Grant Road. Phil distributes a Centers and

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Districts design concepts memo for Task Force. A set of questions will be provided to the Task Force to assist them in reviewing the Centers and Districts memorandum.

### Character & Vitality Concept Alternative Task Force Decisions and Input

Nanci Beizer asked for Task Force input on the workshop to endorse the workshop exercise regarding design concepts for “remaining properties” with the Central Segment of Grant Road. Task Force members endorsed the workshop design with the following additions/comments:

- Neat exercise that creates dialogue.
- Add more time to look at tradeoffs of the choices
- Include an option for live/work space.”

### Next Steps

Melisa Antol reviews next steps: Mobility & Access Workshops planned for November, Community Character & Vitality Concept Alternatives Development planned for December or January 2010, 15% design draft DCR and draft CC&V plan in December. Rick Kaneen distributes a handout of Talking Points for the Early Intersection Project and changes to the Right Of Way and Geometric Centerline and notes these are two different issues with two different audiences. Affected property owners will be contacted next week, in one-on-one sessions. Task Force members were encouraged to direct questions about the EIP to Melissa or the website.

### RoundTable

Nanci Beizer conducts a roundtable and Task Force had the following comments:

- Update Task Force members on the website
- Loved the Character & Vitality Workshop game – less talk, more action
- Simplify Access & Mobility Workshop – Keep it Simple
- Media blitz for workshops to ensure attendance, consider free PSAs
- Obtain a card for Marshall Shultis so all can sign at the next Task Force meeting

Nanci Beizer adjourned the workshop.

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### TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS

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