



GRANT ROAD *Improvement Plan*



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GRANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN TASK FORCE December 16, 2009

MEETING RESULTS

MEETING TOPICS

- Progress Update
- Reconstruction Phasing Recommendation
- January Community Character and Vitality Workshops & Task Force Role
- Utility Relocation
- Next Steps

PRESENTATIONS

- Progress Update
- Reconstruction Phasing Recommendation
- January Community Character and Vitality Workshops & Task Force Role
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DISCUSSION AND WORK SESSION OUTCOMES

Introductory Remarks

Nanci Beizer called the meeting to order, overviewed the agenda and initiated the first call to the audience. There were no audience questions or comments at this time. Nanci asked for and received Task Force approval of the December 7th, 2009 draft Task Force Meeting Summary.

Progress Update

Melissa Antol presented an update on the following activities: 15% plans and cost estimate under review by City, draft design concept report in progress, Early Intersection Project scoping ongoing, recommended reconstruction phasing plan completed, Community Character and Vitality Plan workshops planning in progress. She also provided an update on Task Force requests from the December 7th Task Force meeting including: the response to Ruth Stokes' letter, update on the bicycle perspective on Grant Road and utility relocation status (to be covered in more detail later on the agenda).

Reconstruction Phasing Recommendation

Dave Perkins presented the reconstruction phasing recommendation for Grant Road including: the reconstruction planning approach, considerations, project segments, RTA funding schedule, project delivery timetable, public input on reconstruction phasing, reconstruction evaluation table, recommended reconstruction sequence, rationale for recommended reconstruction sequence and reconstruction schedule. The Task Force discussed the rationale for project sequencing, project costs and timing, alternative routes during construction and the importance of positive public relations with the public during the project.

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Nanci Beizer asked for and received endorsement from the Task Force for the recommended reconstruction phasing and sequence.

Rick Kaneen presented the key messages for the public announcement for reconstruction phasing which will include: entire phasing schedule, Early Intersection Project beginning in 2011, right-of-way and utility relocation timing and business assistance available through Main Street. Rick presented the strategy for the public announcement: combine reconstruction phasing, EIP and acquisition process into a single announcement; news media release with map and timeline; Project Milestone Report to the project area and distribution list (those within a ¼ mile of the roadway) and post information to www.Grantroad.info.

Rick informed the Task Force they will be invited for a discussion on mitigation strategies for property owners, businesses and tenants on Grant Road to encourage them to stay on Grant Road. In response to a Task Force inquiry regarding when they will be able to share the reconstruction phasing with the public, Rick requested they wait until after the January milestone report and public announcement to the media to ensure that the announcement does not accidentally get picked up by the news media before all property owners and tenants are made aware of the phasing by receiving the milestone report.

Nanci Beizer asked the Task Force for feedback on the roll-out to the public. The Task Force directs the planning team to proceed with the key messages and strategy for announcing the reconstruction phasing, early intersection project and acquisition information to the public and had the following comments:

- Ensure the logic, rationale for the six project segments and reconstruction phasing sequence is clearly communicated to property owners and the public
- Be prepared to address public concerns
- The reconstruction evaluation table was a helpful tool; eliminate construction phase and use it as an aid for communicating with the public
- The graphics were great! Helped to explain complex material simply.
- Have mixed response as a business owner in the Country Club segment as customers will have difficulty getting to my business with the Swan and then Alvernon segments being reconstructed before the Country Club segment. Additionally, concerned about addressing diversion traffic on streets impacted during construction.

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Community Character & Vitality Workshops & Task Force Roles

Phil Erickson overviewed the Community Character & Vitality Workshops format: introduction; activities #1, #2, and #3; next steps; and report-out after each activity. All five workshops will have the same format and use illustrations specific to the segment and small group exercises will focus on the streetscape of the workshop segment. Phil reviewed the streetscape small group exercise which will include worksheets, segment concept diagrams, design sketches, photos of examples and

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simulations to illustrate design. The Task Force was concerned about the public perception that these workshops were repetitive of previously scheduled Community Character & Vitality Workshops as the illustrations look similar. Phil explained that past workshops focused on the indirect left turns and pullouts and that these workshops will focus on a variety of specific design elements including access, signage, buffering, landscaping as viewed from various perspectives and that they will build toward the Grant Road Community Character & Vitality Plan which will provide clarifying policies and guidelines for properties along Grant Road that will be refinements to their area and neighborhood plans. Phil reviewed the August 21, Task Force meeting design exercise and introduced a Representative Center Exercise and worksheets to capture participant comments, using the Fontana Center to illustrate two concepts of scale and design for public input. He then reviewed a Representative District Exercise and worksheets to illustrate and gain input on new commercial frontage and local access lanes, parking plaza and neighborhood gateways, District parking and new restaurant frontage.

Anita Fonte reviewed the Task Force & Planning Commission roles for the January Community Character & Vitality Workshops. She stressed that in the Task Force role, members are to listen and observe and be prepared to share what they hear from the public at the February Task Force meeting. Phil encouraged Task Force members to help get the word out regarding the schedule for the January workshops.

Nanci Beizer asked for and received Task Force endorsement of the Community Character & Vitality Workshop format and activities and Task Force roles at the workshops with the following comments:

- Clarify the differences in focus in this series of Community Character & Vitality workshops to differentiate it from past workshops and encourage attendance
- Add directions in simulated drawings to help orient viewers
- Add a discussion of signage to District parking exercises

Utility Relocation

In response to a December 7th Task Force meeting question, Melissa Antol explained the process for which a change in RTA policy can be requested:

- Citizen concerns with respect to RTA policies and procedures can be expressed through CART Committee (Citizens Accountability for Regional Transportation) or RTA Board during the call to the audience portion of the agenda
- Letter to RTA to request a hearing of Uniform Mitigation Subcommittee to evaluate change in RTA policy
- Uniform Mitigation Subcommittee meets as required, hears and reports on appeals to CART, then to RTA Board, Technical Management Committee for final consideration.

Melissa reviewed the undergrounding utilities cost estimates: Grant Road - \$5 million for 5 miles, Mountain Ave. - \$1 million for 1 mile, Grant and Craycroft intersection improvement - \$1 million for the intersection. She then overviewed utility relocation follow-up next steps: Kimley-Horn Utility Report to include an analysis of costs, funding sources, options for pursuing undergrounding utilities. RTA offer to present to the Task Force on Policies and Procedures for undergrounding utilities and the possibility of a Tucson Electric Power presentation to the Task Force.

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The Task Force had the following feedback on utility undergrounding and next steps:

- Include an estimate of what it would cost to relocate utilities and an estimate of how much more it would cost to underground utilities in the Kimley-Horn report
- Research what the City of Tucson has done with utilities on other projects so the Task Force can see additional alternatives if undergrounding is not feasible.
- Investigate options for undergrounding some utilities if can't do all
- Have someone from TEP make a presentation to the Task Force on the feasibility of undergrounding utilities following completion of the Kimley-Horn report
- Have the planning team present the cost analysis and alternatives and difference in cost for undergrounding utilities at the next Task Force meeting.

Next Steps

Melissa Antol reviewed the following next steps: 15% plan review by City in December, draft design concept report to City in January, Task Force process review via email and phone in January, Community Character & Vitality Workshops in January, TAC and Task Force meetings in February and Public Art and DCR open houses and report to Community in February.

Task Force Roundtable

Nanci Beizer conducted the roundtable and Task Force members had the following comments:

- Appreciate the planning team's follow-up on the undergrounding utilities issue
- Happy Holidays all

Call to the Audience

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

TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS

Susan Alexander
Judith Anderson
Barbara Bird
Tom Bush

Dale Calvert
P. Wayne Cullopp
Sarah Evans
Roy Garcia

Joseph Maher
Michael Midkiff
Beverly Rutter
Robert Tait

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