

**Downtown Links  
Citizen Advisory Committee Minutes  
November 14, 2005  
5:30- 7:30pm  
Joel D. Valdez Main Library**

***Attendees:***

**CAC Committee**

John Burr, Armory Park Neighborhood Assoc.  
Charles Davis, Barrio Anita Neighborhood  
Joseph Maher, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee  
Natasha Winnik, Dunbar-Spring Neighborhood Assoc.  
John Sedwick, Fourth Ave. Merchants Assoc.  
Jonathan Levy, Iron Horse Neighborhood Assoc.  
Eugene Caywood, Old Pueblo Trolley  
Kory Kruckmeyer, Pie Allen Neighborhood Assoc.  
Don Durband, Tucson Downtown Alliance  
David Bachman-Williams, Tucson-Pima Bicycle Adv. Committee  
Gerald Juliani, Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission  
David Aguirre, Warehouse Arts Management Organization  
Mindy Bernstein, West University Neighborhood  
David Hoyt Johnson, Tucson-Pima Arts Council

**Project Team**

MJ Dillard, TDOT  
Mike Barton, HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Michael Graham, TDOT  
Joan Beckim, Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations  
Lucas Phillips, Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations

**Observers**

Lucy Mitchell, Small Planet Bakery  
Chris Alexander  
Jerry Cannon, Transystems  
Terrence McMahon  
Ron Wilson  
Arthur Scheider, CTAC  
Dick Basye, Pima Association of Taxpayers  
Erik Glenn, Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce  
John Crow, Barrio Santa Rosa  
Richard & Shana Oseran, Hotel Congress  
Chris Stebe

## **I. Opening Remarks and Introductions**

Gene Caywood asked attendees to introduce themselves and state their organization.

## **II. Approve Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2005**

The minutes from last meeting were distributed and stand approved as printed.

## **III. Announcements**

Members will be getting the minutes and agenda in advance in the future and that there will be a recap meeting.

## **IV. Approve by-laws**

Gene Caywood said that the chair would give a motion to approve or approve with changes. He also mentioned that the by-laws should be drawn broader and the Committee should cover all Downtown projects.

MJ Dillard said that if this Committee should cover all Downtown, not enough groups are represented. She was concerned about other groups that cover other Downtown projects.

John Burr and Mindy Bernstein pointed out corrections to by-laws. Gerald Juliani made a motion for a blanket to cover changes to by-laws. All mentioned typographical edits have been changed.

## **V. Schedule and milestones**

MJ Dillard started out by saying exactly what is in the Roadway Development Policies. Action items that the Committee would have to essentially complete:

- Recommendation report that contains Committee's opinions, suggestions, recommendations regarding alignment. Submit that to the Department of Transportation and 45 days later it goes to mayor and council. The report will be submitted at the same time that the Committee submits the alternate concept report. Whatever consultants and Committee put together.
- Annual report that summarizes what the Committee has completed.

Ms. Dillard explained that the Committee does not have to turn in a report before the RTA vote in May.

Mike Barton said that the Committee would develop alignment alternatives to analyze. Scheduled field trips and site visits will produce concerns and give members the ability to draw out ideas for an alternative. He wants to get a sense of what's important to the Committee.

Mindy Bernstein asked why the Committee wasn't asked to decide 2 lanes or 4 lanes. She also asked why the plan was created with 4 lanes and where does money go if we decide not to go forward with this when elections in May roll around?

Mike Barton explained the possibility of 2-lane road and railroad as an interim solution. He stated that the focus is on the ultimate solution (4-lane), not the interim solution (2-lane). The reason the interim alignment was considered was to alleviate current traffic problems downtown.

Gene Caywood responded that without the project, the money is just sitting there and that the plan can't be changed without going to voters. If the decision is to downgrade to a 2-lane road, the money saved will go to other projects.

Don Durband asked about the progress on the traffic modeling. Mike responded that the Committee will evaluate traffic analysis and environmental issues to help make a decision for alternatives and preferred alignment and that modeling should be ready in time for selecting an alternative.

#### **VI. Schedule field trip/site visit**

The Committee selected Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm to walk site and cover previous alignments, aerial photos, and list of historic buildings. Next meeting will be December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Gene pointed out that no action will be taken, but there will be an agenda. He also said an alternate can be sent if a member cannot be present, but the alternate cannot vote.

#### **VII. Project logo**

Joan Beckim explained that the logo would not be used on signage. Attendees circled their chosen logo for printed materials.

#### **VIII. Train whistle blowing issue**

MJ Dillard explained that anytime a train gets within a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile or 10-15sec away from an at-grade crossing, it must sound its whistle for safety reasons. Normal conversation is 60-70 decibels, shouting is 80-90 decibels, and the train whistle is 100 decibels at 100 feet away. Each building reduces the sound by 3 decibels. For each building after that it will be 1.5 decibels. If the train is 7000ft away, normal conversation can be heard, at 1500ft you can hear shouting, 400ft you can't hear shouting or any discussion. There is the possibility of "quiet zone" areas where whistles will not have to sound, however right now the railroad is responsible for accidents. If quiet zones are taken on the city becomes liable for all accidents.

Gene Caywood mentioned ADOT has a railroad person and asked if the horn could originate from the crossing instead of the train. MJ said that the street based horn is called the wayside horn. There were a few questions about standard whistle blowing practices.

#### **IX. Call to the audience**

- ❑ Shana Oseran, "Why is MLK Project mentioned?"
- ❑ Audience member, "I don't understand the scope of this Committee. Why is something just mentioned then added to the next meeting agenda? Are you a

CAC on the Steven's Alignment or Downtown Links and all Downtown projects?" A copy of the by-laws was given to the audience member.

- Dick Basye, "Modeling of traffic lights to and from freeway and elsewhere, I think it's critical that we know this in order to judge the roadways and decide what warehouses are valuable or not."

**X. Future agenda items**

- A. Meeting location: Will be held at this location until January 1<sup>st</sup>. Committee was going to move to the new Parkwise facility, but that won't be available until after January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- B. Martin Luther King Housing information
- C. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue railroad underpass and crossing
- D. Update on Greyhound
- E. Progress on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue underpass and a presentation on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**XI. Adjournment – At 7:00 p.m.**