

DOWNTOWN LINKS CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MONTHLY MEETING

ACTION REPORT AND SUMMARY

Monday, October 16, 2006

FROM: TDOT Project Manager Shellie Ginn

Chair Gene Caywood called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Chair** Gene Caywood (Old Pueblo Trolley)
- Vice-Chair** Don Durband (Tucson Downtown Alliance)
- John Burr (Armory Park Neighborhood Association)
- Joseph Maher, Jr. (Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee)
- Natasha Winnik (Dunbar-Spring Neighborhood Association)
- John Sedwick (Fourth Avenue Merchants Association)
- Korey Kruckmeyer (Pie Allen Neighborhood Association)
- Christopher Carroll (El Presidio Neighborhood Association)
- Mary Ellen Wooten (Tucson-Pima Arts Council)
- Jonathan Levy (Iron Horse Neighborhood Association)
- David Bachman-Williams (Tucson-Pima Bicycle Advisory Committee)
- David Aguirre (Warehouse Arts Management Organization)

PROJECT TEAM PRESENT:

- Andrew Singelakis, TDOT
- Shellie Ginn, TDOT
- Melissa Antol, TDOT
- Mike Barton, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Joan Beckim, Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations

AGENDA ITEM/COMMITTEE ACTION

STAFF ACTION

AGENDA ITEM/COMMITTEE ACTION	STAFF ACTION
1. Meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>
2. Introductions of Committee Members and Staff.	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes The minutes of the September 11, 2006 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.	<u>APPROVED</u> <u>MINUTES TO BE POSTED TO WEBSITE</u>
4. No Announcements	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>
5. Open Meeting Law Shellie Ginn introduced Roger Randolph, Assistant City Clerk for the City of Tucson. Roger was invited to speak to the Committee regarding changes made to the Boards and Commissions and the Open Meeting Law during the last legislative session. It has been required that meeting notices and agendas be posted by the Clerk’s office 24 hours in advance of a meeting. Now notice must also be posted to the City’s website 24 hours in advance of the meeting as well. Also, any action taken at a	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>

meeting must be posted to the website within two days. A Legal Action report must be completed stating what type of action the committee has taken. Another issue is the use of email by governing bodies which the Secretary of State is taking a serious look at. The Attorney General has issued a strict opinion regarding the open meeting law and emails and has fined certain individuals in some cases. If any CAC member emails a group of members on the committee and are discussing items that will come before this committee, they could be in violation of the open meeting law. If two people email each other, one of those people may email one or two more, and there will be a quorum of the committee without noticing the meeting or allowing the public to attend. Roger warned the committee to be cautious about email and recommended they go through staff and ask them to relay information for them.

6. Call to the Audience

Gene Caywood explained that the Call to the Audience has been moved up in the Agenda to give the public a chance to comment on agenda items before they are discussed. He also asked staff to add another Call to the Audience at the end of the meeting so that the public has another opportunity to comment on agenda items after they are discussed.

Tom McGovern, representing Psomas, thanked the DLCAC for their service. He said that this is an important issue for all of Tucson and very much appreciated their service and encouraged them to come to a conclusion for an alignment that is best for everyone in Tucson because the need is long overdue and is desperately needed. Protection of neighborhoods and businesses is extremely important but they also must keep in mind that as a regional facility and community benefit, this project is extraordinarily important.

Michael Toney said that there was discussion at the last RTA meeting regarding funding for the RTA projects so there is an implication that the regionalism has to be there to determine what type of funding will be available. He now understands the importance of neighborhood locations and discussions of a regional nature and neighborhood concerns. Also, with the difficulty of Stone Avenue, he doesn't think it's too much to ask to ask the railroad company to raise their tracks a little since it's a major intersection.

Audience member asked if the feasibility of an overpass over the railroad tracks at Ninth Avenue has ever been considered instead of an underpass under the tracks which would cost millions of dollars.

Chris Stebe, a landscape architect and Armory Park resident, commented that looking at the two options he thinks Sixth Avenue should be taken out of the mix totally. If Sixth Avenue goes back to two-way, it should be kept as a mellow street. It's been mentioned that West University wants to limit impacts on N. Sixth Avenue, and Sixth Avenue through downtown would bring back Fifth Avenue as a depository for the Fourth

STAFF ACTION
Add Call to Audience
item at end of Agenda.

Avenue merchant district. Not putting a street light at Fifth Avenue and Sixth Street would discourage cut-through traffic and the majority of the traffic would go onto the alignment. He said that the purpose of this project is to push traffic through the downtown area, not give traffic options to disburse into downtown. He also asked if this committee could receive the minutes from the TAC so they would be filled in on the technical issues discussed.

7. Alignments Concepts – Selection of Three Concepts

Andrew Singelakis stated that after discussion at the last meeting, the team attempted to incorporate some of the alignment concepts, specifically 5th Avenue, 6th Avenue and 7th Avenue. The result is two different alternatives that show these connections with the primary difference being the disconnect of 6th Street.

Mike Barton said that they are working on traffic numbers for all of the concepts discussed along with several technical issues. One concept would still be the 6th Street connection which is 1-A modified, and the other the 7th Avenue connection. They are working on traffic issues for existing conditions on all four of the concepts that have been discussed along with work on traffic scenarios for the last two options. Geometry needs to be worked out which includes the replacement of the 6th Avenue structure and supporting railroad structures which is challenging but they're trying to minimize impacts both horizontally and vertically. They are also working out issues regarding the Tucson Arroyo. The arroyo is undersized to handle all the drainage in the downtown area and there has been some drainage work to the south and east that they are incorporating in this study. They want to fit the drainage structure underneath the roadway as much as possible to minimize impacts. Related grade issues are also being worked out. As one issue is being worked out, it starts to impact other parts of the design so other elements needs to be modified so they're looking for options that will work well together. They have existing traffic numbers in hand and now they are looking at accommodating growth in those numbers as downtown develops and the Tucson region grows.

Mike fielded questions from the CAC members on various issues, but said that at this point there are many factors they are trying to balance and work their way through and these plans will continue to be refined as they go forward. He said at next month's meeting they will be ready to show the Committee vertical challenges, existing traffic scenario and some modeling done to date, with hot spots, etc. Andy Singelakis explained that HDR has been asked to expedite the schedule and finalize all for modeling by the end of the year. The schedule is to present the alignment concept to Mayor and Council in February. To finalize the land use plan there must first be an alignment to base the land use plan on, so the schedule for this also stands as is.

NO ACTION
REQUIRED

<p>8. Neighborhood Outreach Process, Phase II Andrew Singelakis talked about the second phase of land use neighborhood/stakeholder meetings that have been scheduled. Per the original plan, there are two sets of neighborhood meetings to be scheduled prior to the selection of an alignment, and the following two sets will occur after an alignment is selected by Mayor and Council. The upcoming meetings will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Mon., Nov. 6 at Armory Park Senior Ctr.; Mon., Nov. 20 at Tucson-Pima Main Library; Tues., Nov. 28 at Dunbar Auditorium; Thurs., Nov. 30 at University Services Annex; and Thurs. Dec. 7 at Davis Elementary School. The neighborhoods will be contacted by mass mailing again.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>
<p>9. Adjournment</p>	