

**DOWNTOWN LINKS CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MONTHLY MEETING**

**ACTION REPORT AND SUMMARY**

Monday, June 11, 2007

FROM: TDOT Project Manager Shellie Ginn

Chair Gene Caywood called the meeting to order at 5:35 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)
- Natasha Winnik (Dunbar-Spring Neighborhood Association)
- Mary Ellen Wooten (Tucson-Pima Arts Council)
- Jonathan Levy (Iron Horse Neighborhood Association)
- David Bachman-Williams (Tucson-Pima Bicycle Advisory Committee)
- Gerald Juliani (Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission)
- Charles Davis (Barrio Anita Neighborhood Association)
- Korey Kruckmeyer (Pie Allen Neighborhood Association)
- Joseph Maher, Jr. (Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee)
- John Sedwick (Fourth Avenue Merchants Association)
- Mindy Bernstein (West University Neighborhood Association)

Non-Voting: Susan Gamble for David Aguirre (Warehouse Arts Management Organization)

**PROJECT TEAM PRESENT:**

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

**AGENDA ITEM/COMMITTEE ACTION**

**STAFF ACTION**

AGENDA ITEM/COMMITTEE ACTION	STAFF ACTION
<b>1. Meeting called to order</b>	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>
<b>2. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff</b>	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>
<b>3. Approval of Meeting Minutes</b> Minutes of the March 19, 2007 meeting were approved with corrections.	<u>APPROVED AND CORRECTED MINUTES POSTED TO WEBSITE</u>
<b>4. Announcements</b> Shellie Ginn had two announcements. The Groundbreaking Event for the 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Underpass project is Thursday, June 21 at 9:00 a.m. at the south end of the Underpass.  Since Corky Poster was unable to be at this meeting, the Project Team will be sending out information regarding the results of the last set of land use meetings. When the schedule for the next series of meetings is set, that information will be sent out as well.	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>

<p><b>5. Call to the Audience</b> No comments.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>
<p><b>6. Historic Preservation</b> Marty McCune, the Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Tucson, spoke regarding questions that have arisen regarding the process the City will be using to assess impacts on historic properties during this project. She discussed the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the possibility that the Army Corps of Engineers would manage the process. Marty answered questions from the CAC regarding what constitutes mitigation.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>
<p><b>7. “Green Up” Spaces</b> Irene Ogata, Urban Landscape Manager with City of Tucson Urban Design and Planning, made a presentation to the committee regarding the City’s advances of its “green” vision and some possibilities for the Downtown Links project. She provided examples of potential green spaces within the City as well as the possibility of a living wall. Her presentation is available on the DowntownLinks.info website.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>
<p><b>8. Public Art</b> Mary Ellen Wooten from the Tucson-Pima Arts Council, and a member of the DLCAC, spoke about the TPAC process for public art on the Downtown Links project. She went into the selection process and addressed questions on the budget for the entire project and the potential to break Downtown Links into a series of art projects.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>
<p><b>9. Design Issues</b> <b>a. Structural Issues in Relation to Steinfeld and Citizen Warehouses</b> Mike Barton and Shellie Ginn updated the Committee on the development of the Building Condition Assessment Reports for both the Steinfeld and Citizen Warehouses. These reports will be going to Mayor and Council Study Session on June 19 for approval. Also to be approved is \$1.1 million of funding for shoring up the Steinfeld Warehouse to be included as part of the Downtown Links project. Additional funds will be needed to make the building suitable for occupancy and part of what they will be looking at is the funding slated for the Town West Project. If that only covers some of the costs then they will look at a tenant agreement. Over the next two months discussions will take place regarding the report, the next steps, and funding mechanisms.  Mike spoke about the building Condition Assessment Reports and that more information is needed to determine exactly how an underpass can be built near the Steinfeld Warehouse Mike and Shellie answered questions on the potential funding mechanisms, and width of the underpass, as well as how far from Steinfeld’s it could be located.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>

<p><b>b. Drainage</b>  Mike Barton talked about the need to drain a huge basin which is approximately 11.5 square miles. His presentation showed the Randolph Detention Basin, the site of a future detention basin that recently went out to bid, the Tucson Arroyo, and Downtown Tucson. Everyone living within the area of the 100- and 500-year flood plain on the Tucson Arroyo must currently pay flood insurance and the planned drainage improvements will remove part of that area from the flood plain. (To see the PowerPoint, go to <a href="http://www.downtownlinks.info">www.downtownlinks.info</a>, click on Citizens Advisory Committee, and select Citizens Advisory Committee Presentation 6-11-07.)</p> <p><b>c. Intersection – Broadway Traffic Interchange (BTI)</b>  Mike Barton showed the group what was originally proposed for the BTI on the Barraza-Aviation Parkway project. The plan was to have the through traffic go up and over the intersection and continue on with ramps to a single-point urban interchange. In the Downtown Links Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, an alternative was suggested to take out the overhead structure and run everything through an at-grade intersection which is probably the least expensive alternative. Mike answered several questions on the Broadway intersection and placement of the alignment along the railroad tracks.</p> <p><b>d. Bicycle/Pedestrian Connectivity - Underpass – Bicycle/Pedestrian</b>  Mike reviewed the issue of bicycle and pedestrian connections and the tie-in to existing pathways. Mike answered several questions regarding additional bicycle connections and the potential locations for those connections.</p>	
<p><b>10. Call to the Audience</b>  Rick Champlin from the Iron Horse neighborhood commented about the process of selecting artists. The neighborhood association did not know that an artist had already been selected for the north end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue underpass and that the art has already been selected. Mary Ellen Wooten from TPAC confirmed that an artist team was selected in 1997 and in 2003 one of the artists was assigned the art project for the south end and one for the north end.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION  REQUIRED</u></p>
<p><b>11. Adjournment</b>  Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.</p>	