

DOWNTOWN LINKS CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MONTHLY MEETING

ACTION REPORT AND SUMMARY

Monday, August 10, 2009

FROM: TDOT Project Manager Shellie Ginn

Chair Gene Caywood called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

- Chair**, Gene Caywood, Old Pueblo Trolley
- Vice Chair**, David Bachman-Williams, Tucson/Pima Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Chuck Bressi, Iron Horse Neighborhood Association
- John Burr, Armory Park Neighborhood Association
- Christopher Carroll, El Presidio Neighborhood Association
- Charles Davis, Barrio Anita Neighborhood Association
- Daniela Diamente, Dunbar Spring Neighborhood Association
- Korey Kruckmeyer, Pie Allen Neighborhood Association
- Glenn Lyons, Downtown Tucson Partnership
- Susan Marshall, Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
- John Sedwick, Fourth Avenue Merchants Association
- Mary Ellen Wooten, Tucson-Pima Arts Council

PROJECT TEAM PRESENT:

- Andrew Singelakis, Tucson Department of Transportation
- Michael Barton, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Heidi Schneider, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Corky Poster, Poster Frost Associates
- Liba Wheat, Wheat Scharf Associates, Inc.
- Laura Mielcarek, Wheat Scharf Associates, Inc.
- Britton Dornquast, RTA/Mainstreet
- Joan Beckim, Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations, Inc.

AGENDA ITEM/COMMITTEE ACTION

STAFF ACTION

AGENDA ITEM/COMMITTEE ACTION	STAFF ACTION
<p>1. <u>Meeting Called to Order</u> Quorum confirmed. Meeting started at 5:35 PM.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>
<p>2. <u>Introduction of Committee Members and Staff</u> CAC and Project Team Members introduced themselves.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>
<p>3. <u>Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2009</u> Minutes approved as written. Stand approved as submitted.</p>	<p><u>POST APPROVED MINUTES ON PROJECT WEB SITE</u></p>
<p>4. <u>Call to the Audience</u> James LeBeau, Owner of Wildcat Storage on 657 W. St. Mary’s Road. He and his partners have spent a lot of money on this business, with many people involved who have worked really hard over the years. He recently found out that he was not on the list and never got any meeting notices but he guesses he wasn’t paying enough attention. The loss of the grandfathered parking would not only affect the owners but also the businesses not making it feasible to have business art space along St. Mary’s because this project could possibly take away that parking. Other developers in town get free land, parking structures</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>

<p>and all sorts of stuff – he has not gotten that on any of his properties. He would like the City to move the road a little to the north so his parking will not be affected and he looks forward to the project being a success.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Announcements</u></p> <p>Andrew Singelakis reported on Mayor and Council actions at their August 5, 2009 meeting. The Downtown Links Advisory Committee’s service expired and was extended until August 2010. Also the Mayor and Council approved the land exchange and easements moving City-owned property for three warehouse buildings, two buildings on the corner of 6th and Toole, and the Steinfeld Warehouse. Also, ADOT offered to allow for all the state-owned property needed for the Downtown Links alignment to be subject to easements as opposed to acquisition.</p> <p>Charles Davis announced that there will be an inaugural event for a public art piece called “The Bike Church” on the corner of Main and Davis this Saturday at 6:30. This public art piece was made by Ward 1 youths over the summer, it looks phenomenal, and they’ll be installing it on Saturday. People can go into it and the large structure will provide shade. There will also be other activities at the event. Mary Ellen Wooten added that this project is a Pima Association of Governments youth project. On alternate summers the arts council works with different Ward offices and this summer Ward 1 was very interested in doing something that honors bicycle riders and riders who have been killed. The art is composed primarily of bike parts and the term “bike church” comes out of the idea of honoring the memory of those people.</p> <p>Mary Ellen Wooten also mentioned that TPAC is just getting the Downtown Links project artists under contract. She believes that there will be an art open house in combination with the next CAC meeting in September, or if they do not have enough agenda items for a meeting, they will hold an independent open house. The four artists will use this as an opportunity to get updated on the Downtown Links project, and people can stop by to meet them as part of the kickoff of the art design process.</p> <p>Gene Caywood mentioned the grand re-opening of the 4th Avenue Underpass on Thursday, August 20 at 4:00 p.m. in the Underpass. It will be a great community event to mark the linking of 4th Avenue to Downtown.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>
<p>6. <u>Staff Reports and Presentations to CAC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use Plan, Corky Poster, Poster Frost and Associates <p>Corky Poster spoke to the CAC members about the Final Land Use and Urban Design Plan that was approved by the Downtown Links CAC on December 8, 2008. Since that time staff has been working on a series of iterations to turn these concepts into a document to present to Mayor and Council. Corky went through a page by page review of the document with the CAC. Suggested changes to be made to the Final Land Use document are as follows: Page 65: Change Illustration No. 14 from ‘Skate Park’ to ‘Wheel Park’ Page 71: Reference will be made to possible changes in Greenway, Hughes Road, and HAWK Crossing To review a copy of the Final Land Use and Urban Design Plan, please go to: http://www.downtownlinks.info/Documents/FinalUrbanDesignPlan-Revised8.18.09.pdf</p>	

<p>Glenn Lyons moved to accept the Final Land Use and Urban Design Plan, with the documented changes, and to present it to Mayor and Council for approval at their meeting on September 9, 2009. Seconded by David Bachman-Williams. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Whistle Zone – Heidi Schneider, HDR <p>Heidi Schneider with HDR presented the CAC with background information on the status of this issue. To review the PowerPoint presentation, please go to http://www.downtownlinks.info/Documents/DowntownLinksCAC8-10-09.pdf</p> <p>The main issue is the construction of the grade separation. HDR is finishing the planning documents now and working with the railroad on 30% design plans. Next year the final design with the 6th Street section will take a couple of years for design and to work with the railroad to get approvals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Stakeholder Meetings / • Phasing Map Sequencing – Michael Barton, HDR <p>Michael Barton with HDR spoke about the proposed phasing map. There are two design projects that they are starting to track. One is called Phase IA, or the St. Mary’s segment which extends from St. Mary’s at I-10 to just west of Church by the University Services Annex. At the time they began to design this piece is when the team began meeting with project stakeholders. The other segment being looked at is the 8th Street drainage which they are calling Phase 1B which is being designed in coordination with the modern streetcar project. They are hoping to start with construction sometime in late fall 2012 and the fall of 2013 for those two segments. There may be another interim phase for the drainage project but are still working on the phasing map. They are hoping to start with construction sometime in late fall 2012 and the fall of 2013 for those two segments.</p> <p>The team has been out meeting with various stakeholders over the last few months since the last meeting. When school is back in session, they will be out taking traffic counts for some data that they don’t have. They have had initial contact with some of the property owners and there are some issues they are trying to work out with them. The phasing map and stakeholder meeting information can be found on line at http://www.downtownlinks.info/Documents/DowntownLinksCAC8-10-09.pdf</p>	<p><u>MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY</u></p>
<p>7. <u>Next Steps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items for Future Meetings <p>Andrew Singelakis listed the following items as suggested for the next agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sixth Avenue overpass - Bicycle traffic counts - Phasing for the two-way conversions of Stone and Sixth Avenues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Future Meeting Dates <p>The project artists will be in Tucson in September. The Artist Open House will possibly be scheduled on the CAC’s regular meeting date of Monday, September 14. The CAC will receive confirmation regarding the open house date.</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>
<p>8. <u>Call to the Audience</u></p> <p>An audience member asked if the land use plan and map are available on line. She also asked who the four project artists are. The committee is not allowed to respond to comments from the audience, but a CAC member was curious and</p>	<p><u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u></p>

asked for the information. Mary Ellen Wooten said that the four artists chosen for the project are Joe O’Connell who is a local artist, Richard Posner who is also a Tucson artist, Cork Marcheschi from the San Francisco area, and a group called Living Lenses from Berkeley.	
9. <u>Adjournment</u> at 6:55 PM.	<u>NO ACTION REQUIRED</u>