

DOWNTOWN LINKS CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MONTHLY MEETING

**MEETING SUMMARY
Monday, March 8, 2010**

FROM: TDOT Project Manager Shellie Ginn

Chair Gene Caywood called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Chair**, Gene Caywood, Old Pueblo Trolley
- Vice Chair**, David Bachman-Williams, Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Commission
- Chuck Bressi, Iron Horse Neighborhood Association
- John Burr, Armory Park Neighborhood Association
- Christopher Carroll, El Presidio Neighborhood Association
- Susan Gamble, Warehouse Arts Management Association
- Susan Marshall, Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
- Richard Mayers, West University Neighborhood Association
- John Sedwick, Fourth Avenue Merchants Association
- Mary Ellen Wooten, Tucson-Pima Arts Council
- Daniela Diamente, Dunbar Spring Neighborhood Association
- Gerald Juliani, Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission
- Teresa Vasquez, Downtown Tucson Partnership sitting for Glenn Lyons

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Charles Davis, Barrio Anita Neighborhood Association
- Korey Kruckmeyer, Pie Allen Neighborhood Association

PROJECT TEAM PRESENT:

- Shellie Ginn, Tucson Department of Transportation
- Michael Barton, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Joan Beckim, Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations, Inc.

<p>1. <u>Meeting Called to Order</u> Quorum confirmed. Meeting started at 5:35 PM.</p>
<p>2. <u>Introduction of Committee Members and Staff</u> CAC and Project Team Members introduced themselves.</p>
<p>3. <u>Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2010</u> Minutes approved as written. Stand approved as submitted.</p>
<p>4. <u>Call to the Audience</u> No comments.</p>
<p>5. <u>Announcements</u> Shellie Ginn, TDOT Project Manager, announced that the City of Tucson has received \$63,000,000 in TIGER grant funds for the Modern Streetcar Project. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood was present at the check-signing ceremony held at The Historic Depot on February 18. The developers of the Streetcar project will continue to coordinate construction of the Streetcar route with the Downtown Links project.</p>

6. Staff Reports and Presentations to CAC

• 8th Street Drainage – Michael Barton, HDR

Michael Barton updated the Committee on the design of the two distinct project segments that they have been working on. They will be turning in the 75% plans for both segments of the 8th Street Drainage project the end of next week, the 90% plans in June, and 100% plans in August. They have been working to coordinate activity on this project with GLHN who is developing the Streetcar Maintenance and Storage facility around 8th Street and 5th Avenue, and also coordinating with the modern streetcar track designers at URS. They want to be sure that the track and pavement grades all work together so that what HDR is building will not impact the rail grades. Right now the concentration is on the St. Mary's segment and 8th Street Drainage. The final design process later this summer will be on the 6th Street Segment, and the Stevens or Links Avenue segment. A major task will be utility relocations and conflicts. (More information and schematics can be found on the PowerPoint presentation from the March 8 meeting at <http://www.downtownlinks.info/CitizenAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>.)

• Stakeholder Update – Michael Barton, HDR

Since the last meeting, the Project Team has met with the following stakeholders:

- Met with Fourth Avenue Merchants Association most recently to discuss the 8th Street drainage issue and how it relates to other projects in the area
- Met with UA relating to Downtown Links property acquisitions, which are the only acquisitions on the St. Mary's segment; the City is in the process of acquiring some of that property now
- Ongoing meetings with business interests along 4th Avenue; met with Mark Berman of Benjamin Supply who had some ideas of how he would like the City to slightly shift the alignment to give him better access to his property
- Met with project artists to get their thoughts on the art projects
- Met to update the RTA and Mainstreet Program to discuss the types of impacts to businesses and what they anticipate might happen
- The project team will begin to meet with stakeholders in the other areas as they start the final design process for the 6th Street and Stevens Avenue segments

• St. Mary's Section – Michael Barton, HDR

The design team is shooting for design submittal on this segment by April 30. Some elements of this design are:

- HAWK crossing connecting to Davis Street
- Connection with the El Paso Greenway project
- Water harvesting along the entire segment with a small-scale demonstration project at the northeast corner of the Granada and St. Mary's intersection; if this works well, water harvesting will be expanded to the entire project
- New safer parking area at Davis School
- Working with UA to identify property needs in front of USA building for the existing St. Mary's segment and the 6th Street segment which includes access in and out of their parking lot

There was much discussion on whether or not to install a HAWK crossing in front of the school at Davis Street, or to just include the infrastructure but hold off installing the crossing until it can be determined, in conversations with ADOT, that placing it further east at the Greenway would be more efficient. The design team has looked at this many different ways and has met with downtown groups to discuss. The team has concluded that even though the location is not ideal because of its close proximity to the traffic signal at the frontage road, this is the best recommendation they could come up with for safety of school students and bicyclists and because we have funding now, it should be installed now. The HAWK crossing at that location is consistent with the intent of this project.

Gerry Juliani made a motion that we request that the City work toward a design exception that would enable the HAWK to be placed in alignment with the Greenway and to also leave provisions for all possibilities in the planning phase. No second to motion. John Burr made a different motion asking that the Downtown Links committee endorse the location of the HAWK crossing as recommended by the design team. Motion was seconded and passed 9 to 3.

• **Update on Project Artist Meetings – Mary Ellen Wooten, TPAC**

Mary Ellen Wooten reported that the four projects artists are all under contract, but we do not have any designs yet. The design team has met with the artists to discuss possible locations for their work so this item is still in the development stage.

7. Next Steps

• **Items for Future Meetings**

- Update on where Pima County is with the Park Avenue basin
- Update on Tucson Warehouse moving connection from 7th Street is beneficial
- Update on No Whistle Zone
- Update on ADOT letting go of warehouse district options
- Update on Jim Campbell’s plans next to the 4th Avenue Underpass

• **Confirm Future Meeting Date**

The next CAC meeting will be in two to three months.

8. Call to the Audience

Mark Berman, Tucson Warehouse and Transfer commented that he is concerned about the flood control in the Arroyo Chico from 4th to 6th and what responsibility the City and the contractor has to the businesses around it if a flood does occur.

Mike Rebro lives at the corner of Court and Meyer. He said that he assumes that the drawings that were shown will be available on line. He is also concerned with the area from Main to Church because he lives there. There is a lot of water that goes under that drainage. There is a wall around 6th Street and Church and he would like to know what happens to all that water because that area gets washed out every time there is flooding. The wall there is an adobe wall and is subject to graffiti and it should be stuccoed so graffiti can be removed. The City does own that wall and it is their responsibility to do that, but you cannot do the normal graffiti abatement because it is adobe and can’t be sprayed. He would like to hear a discussion on the effect of the project on the area from Main east to Church.

Sherry Teachnor, attorney, would like to explain the movement of the project off of 7th Street by the Tucson Warehouse. It is a safety issue because in talking with the fire department they would not approve the plans as they are now because they cannot safely access the area.

9. Adjournment at 6:55 p.m.