

Project Update May 2016

Dear Downtown Links Citizen Advisory Committee (DLCAC) members,

As you know, we are approaching the completion of design for the final phase of the Downtown Links project. We appreciate the time and effort this group has invested in this project and we are excited to report the progress we have made over the last 12 months.

Below is a brief update on each aspect of the project which covers many facets of the project:

Phase III: 6th Street Underpass to Broadway Boulevard

The Downtown Links design team has been very busy since we last met as a group. The design plans for Phase III have now been finalized. The final design reflects what was shown to you during the June 2015 Open House.

TDOT is pleased to include the re-design of the Maclovio Barraza Parkway/Broadway intersection into the Downtown Links project. Based on input from the CAC and through cooperation with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), we have secured the funds to both design and construct these improvements. The design team has been working diligently on these plans. Please see the attached exhibit for a closer look. As you may recall, this new intersection design eliminates the sweeping left and right turns from northbound Barraza-Aviation Parkway and realigns the intersection in a more standard configuration. You'll see from the figure that we have added a pedestrian crossing on the west leg of the intersection. Furthermore, we have been working closely with the design team responsible for the future Broadway Cycle Track to ensure our designs are compatible. The design is currently under review by ADOT. Upon completion of this design, the plan sheets will be fully integrated into the overall plan set for Downtown Links.

You may have also noticed construction activities occurring along the project corridor. This work is due to the necessary utility relocations for the project. CenturyLink is in the final phase of its relocation efforts. We anticipate Tucson Electric Power (TEP) will be the next in line to begin its relocations later this summer.

Property Acquisitions

The City has almost completed its property acquisitions for the project. Several of the properties have been vacated and are currently undergoing Phase II environmental testing and clean-up in preparation for the demolition activities. Through this process, we found several abandoned underground storage tanks, oil barrels, and building material debris, which have to be removed to prevent further soil and water contamination. Demolition of the remaining properties is scheduled to begin this summer and should continue into the fall.

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Historic Preservation

The City continues to follow the procedures for remediation and documentation of historic structures as required by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). There are still concerns regarding historic preservation and that the City should make additional efforts to relocate Tanno's gas station and two other structures affected by the corridor construction. These requests have been looked at very carefully and TDOT will be preparing a comprehensive summary of all the City's efforts to preserve historic structures along the Downtown Links/Barraza-Aviation corridor over the past 25 years. Additionally, we have a meeting in mid-July with the Tucson Pima County Historic Commission to provide an update on the project.

Project Art

Please see attached update from Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC)

Next Steps

The City is working closely with utilities and Union Pacific Railroad to finalize the necessary agreements that must be in place to build the new underpass. This process includes a review by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). We expect that review to occur during Fall 2016. As you know, working with these entities has been a long and tedious process but a crucial step in moving forward with this project.

To that end, the City has determined the best method to deliver this project is to utilize a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR). This process allows the City to select a contractor based on their qualifications, not their bid amount. We anticipate advertisement to occur in late 2016 following the approval of the construction IGA with the RTA. Immediately following contractor selection, we will begin working closely with the project team to develop a plan for the most efficient construction schedule. During this time, the City will hold a Pre-Construction Open House to introduce the contractor and provide a schedule for the work to be completed.

The City plans to continue its public outreach efforts utilizing the project website (www.downtownlinks.info) and also issuing press releases/construction updates when necessary. This will continue through the completion of construction.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 837-6641 or sam.credio@tucsonaz.gov.

Sincerely,



Samuel Credio
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