

Meeting Summary

City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Ward 2 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)
Houghton Road: Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street
Feb. 13, 2014, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Tucson Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway Blvd.

ATTENDEES

Ward 2 CDRC Members

Helen Arnold, Macalester Park Homeowners Association (HOA)
Mike Collins, five homes on Houghton Road
Dominique Drentrea, Casas de Santo neighborhood
Paul Gegenheimer, property owner
Richard Hagenah, Houghton Neighborhood Association (NA)
Frank Salbego, Eastside NA
Rick Wilson, Eastpoint Estates HOA

City of Tucson, Ward 2 Council Office

Ted Prezelski, Management Analyst

TDOT and Consultants

M.J. Dillard, TDOT Project Manager
Joe Vaskovic, Parsons Brinckerhoff Construction Manager
Jan Gordley, Gordley Group, Public Involvement
Lori Lantz, Gordley Group, Public Involvement

MATERIALS

- Agenda
- Houghton Road: Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street fact sheet
- Sun Tran Park & Ride fact sheet
- Construction contact sheet
- Meeting evaluation form
- Comment form
- Implementation plan map
- CDRC neighborhoods map
- Nov. 19, 2013, Ward 2 CDRC meeting summary
- Houghton Road Corridor Public Art Master Plan

INTRODUCTIONS

Jan Gordley opened the meeting and asked all present to introduce themselves. Jan reviewed the history of the Ward 2 CDRC, and thanked the committee for their dedication and service. Nineteen meetings have been held over the past seven years. Jan noted that M.J. continues to be a strong advocate on behalf of the committee with RTA and the City of Tucson, and there are many ways that

committee input has been implemented in the project. The project team has done a great job of advocating for the public within design constraints and available resources.

PROJECT UPDATES

M.J. Dillard provided updates on the Houghton Road Corridor.

Houghton Road: Irvington to Valencia

Construction

- Construction is on schedule and will be wrapping up in May.

Public Art

- Art rails were designed as part of the corridor master plan. Railings are already being placed in some project areas. M.J. showed the committee samples of the blue and green hued colors the railings will be painted. Railings in the Irvington to Valencia project will all be the same color.

Houghton Road: Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street

Construction

- Intersection construction has begun on the north side of Broadway Boulevard and the west side of Houghton Road. Work on the intersection is on schedule to be completed within the six-month timeframe, and should wrap up in April or May.
- Intersection waterline relocation on the south side, west of Broadway, is due to be completed tomorrow (Feb. 14, 2014).
- Park & Ride construction should be starting in June.
- Utility relocations between Broadway and 22nd are beginning.
- Construction-related barricades have been adjusted to allow improved access during construction and to slow traffic. A reduced speed limit is in place to ensure safety.
- Access to local businesses will remain open, and notice will be given 48 hours in advance if any individual driveways need to be temporarily closed.
- Throughout the construction process, M.J. will be available for questions and concerns, and construction updates will be emailed to the Ward 2 CDRC and interested individuals.
- Some property acquisition of small strips for easements may occur along the roadway. No homeowners will be displaced. All affected property owners have been notified.

Landscaping

- Examples of proposed landscaping plans with a variety of plants are shown on several displays prepared by the landscaper and will also be at the open house.
- Plants in the construction area have been tagged to identify their status. White means preserve in place. Blue means transplant on site. Yellow means remove from site.

- Landscaping plans sometimes need to be altered due to changes during relocation of utilities. If a plant has to be removed, the mitigation measure is to replace with two for every one plant removed.
- Water harvesting will be utilized along the roadway to augment drip irrigation.

Street Lighting

- Safety dictates, and residents have requested, street lighting, so lights have been added to the project area. Lights will be shielded, cost-efficient, quiet LEDs and will be Dark Sky compliant.
- Richard Hagenah, representing the Houghton Neighborhood Association, stated that Houghton NA has been opposed to the addition of street lighting since the project began, and still maintains that position.

Tucson Electric Power Distribution Lines

- At this time, there is no money remaining in the City franchise agreement fund to pay for the cost of moving the TEP distribution lines underground. M.J. has discussed this with management. RTA funds can't be used for this type of utility work.
- The total cost of relocating the lines is \$800,000. The cost differential is about \$1.7 million additional for underground lines. This means that placing them underground would triple the cost.
- Councilman Cunningham asked TEP if they could put in fewer and higher poles, which would be less intrusive. TEP has designed the project with the fewest poles possible. Since the utility is federally regulated, there is not a lot of leeway.
- TEP is preparing a display for the open house to show how the power line poles will look when completed.

Public Meeting

- A public meeting in an open house format is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Pantano Christian Church. Team members will be present with detailed maps and information, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Northern Segment

- RTA may consider constructing the section from Broadway north to Tanque Verde with four lanes due to traffic projections.

Committee Communication

- The committee agreed that Ward 2 CDRC members should share their email addresses to facilitate communication among members. Lori will send out the contact list to members.

PARKING LOT (Items waiting to be covered at a future meeting)

- Retaining wall by five houses and frontage road
- Re-examine possibility of adding walls

Meeting adjourned