

Meeting Summary

City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Ward 2 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)
Houghton Road: Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street
Oct. 9, 2013, 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
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

Guests

Cornell Drentea, Casas de Santo resident

City of Tucson, Ward 2 Council Office

Ted Prezelski, Management Analyst

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

Steve Taylor, RTA MainStreet Business Assistance

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
- Construction contact sheet
- Meeting evaluation form
- Comment form
- Implementation plan map
- CDRC neighborhoods map
- April 30, 2013, Ward 2 CDRC meeting summary

INTRODUCTIONS

Jan Gordley opened the meeting and noted that Melissa Anguiz has moved out of state and Lori Lantz will be the public involvement coordinator for the Houghton Road projects. Jan asked all present to introduce themselves.

PROJECT UPDATES

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

Houghton Road: Irvington to Valencia

- The Irvington to Valencia project is well ahead of schedule and the roadwork should be largely completed by December 2013. Minor landscaping and bringing in the art piece will follow the roadwork. The project is due to be completed by May 2014.
- Many lessons learned on Irvington to Valencia will be utilized on the Broadway to 22nd segment.

Houghton Road: Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street

- Broadway intersection has not yet started construction due to unexpected utility issues. TEP decided to go underground instead of overhead at the Broadway intersection, which meant that other utilities on those poles had to find alternative solutions, and have all relocated underground.
- The Notice to Proceed for construction should be issued at any time.
- The Houghton Road and Broadway Boulevard intersection and Sun Tran Park & Ride lot will be constructed first. Houghton Road from Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street is being designed at the same time and is planned to be constructed as the intersection work is concluding.
- Intersection construction will begin on the north side of Broadway Boulevard and the west side of Houghton Road. Once these are done they will move to the south and east sides.
- There will be barricading during construction and a reduced speed limit.
- Access to local businesses will remain open.
- Most of the utility work is done, with some stormdrains still to be added.
- Signals will have countdowns as well as crossings with sound cues for the visually impaired.
- Street lighting will be added at the intersection.
- Throughout the construction process, M.J. will be available for questions and concerns, and construction updates will be emailed to the Ward 2 CDRC.
- A small open house was held on Aug. 27 regarding property easements and to reassure residents that no total property acquisitions are required and the project will not negatively impact any properties through acquisitions.
- Once the intersection construction is complete, TEP is planning to put the distribution lines above ground on the west side. The high-voltage transmission lines need to be on separate poles and above ground, and those will remain on the east side. This means that the scenic corridor will

have overhead power lines on both sides of the road. This limits the height and type of vegetation that can be planted.

- Putting TEP lines underground would mean taking out the existing vegetation in an area of 20 to 25 feet for digging trenches and access. The utility would have to replant the area.
- At this time there is no money remaining in the City franchise agreement fund to pay for the cost of moving the distribution lines underground.
- The committee unanimously agreed that the strong preference is to have the west side TEP distribution lines placed underground, especially because Houghton Road is designated as a scenic corridor.
- M.J. gave contact information for TEP management to the committee and they will contact TEP to express concerns about having the lines above ground. M.J. will also contact TEP and let them know the committee's consensus and concerns.
- The landscape architect is working on the design for adding plantings in the drainage easements and water harvesting in the medians for sustainability of plantings.
- In certain areas, where some of the slopes are really close to the private property's screen wall, a retaining wall will be added with the screen wall on top to retain the earth and slope.
- In one area some properties will lose the access they have been using to Houghton Road for their motor homes or service trucks. Removable bollards will be placed on the 12-foot path so that the vehicles can have limited access to Houghton Road via the path if necessary.
- Rubberized asphalt will be used for noise mitigation, and some screening vegetation will be added. Sound walls are not planned.
- Rainwater will drain off roadways to the sides, where storm drains will route water to drainageways. Water harvesting will also be in place where possible to water vegetation.
- The Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Bridge project and UPRR to I-10 segment are currently in design and have federal funds. Construction is still projected to start in 2015.
- The Ward 2 CDRC will plan to meet again in approximately one month.

PARKING LOT

Lori reviewed the parking lot items with the committee. Two items related to bus ridership and the location of bus stops were addressed at previous meetings, so with the committee's consent they were removed from the parking lot list. M.J. stated that the remaining item would be addressed during the related project.

- Retaining wall by five houses and frontage road

Meeting adjourned