



KINO PARKWAY – 22ND STREET INTERSECTION & WIDENING TO TUCSON BOULEVARD



Kino Parkway – 22nd Street Intersection Improvements Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #17 Meeting Summary

A meeting of the CAC was held from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 21, 2008 at the Randolph Golf Course Clubhouse Copper Room, 600 S. Alvernon Way. In attendance were appointed members Bill Seitz, Brett Dumont, Ivo Ortiz, Les Pierce, Claire Fellows, Sandra Zepeda, and Sylvia Campoy. Absent were Dirck Schou, George Kalil, Jamey Sumner, Wright Thomas and Cindy Ayala. Project staff present included Janice Cuaron, Edie Griffith-Metty, Jay Van Echo, Alejandro Angel, Dave Dobler, Claudia Perchinelli, Mack Dickerson, Barbara Grygutis, Lou Ginsberg, Abe Marques, Britton Dornquast, Nanette Pageau, Priscilla Fernandez and Freda Johnson.

1. Welcome and introductions; confirm quorum.

CAC Chair Ivo Ortiz opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He said that a quorum was present. Before he turned the meeting over to the moderator, Freda Johnson, he made a statement of apology to the project team for his remarks at the real estate open house. He said that his empathy for people who are to be relocated got the better of him and he thanked the team for responding professionally. Introductions were made of those present.

2. Review ground rules for meetings/meeting summary/agenda item order.

Freda reviewed the ground rules that were developed at the first meeting of the CAC. Comments were invited from CAC members about the summary of the previous meeting held in July 2008. Without objection, the summary was accepted as distributed.

3. First call to the audience

Freda announced that this meeting would have two “Call to the Audience” sessions, one at the beginning and another at the end of the meeting. She explained to everyone that per public meeting laws, this is when the observers would have a chance to speak but the CAC is not allowed to respond. She pointed out that there would be a presentation about the City’s acquisition and relocation program and that it would be appropriate to raise questions about real estate issues during the first call to the audience. Roy Schoonover, a bicyclist, raised three issues. The first was related to the north-south corridor along Kino Pkwy, where there are four off-ramps where a crossover shoulder should be where bicyclists could go. Secondly, he spoke with praise about the 500-ft. blue bicycle lanes on a Pima County project at the intersection of Valencia and Kolb Roads. It shows respect to cyclists and relieves tension. Lastly, he said that 22nd St. has bike lanes and the SPUI will create problems for cyclists. He observed that Aviation Hwy. goes under Kino Pkwy./Campbell Ave. and it’s a tunnel like a cave with inadequate lighting. There were no others that wished to speak.

4. Presentation and discussion of the City's acquisition and relocation program and update from the August 12 Real Estate Open House.

Mack Dickerson of Tierra Right-of-Way, presented an overview of the process. He said that there would be just compensation for any property to be taken and that this includes both partial and full acquisition. 100% of moving costs are paid. Businesses acquired have both moving costs and reestablishment costs reimbursed. Brett Dumont asked Ivo Ortiz if he feels residents in the project area are receiving equitable treatment. Ivo responded by saying that the financial help is outstanding but that he is concerned about the intangibles and some people may need more help than just the money. Claire Fellows asked if the City follows Federal guidelines. Mack said that yes, the City adopted Federal guidelines in 1978 and that State law mirrors the 'Uniform Act' that governs the relocation activities with the exception of a few items. Sylvia Campoy spoke about the need for a more global picture regarding adverse impacts. She said that she believes the majority of affected people are Hispanic, many are 50-year residents and many are medically vulnerable. She suggested that it would behoove the CAC to have more specific information. She said that while she believes the City has acted in good faith, information should be gathered about the affected people. In closing, she said that the timing is awful because it isn't a seller's market.

Mack responded to say that with regard to interest rates, they are increasing and that the City has to make up the difference between the property owner's current interest rate and the going interest rate, whether it's up or down. A financial means test is considered for all who are to be relocated. There is no discrimination and the real estate program is carried out with equal opportunity.

Sandra Zepeda asked how the data Sylvia requests would be used and wondered if it might hold-up the project. Sylvia said that all demographic data should be transparent and that she represents the Tucson Urban League on the CAC and urges a closer look at equity issues in public works projects. Ivo commented that the project would devalue some properties abutting the project. There should be a 'heads up' to the State Legislature about shortcomings in relocations. Sylvia said that she wants a status report on information being gathered by the City.

Nanette Pageau said an attempt was made to gather information using census data. She presented a handout that identified the property owners and frequency of visits in the project area. She said that Gracie Ochoa of the City's Real Estate Office attended the one-on-one meetings and that Gracie is fluent in Spanish. Les Pierce said that this was a fantastic process and she wondered if there had been outreach to the homeowners on the south side of 21st St. or the north side of 23rd St. because there will be new impacts on these people. Nanette said that letters are going out to the property owners.

Sylvia thought demographics should be gathered without naming names. Claire said that she is not sure what the CAC would do with this information. Sylvia said it would be to shed light on the larger picture. Claire suggested that she didn't want to look at them as a group because they need individual attention.

Jay Van Echo acknowledged that the issue of trust is involved and much outreach has been accomplished. He said that people affected are predominately Hispanic, long-term residents and that in one-on-one conversations in the outreach effort he learned that people do not want to share private information. He said that perhaps a small group of the CAC might want to work on gathering information and getting permission for disclosure from people.

Bill Seitz said that he doesn't understand the relevance of getting demographic information. If the team is acting with transparency, why do we need to know race, age, disabilities and so forth. In his view, there is no need for more information since the idea is to act fairly for everyone. Discussion took place about adding something to the CAC's report to Mayor and Council about concerns about residents newly impacted and whose property is devalued. Jay suggested that the next report, the Environmental, Design and Mitigation Report (EDMR) would be the appropriate document for these issues.

Brett Dumont said he agrees with keeping the issue alive and he moved that two members of the CAC make a report in a timely fashion on this issue to Mayor and Council before the next meeting. The motion died for lack of a second.

5. Project Schedule.

Edie Griffith-Metty said that the next big effort is the process of the EDMR and could be expected in October 2008. In the meantime, work continues on the structure selection, the art theme, land use and the design charette. There were no questions about this information.

6. Project Updates on 22nd/Kino interchange and widening to Tucson Boulevard.

The first topic was the final comments from the CAC on the Kino Pkwy./22nd St. Alternative Alignment Report. Claire Fellows asked about eliminated movements at Kino Pkwy/Barraza-Aviation Hwy. Edie said that the northbound right turns at Kino Pkwy/Barraza-Aviation Hwy. would be redundant once a 22nd St/Barraza-Aviation Hwy. interchange was built. Alejandro said there would be no change until the 22nd St/Barraza-Aviation Hwy. interchange is built. A question was asked about beneficiaries of the 'heavily used corridor' from Fairlane Ave. to 18th St. and Park Ave., an area to be improved to maintain connections. The questioner wondered if it was to benefit the railroad and the post office. Edie responded by saying that it benefits three quadrants. Comment was made that on page 18 there is an incomplete sentence. Another comment was made that the zoning map shows all parcels at corners are zoned residential. Edie said that the City owns those parcels now. Comment was made that bicycle needs are to be addressed. Ivo said that east of 22nd St. there should be a sign regarding access at Kino Pkwy.

The second topic under this item was outreach regarding the Park Ave. signal. Edie said that a meeting had been held with the Santa Rita Park Neighborhood Association and another will be held September 9 with the Armory Park Neighborhood Association. The proposal is to consider an alternative that is a partial signal allowing left turns in each direction. Claire asked if this means going westbound on 18th St. or 19th St. Response

was made that no thru traffic is allowed with the partial signal, but if you are northbound on Park one could make a left-hand turn at the signal to go west off Park Ave. If you are on 18th St. or 19th St., one can make a left turn to go north or south on Park. An example of this type of signal is at Park Ave. and 6th St. and also at University Blvd. and Stone Ave. Brett asked that this be taken to the Millville Neighborhood Association. Janice Cuaron suggested that this could be an agenda topic at the next CAC meeting.

The third topic was the 23rd St. extension. Edie said that Jay had met with the developer of the southeast corner of Park Ave. and 22nd St. and that there is a dedicated ingress and egress on 23rd St. already in place according to the title documents presented at the meeting.

7. Review and approve draft CAC letters for Mayor and Council's consideration.

Freda said that these reports would be included in the Alternative Alignment Reports presented to Mayor and Council. There will be a 45-day comment period after the reports are presented, and then a public hearing will be held. Claire said that the majority report on the intersection refers to two traffic lights, which seem to include the light at Santa Rita Ave. for which there is no documentation to support it. Sandra Zepeda said that she was the one requesting this language and that her intent was to go ahead with the project but examine the Santa Rita Ave. light fully. Ivo said that he thought the issue was access on 21st St. with business access for Kalil Bottling's trucks. Brett said that other businesses are affected as well. Brett continued to say that he supports removal of the reference to the Santa Rita Ave. light from the 22nd St. Widening to Tucson Blvd. Report, but it is OK in the intersection report. Brett asked that his and George Kalil's names be placed on the all three reports.

Claire moved and Brett seconded a statement of approval of the CAC Report as amended to Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson. The motion passed unanimously by raising of hands.

Priscilla Fernandez announced that she'd make the changes to the reports and offered to meet CAC members at various convenient locations, in order to gather their signatures.

8. Art theme development.

Barbara Grygutis acknowledged the hard work of the CAC and welcomed continued participation in development of the art theme. She said that many, but not all, CAC members had filled out the questionnaire she distributed at the July CAC meeting. She explained that she reviewed the ideas that were generated and looked for specifics that emerged and among them she found commonalities that were: A. common theme on all components; B. create excitement; C. Unique icon about the area and D. be positive (image). She also observed that a landmark is important but there are mixed feelings about a gateway per se. Other topics that merit attention were 'Welcome to Tucson', pedestrian and bicycle friendly, views of vistas, shaded pedestrian areas, bridge at Kino, image or icon to be put on travel brochures, and abstract images are good.

After this presentation, Barbara invited members to sum up their views on the art theme. Ivo said 'unique to area'. Sylvia wants to see City of Tucson history to the future. Claire said she liked the images presented at an earlier meeting. Bill said he likes the compilation of ideas. Les spoke about the 'wow' factor and Tucson 'it's cool.' Sandra likes a desert like image for both day and night and suggested use of the ocotillo plant. Brett, who grew up in Pueblo Gardens, likes the idea of the diversity of the City, a melting pot.

Barbara thanked the CAC for its suggestions. Then, she asked to respond to an issue raised at a former Call to the Audience about lighting. She said that any lighting must abide by ordinances and she said she wants to assure people that there will be no intrusive lights. In her projects she uses only LEDs and she will strive to be environmentally sensitive.

9. Discuss future meeting dates.

By general agreement, the next meeting will be September 25, 2008 at the Patrick K. Hardesty Midtown Station (1100 S. Alvernon Way).

10. Call to the audience.

No one addressed the CAC.

11. Adjournment.

Ivo declared the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.