

GRANT ROAD COALITION

CENTRAL SEGMENTS

P. O. Box 41261

Tucson, AZ 85717

web-site: grantroadcoalition.com



Tucson Department of Transportation
David Burbank, Project Engineer
201 N. Stone, 4th floor
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

12 March 2017

Dear Mr. Burbank;

The Grant Road Coalition appreciates your meeting with us March 10, 2016. Per your request, at that meeting, we have documented the Coalition's vision, our concerns and our requests relative to the entire Project, and specifically to Phase 2 as construction begins.

MITIGATION We request that the Project facilitate meaningful mitigation for the residential areas. Walls and berms are permanent and immediate. The effects of landscape is time dependent and requires higher maintenance efforts. Catalina Vista pointed out that their Grant Road landscaping has been victim to cars and is regularly decimated. We ask that you consider the following:

Our request that the "amenities" planned in the basin from Hampton to Park be immediately dropped from the project and those funds be directed to berms/walls to create a visual barrier for all the residents whose properties will be exposed to the traffic on Grant Road.

Considerations:

- 1) The discussion concerning the amenities went before the Task Force, but did not include neighborhood input.
- 2) Amenities such as artificial shade and tables in this location will create a "destination" attractive to vagrants etc, and require additional maintenance and possible law enforcement.
- 3) At least one business has expressed concerned about any structures that encourage sleeping etc.
- 4) The pathways in the design encourage hiking and walk through—not a destination place
- 5) The design of any wall for visual mitigation can be undulating, interspersed, non-connecting, and combined with landscape and/or berms.
- 6) The Coalition will continue to explore funding sources for requested mitigation.

We also request that all other "trade offs" being considered by TDOT be communicated to the stakeholders and they be involved for their input.

HAMPTON CLOSURE The Coalition also requests you honor your agreement to at least the partial closure of Hampton Street, immediately south of the east entrance/exit of Sausage Deli. April 11, 2016 minutes of our meeting with B. Abramovitz, Councilperson Karin Uhlich and other City/RTA personnel confirm the Project's offer of a partial closure to Hampton St. at Project expense.

Notes:

- 1) Prior to 4-11-2016, a petition was completed, according to City of Tucson DOT procedures, requesting full closure of Hampton Street as stated above and submitted to TDOT.
- 2) Jefferson Park neighborhood had previously consulted with J. Soto, TDOT engineer, who verified

adequate space at the southwest corner of the Basin for a required “hammer-head” turn for emergency vehicles, allowing for a full closure of Hampton St.

3) Subsequent to the April 11 meeting, the Project Mgr. offered only partial closure of Hampton St. cost to be covered by Project's budget. A full closure is preferable.

BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY: The Coalition also requests the safety of bicyclists at the Park Ave. intersection with Grant Road be assured.

Considerations:

- 1) Park is an increasing popular bikeway for the UA.
- 2) The bike/pedestrian crossing design must be at least as safe as the design at Mountain.

MAINTENANCE OF REMNANTS: The Coalition requests a transition plan, including proper maintenance, of denuded property between Park Ave. and Santa Rita.

Considerations:

- 1) Residents whose property backs up to Grant Road between Park and Santa Rita will be highly stressed by open, cleared remnant properties
- 2) The time line may be as much as seven years before the construction for phase 5/6 begins.
- 3) Unsightly weeds and a view of garbage cans invites additional blight.
- 4) Jefferson Park neighborhood has a active Green/Clean committees and would welcome involvement in a reasonable plan for the transition period.

Per our meeting March 10, the Coalition confirms:

- **NOISE STUDY:** The post-construction noise study will occur at the expense of the Project
- **NO OVERLAY:** Per the City Council decision 9/13/2016 the current zoning will remain in place for the “Central Segments” First Ave to Tucson Blvd..
- **NO SALE OF REMNANT PARCELS** in the “Central Segments” from First Ave to Tucson Blvd

The Coalition pledges to work to our common aim of a model project that protects and preserved the quality of life of the residents of these central segments.

To that end we wish to facilitate an open communication process which maintains transparency and cooperation with requests for information and documents. The Coalition points out that the city's Grant Road web-site is a source for decisions already made, not for ongoing considerations. The coalition provides the following e-mail addresses to TDOT for ongoing information. These co-chairs which represent neighborhoods directly affected by Phase 2 will then communicate with stakeholders of seven active neighborhoods.

Joan Daniels co-chair, Jefferson Park jdchama@msn.com

Barbara Miller, co-chair, SAMOS bammillertucson@yahoo.com

Sarah Studd, Mtn/First, sarahstudd@gmail.com

William Nelson, El Cortez, wmn@cox.net

Again, we thank the department, appreciate the efforts that this request engenders, and look forward to working with you!

Joan Daniels, Co-chair

Grant Road Coalition, Central Segments

cc: Daryl Cole, TDOT

Karin Uhlich, Ward III

Michael Ortega, City Manager

Sarah Spencer, Project Manager

Coalition members/representatives