



**22<sup>ND</sup> STREET CORRIDOR**  
**Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) Meeting #5**  
**May 14, 2009 • 6:00 p.m. • Meeting Summary Draft**

The fifth meeting of the Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Corridor project took place from 6-8:00 pm at the Patrick K. Hardesty Midtown Center, 1100 S. Alvernon Way.

**COC members in attendance** were John Carlson, Vice Chair Brett DuMont, Claire Fellows, Brian Flagg, Pedro Gonzales, Jeanne Grant, Peggy Hutchison, Roy Schoonover, Chair Sandra Leal, Ernie Lujan, Ralph Lares, Lucy Valdez, Fred Sowerby, Chris Stebe and Kathy Sutherland.

**COC members absent** were Barbara Cariño and Rick Parlett.

**Project staff in attendance** was Janice Cuaron, Jay Van Echo, Justin Smith, Nanette Pageau, Priscilla Fernandez, Freda Johnson, Bob Vint, Felipe Ladron de Guevara and Ximena Zamora. Also present was Britton Dornquist (RTA MainStreet Business Assistance), and Abe Marques (Ward V Council Office).

**1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, and Confirm Quorum.**

Chair, Sandra Leal called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting, stated that a quorum was present and invited everyone present to introduce themselves.

Freda Johnson, moderator, announced that the next meeting would be June 11, 2009 and it will take place at the Santa Rosa Center.

**2. Review Ground Rules for Meetings, Meeting Summary and Agenda Order.**

Freda Johnson, moderator, reviewed the ground rules established at the first COC meeting by the members. The meeting summary from the April meeting was acknowledged without comment and the agenda order was approved by general agreement.

**3. Call to Audience.**

Chair, Sandra Leal invited those in the audience to address the COC.

Angie Quiroz, Santa Rita Park Neighborhood Association (SRPNA) President, addressed the committee with information about the intent of SRPNA to put together a plan as to what they would like for this project. They have enlisted experts from the City of Tucson such as civil engineers and planners and historic preservation experts. She acknowledged that she works for the City of Tucson. She said that they expect to bring a plan within the next two months. Vice Chair Brett DuMont suggested setting this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

No others addressed the COC.

#### **4. Review Role of the Chair and Vice Chair.**

Chair Sandra Leal announced this item was open for discussion. Kathy Sutherland said that she has reviewed materials given to members from the City's Boards and Commissions office and, specifically, she referred to sections about parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order. Pedro Gonzales said that Robert's Rules should be followed because the City has made decisions without the COC's input. Brian Flagg said that everybody uses Robert's Rules and he moved that the COC adopt Robert's Rules of Order and come to the next meeting having read the materials Kathy Sutherland referred to. Ernie Lujan seconded the motion.

Claire Fellows said that Freda Johnson runs meetings as a moderator by honoring Robert's Rules. Chair Sandra Leal said that fairness is important and that the COC should honor Robert's Rules. Jeanne Grant said that the COC Chair should run the meeting. Ralph Lares questioned Pedro Gonzales' remark about the City having made decisions without the COC's consent, and asked for an example of what has been approved by the City. He suggested that Pedro Gonzales' remark was unfounded. Pedro Gonzales said that he felt the City, without the Committee's consent, had selected an alignment. Staff responded that this was not the case.

Kathy Sutherland asked to make an amendment to the motion to the effect that the Chair Sandra Leal runs the meetings with advice from Freda Johnson. Ralph Lares seconded the motion to amend and the motion as amended passed unanimously. Peggy Hutchison said that she wished to comment about discussions in that people were to listen to each other without interruption and asked the COC to honor this ground rule.

#### **5. Project Schedule Update.**

Jay Van Echo provided information about the revised schedule for COC meetings through March 2010. A handout describing the objectives for each meeting was provided to COC members in their packets. Brett DuMont asked if an alignment could be carried out within existing right-of-way or would it be expanded. Jay Van Echo said that the roadway does not fit within existing right-of-way.

A question was asked about when an overpass at Santa Rita Park would be discussed. Jay Van Echo said it is scheduled for discussion June 11. Chris Stebe asked when land-use would be discussed. Jay said that the in-depth discussion would be in January-February 2010 but land-use issues would be discussed throughout the upcoming meetings. Chris Stebe asked that a presentation be made on land-use and the role it has in this project and process. Jay Van Echo said that this would be done and integrated into the process.

Brian Flagg said that from the point of view of people in Santa Rita Park, their position is that it shouldn't look like a freeway or act like a freeway. Pedro Gonzales said that there should be a lot of discussion about all the options for right-of-way. Jay Van Echo said that's the plan for future meetings in this

process. And, in fact, the Mayor and Council have already directed staff to not make it like a freeway.

Pedro Gonzales asked if requests from the audience at the last meeting had been met. Staff said that response had been made and copies of materials provided to Angie Quiroz, which included a list of City-owned property within the project area, the sign-in sheet from the May 7, 2009 meeting, and a copy of the Arizona Open Meeting Law document. Copies of these documents were also distributed to COC members.

## **6. Identify Opportunities and Limitations in Developing a Six-Lane Divided Roadway.**

Jay Van Echo referred to several boards identifying opportunities and limitations in the project area. This information had been gleaned from Phase I public outreach and subsequent interaction with Corridor residents and businesses. Ralph Lares said that it would be helpful to have copies of this information in the COC packets.

In response to the presentation of the limitations, John Carlson said that underground utilities could be a big issue as has been shown in the Grant Road/Craycroft Road intersection. Jay Van Echo agreed with this and said that planning for the future requires that utilities all be upgraded. Chair Sandra Leal asked for clarification about the RTA mandate. Jay Van Echo referred to the RTA brochure that lists all projects and read the description of work to be done along 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. Brian Flagg asked if the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street project could be moved to the end of the line so money would run out. Ralph Lares asked if a delay would mean it wouldn't happen. Ralph Lares commented to the COC members to ask themselves why they were a part of this project; to be with it or against it, and that no one should have their own agendas. Pedro Gonzales said that regarding Barrio Santa Rosa, the minimum should be done there with no families displaced. Jay said that all sections will be looked at in order to impact as few parcels as possible. Jay Van Echo also pointed out that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street project as approved by the voters of Pima County was scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> period time frames of the RTA Plan program (2012 thru 2021) for completion.

Kathy Sutherland asked for clarification about how funds would be spent for different sections of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and she said that the other eastern portion of the project (22<sup>nd</sup> Street, from Kino Parkway to Tucson Boulevard) is further along. Jay Van Echo said that draft estimates are available and can be brought to the COC. Brett DuMont added that rough cost estimates are based on past project experience. Overall, \$107 million is provided for the project. Janice Cuaron said that design work has not started on the east end, and because of the new railroad bridge, could be constructed last. Chris Stebe said he had asked the same question Kathy Sutherland asks a couple of meetings ago and the issue is that all components of the project should have funds allocated so that one part is not short changed. Kathy Sutherland said she is interested in the GSI part (the grade-separated intersection at Kino and 22<sup>nd</sup>) and she was directed to go to [RTAMobility.com](http://RTAMobility.com) for more information.

Roy Schoonover said that he sits on the RTA Bicycle/Pedestrian Working Group that has been monitoring RTA funds since January 2008. There is cause for concern but not panic. In fact, over forty bike/pedestrian projects have been approved for funding. Ernie Lujan asked that if the \$107 million is divided into three projects, would we just get the leftover amount. Jay Van Echo said no. Claire Fellows said that the Kino/22<sup>nd</sup> interchange project is funded mostly with Pima County Bond Funds and that there are only two projects or committees, not three. Pedro Gonzales said that numbers are just projections and no one really knows.

Ralph Lares asked about the situation at the Nogales railroad tracks, whether it is better to go over or under. Jay Van Echo said that the general public typically requests an underpass more often, but it is also the costliest. Jay Van Echo said he would bring projected costs for an under and overpass to the COC once they were available. Kathy Sutherland said that she wants to know which option (over vs. under) is best for the neighborhood and asked if there are studies about going over or under when GSI's are introduced to adjacent neighborhoods. She said she would like to see examples that illustrate the tradeoffs to the neighborhoods. Jay Van Echo said there would be a meeting on that topic and other case studies will be explored in response to her interest.

Cross sections for varying roadway widths were described and templates that matched the scale of a long aerial map of the Corridor area were distributed. The cross sections were as follows: a minimal width of 116 feet; the Grant Road cross section at 140 feet (with frontage roads it's 186 feet wide); and the City of Tucson Major Streets and Routes cross section of 120 feet (with a frontage road at 178 feet wide). COC members engaged in trying different cross sections along the various parts of the Corridor and made notes about issues and concerns they had about opportunities and limitations. Observers and guests were invited to participate in the exercise at a separate table with staff present to answer questions.

Discussion took place after the exercise. John Carlson said he thinks that there can be variations from one to another cross-section but not too much. Jay Van Echo said he agreed with this. Kathy Sutherland asked about any requirements for shade or other amenities such as bus stops. Jay Van Echo said that bus stops are set to be at the far side of intersections. Roy Schoonover asked if bike lanes would be next to pedestrian paths. Jay Van Echo said not yet, but that ideas would be developed for bikes that make bicyclists comfortable. Brian Flagg asked if bike lanes are mandated. Jay Van Echo said yes. Brian Flagg asked if there is room for creativity. Jay Van Echo said that the mandate is for commuter cyclists and bike lanes will be about 5-7 feet wide. Kathy Sutherland asked what the cross-section would be going under the railroad bridge. Jay Van Echo said that there is no minimum requirement, but it would be expected that the minimum cross section would be utilized to minimize costs. Kathy Sutherland asked that comments made at the observer's table be documented. Jay Van Echo said that observers were encouraged to write directly onto the margins of

the aerial map and the comments would be made available to the COC members.

Jay Van Echo summed up by saying that alignments would be brought back to the COC for further discussion. Comments made on the margins of aerials will be used to develop alignments.

### **7. Discuss Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates.**

Freda Johnson reminded the group that the next meeting is June 11, 2009, at the Santa Rosa Center. Pedro Gonzales said that there has been a huge impact he has lived through with urban renewal and that he wants an environmental justice assessment to be completed on this project, but not by the City of Tucson. He is concerned about vibration displacements, noise, smog, and dust pollution among other things. John Carlson said that these issues are mostly about construction. Chris Stebe asked that land-use be considered in tandem with alignments and that there be a land-use orientation at the next meeting. Also suggested as an agenda item was how best to present to the COC the plan being developed by the Santa Rita Park Neighborhood Association. Finally, it was proposed that an item be devoted to RTA funding.

Kathy Sutherland said that her facility is available for future meetings but not on the second Thursday of the month.

### **8. Call to Audience.**

Raul Ramirez said it would help to visualize City owned properties if they are identified on maps. He said State of Arizona properties should also be shown.

Angie Quiroz said that the City experts she referred to in the first Call to the Audience are retired and that an additional discipline represented by an expert is fire.

Sandra Silva, a property owner near 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, asked for information about who to talk to regarding impacts from required setbacks on her property. Abe Marques of Ward V told her he could meet with her.

John Burr, Armory Park, advised the COC not to take on the RTA because it's a done deal. He said to work to get the best amenities you can. He observed that the cross-sections for major intersections are much too large.

No others addressed the COC.

### **9. Adjourn.**

Claire Fellows moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and Chair Sandra Leal declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.