



## GRANT ROAD CORRIDOR PLANNING TASK FORCE

### Virtual Meeting – Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the GRANT ROAD CORRIDOR PLANNING TASK FORCE and to the general public that the GRANT ROAD CORRIDOR PLANNING TASK FORCE will hold the following meeting which will be open to the public.

#### Microsoft Teams Meeting

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For members of the public that wish to address the commission during **Call to the Audience**, we ask that you please email your request to Leticia Flores/Joan Landers at [information@grantroad.info](mailto:information@grantroad.info) or call 520-885-9009. The email should include your full name, mailing address, phone number, and the topic you would like to address. Also, please specify if you would like to be added to our email distribution list for future notifications and updates. **Please call or send your email no later than 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 15, 2021.**

## MEETING MINUTES

**\*Ana Marrufo from the City Clerk’s office led two Task Force members (Alice Roe and John Anderson) in a Loyalty Oath.\***

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call to Establish Quorum** – Joan Landers, meeting facilitator, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and quorum was established. Ms. Landers discussed virtual meeting guidelines/rules and mentioned that the meeting is being recorded.

Task Force Members Present			
Alice Roe	Andrew Jones	David Sunderman	Deirdre W. Brosnihan
James Hogan – 6:03pm	John Anderson	John Wakefield	Linda Marie Smalls – 5:59pm
Moon Joe Yee – 5:47pm	Roy A. Garcia Sr.	Shannon McBride-Olson	Susan Alexander

Team Members Present			
Bob Roggenthen – DTM	Sarah Spencer – DTM	Amanda Valenzuela – DTM	Alejandro Angel – Psomas
Randy Cheney – Psomas	Daniel Bursuck – PSDS	Rebecca Roupp – PSDS	Britton Dornquast – MainStreet
Jan Waukon – MainStreet	Rick Ellis – RTA	Suzanna Snyder – RTA	James Towe – RTA
Joan Landers – Kaneen	Leticia Flores – Kaneen		

- 2. Approval of March 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – Joan Landers asked the Task Force members if they had an opportunity to review the meeting minutes from the previous meeting on March 2, 2021. Task Force member Roy Garcia motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Task Force member Alice Roe seconded the motion. All Task Force members reached a Consensus Decision and approved the March 2, 2021 meeting minutes by roll call. 12-0. **\*The team members introduced themselves to the Task Force members.\***

- 3. Summary of Input from April/May 2021 Public/Virtual Meetings** – Alejandro Angel, Psomas Design Project Manager and Randy Cheney, Psomas Deputy Project Manager, shared a PowerPoint presentation and gave an update on the feedback/input that was provided by the community at the public meetings that were held for Phase 5 & 6 of the Grant Road Improvement project. Bob Roggenthen with the Department of Transportation & Mobility (DTM) mentioned that Phase 3 & 4 would be addressed at a future meeting.

Mr. Angel said there were a total of 94 attendees signed in for both In-Person Public Meetings (April 24 & April 27, 2021), 35 attendees for the Virtual Meeting (May 3, 2021), and 470 video views on the website. The community was able to provide their comments on the five topics that the Task Force had concerns about, through paper/electronic comment forms, emails, letters, and phone calls. The team received 27 paper comment forms and a total of 72 comments/questions through other means. The team presented a list of the results and responses to the Task Force members and was also posted on the homepage of the Grant Road Improvement project website (<http://www.grantroad.info/home>). The results indicated broad public support for Key design revisions proposed from the Design Concept Report (DCR). Most of the questions/concerns from the community were in regards to the dispensary, the noise level, cut through traffic (Loretta, Wilson, Norris), bike lane buffers, and left turn arrows at Tucson Boulevard. Mr. Angel said the team is taking all these questions/concerns into consideration and will address and incorporate the appropriate revisions.

Mr. Cheney discussed changes made in response to public input which included no left turn arrows at Grant Road and Mountain Avenue, space for neighborhood monument signs, a curb extension at Grant Road and Loretta Drive to reduce turning speeds, a new median opening at Grant Road and Sparkman Boulevard, and adding bike crosswalk/features at Grant Road and Warren Avenue pedestrian signal.

Mr. Angel discussed landscaping changes made in response to public input which included using tree wells to provide landscaping in constrained areas. He mentioned that the same amount of landscaping investment would be provided to Phase 5 & 6 as other phases of the project had received but the focus would be more on residential landscaping. Mr. Angel also mentioned adding median fencing to prevent unsafe pedestrian crossings at Doolen Middle School. The team was also able to make the median wider for pedestrian safety. Mr. Angel said the median would resemble the median pedestrian crossing at Tucson High School.

Mr. Angel discussed an alternative median opening design at Grant Road and Cherry Avenue and asked the Task Force for their opinion. He said a concern was raised that there is already a high traffic volume at Salpointe Catholic High School with the original design, and the question was asked if it would be feasible to switch the bike/pedestrian crossing to the Grant Road and Cherry Avenue intersection and move the vehicle access to Grant Road and Vine Avenue. Mr. Angel said that cannot be done because then the community would lose the pedestrian crossing at Vine Avenue. Mr. Angel said the alternative design would move the eastbound turn at mid-block between Cherry Avenue and Vine Avenue. Discussion was held.

**\*Task Force Member Jim Hogan** asked if on the original design coming north on Cherry Avenue to Grant Road if people are able to make a left turn onto Grant Road. Mr. Angel said no. Mr. Hogan said if the original design is used, then signage should be provided indicating no left turns. Mr. Angel agreed.

**\*Task Force Member Alice Roe** commented that the alternative design with the mid-block turn would create a safety issue with the younger drivers from the high school. Mr. Angel said there would also be the option of making the u-turn at the mid-block point and going all the way to Mountain Avenue to the light signal. He also thanked Ms. Roe for her comment.

**\*Task Force Member John Anderson** commented that he supported the alternative design, as the representative of the alternate modes of transportation, stating that it creates bicycle/pedestrian safety. Mr. Angel thanked Mr. Anderson.

**\*Task Force Member Jim Hogan** asked about eliminating left turns on Grant Road and Mountain Avenue or eliminating left turn arrows at the light. Mr. Angel said left turn arrows at the light.

**\*Task Force Member Andrew Jones** asked what would be in the median, landscaping or all concrete. Mr. Angel said in the alternative design there would be landscaping and anywhere there are wider medians, there would also be more room for landscaping.

**\*Task Force Member Shannon McBride-Olson** likes the alternative design, stating it looks like a cleaner design helping to keep more traffic off of Cherry Avenue. Mr. Angel thanked Ms. McBride-Olson.

**\*Task Force Member Roy Garcia** asked on the alternative design, how many cars would be able to queue up on the left u-turn area. Mr. Angel said the left u-turns are designed for 150', about seven cars. Mr. Garcia said the students might back up the lane creating a traffic issue. Mr. Angel said there is also the left turn on Mountain Avenue but would do more research on the left u-turn.

**\*Task Force Member Linda Marie Smalls** asked if the median stops had the capability of accommodating people in wheelchairs/walkers and have enough time to make it across the street. Mr. Angel said under both designs the pedestrian crossings stayed the same and in both cases the sidewalks, medians and the ramps are 8' wide and the timing for crossing does accommodate individuals with disabilities. Ms. Smalls also asked if the team has met with Salpointe Catholic High School to get their opinion/input. Mr. Angel said the school was invited to the public meetings to get their feedback. Mr. Angel mentioned that the team had received input/feedback from Doolen Middle School and the Boys and Girls Club but nothing from the high school. Ms. Smalls suggested reaching out the high school again as a courtesy. Meeting facilitator Joan Landers said the team would follow up with the high school.

**\*Task Force Member John Wakefield** agreed that a meeting with the high school to get their input/feedback is a good idea and courteous. Mr. Angel thanked Mr. Wakefield.

Mr. Angel asked the Task Force that once they met with the high school and if they were in agreeance with the alternative design, could the team move forward without having to present the input/feedback from the high school to the Task Force.

The Task Force members agreed, and a Consensus Decision was reached by all Task Force members to move forward with the alternative design only after contacting Salpointe Catholic High School and getting their feedback/input on the alternative design. 12-0

4. **Task Force Direction on Key Proposed Revisions from DCR** – Alejandro Angel, Psomas Design Project Manager talked about the five topics that were presented to the public for feedback that had significant changes to the original Design Concept Report (DCR) and requested input from the Task Force members. Discussion was held and items **a - e** were ranked together as a group rather than individually using the consensus decision making process. All twelve Task Force members in attendance reached a Consensus Decision to move forward with the proposed revisions. 12-0
  - a. Reduce acquisition – Residential/Business properties
  - b. Eliminate turn lanes on Mountain Ave.
  - c. Increase landscaping (residential)/Reduce plantings (around businesses)
  - d. Design change (Indirect Left Turn) – Country Club/Grant Rd. intersection
  - e. Adjust pedestrian/bike crossing (every ¼-mile)
  - f. Miscellaneous revisions **\*(discussed in item #3)**
5. **Call to the Audience (15 min.)** – This agenda item was moved up and addressed before agenda item #3. Two members of the public addressed the Task Force. Community members expressed their concerns and voiced their comments. No action was taken.
  - **Joan Daniels (Jefferson Park Association Board/Grant Road Coalition Chair)** – Ms. Daniels provided a written statement (which was distributed to the Task Force and team members prior to the meeting) on behalf of the neighbors in Jefferson Park and the coalition. Ms. Daniels discussed the Central Segments in Phase 5 & 6, Funding for a "Safety Wall", Greenspace, and addressed the traffic issues at Mountain Avenue.
  - **Janet Fisher (LEED AP/Catalina Vista resident/Grant Road Coalition)** – Ms. Fisher provided a written statement (which was distributed to the Task Force and team members prior to the meeting) in response to the comments gathered at the public meetings and is an overview of comments she wished to address. Ms. Fisher requested a comprehensive neighborhood mitigation plan and that a Residential Neighborhood Mitigation Committee be formed, consisting of city planners, project planners and residents for the purpose of performing studies and to establish a plan that will minimize the negative impacts of the proposed six lane commercial vehicle roadway.
  - **Bam Miller (Grant Road Coalition Co-Chair)** – Mr. Miller provided a statement regarding Potential Green Space for Phase 5 & 6 (via email that was distributed to the Task Force and team members prior to the meeting) **but did not speak at the meeting.**

*This is the time when any member of the public may address the Grant Road Corridor Task Force Members. Due to time constraints, the total time allocated for this is 15 minutes. Individuals are allowed three (3) minutes each. Due to Open Meeting Law, Task Force Members cannot discuss topics that are not on the agenda. Items brought up by the public may be considered as an agenda item for a future meeting.*

6. **Next Steps** – Bob Roggenthen with the Department of Transportation & Mobility (DTM) said they are looking to move forward with the 30% design to present at the next Task Force meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in August. Date to be determined through a Doodle Poll. In the August meeting, there will be a discussion for future meetings to be held on a quarterly basis. Task Force member Linda Small requested that the next meeting be conducted using the virtual Zoom platform rather than the virtual Microsoft Teams platform.
7. **Roundtable** – Each member of the Task Force had an opportunity to make a comment or pass. All members made a comment and thanked everyone for conducting the public meetings to gather feedback/input from the community.
  - \***Task Force Member Alice Roe** said she was really pleased with the in-person meetings that were held for the public and thanked the team for making it possible. Ms. Roe also expressed her concern regarding a local dispensary.
  - \***Task Force Member John Anderson** requested that the team share a link to the 30% design plans, once they are complete, in order to be able to share with neighborhood associations and the public.
  - \***Task Force Member Jim Hogan** apologized for being late to the meeting. Mr. Hogan also concurred with Alice Roe’s comments.
  - \***Task Force Member Deirdre Brosnihan** agreed with Alice Roe’s comments regarding the public meeting saying that it was very helpful getting the public’s feedback. Ms. Brosnihan also expressed the importance of utilizing the remnant parcels as pocket parks/green space opportunities in the business district and agreed to having a meeting to discuss Phase 3 & 4 updates.
  - \***Task Force Member John Wakefield** thanked the team for putting the meeting together.
  - \***Task Force Member Shannon McBride-Olson** agreed with Dierdre Brosnihan’s comments regarding the reduction of heat islands with the use of pocket parks/green spaces.
  - \***Task Force Member Roy Garcia Sr.** commended the neighborhoods on working together to get the remnant park at Grant Rd. and Park Ave. and said it was a nice addition to the area.
  - \***Task Force Member Moon Joe Yee** said this was a great meeting and gave the staff, consultants, neighbors, and committee members “Kudos” and thanked everyone.
  - \***Task Force Member Susan Alexander** agreed with the Task Force’s comments regarding the public meetings and thanked the team. Ms. Alexander said she appreciated the team presenting the feedback from the public.
  - \***Task Force Member David Sunderman** said he was glad everything went well with the public meetings and is pleased that the public’s feedback was taken into consideration.
8. **Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.