



Pursuant to ARS #38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the 2018 Parks + Connections Bond Oversight Commission and to the public that the **2018 Parks + Connections Bond Oversight Commission** will hold the following meeting, which will be open to the public.

**2018 Parks + Connections Bond Oversight Commission Hybrid Meeting**  
**Monday, January 29, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

**In-person: Parks & Recreation Mesquite Room - 900 S. Randolph Way, Tucson, AZ 85716**

**Or Virtual:**

To join the Parks + Connections BOC Virtual Zoom Meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, go to:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82836961895> Meeting ID: 828 3696 1895 Phone dial in: +1 669 900 6833

For members of the public that wish to address the commission during the **Call to the Audience**, we ask that you please email your request to Joan Landers at [info@tucsondelivers.info](mailto:info@tucsondelivers.info) or call 520-885-9009. The email should include your full name, mailing address, phone number, and the topic you wish 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. Monday, January 29, 2024.** Thank you.

**MEETING MINUTES (draft)**

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** – Commission Chair Dr. Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. Quorum was established with roll call, 7-4.

Present			Absent	
Willie Blake Ward 5	Nicole Fyffe City Manager	Kathy Kretschmer City Manager	John Anderson City Manager	Ryan Anderson Ward 3
Kendall Kroesen Ward 4	Jose Muñoz Mayor	Dr. Ron Spark Ward 6	Frank Flasch Ward 2	Krista Romero-Cardenas City Manager
Lisa Vega Ward 1				

- 2. Approval of October 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes** – Commission member Willie Blake motioned to approve the October 9, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Commission member Kathy Kretschmer seconded the motion. The minutes were passed by a roll call vote of 7-0.
- 3. Call to the Audience** – Commission Chair Dr. Spark said eight members of the community were currently present to address the commission and would allow them to speak.
  - **Jason Donalson**, stated he is not in favor of the proposed pedestrian lighting along 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> streets from Campbell Ave to Alvernon Way.
  - **Paul Gruberg**, stated he is not in favor of the proposed pedestrian lighting along 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> streets from Campbell Ave to Alvernon Way.
  - **Gayle Hartmann**, stated she is not in favor of the proposed pedestrian lighting along 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> streets from Campbell Ave to Alvernon Way.
  - **Jonathan Homan**, stated he is not in favor of the proposed pedestrian lighting along 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> streets from Campbell Ave to Alvernon Way.

- **Colby Henley (virtual participant)**, stated he is in favor of the proposed pedestrian lighting along 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> streets from Campbell Ave to Alvernon Way.
- **Eva Seid**, stated she is not in favor of the proposed pedestrian lighting along 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> streets from Campbell Ave to Alvernon Way.
- **Chris Tanz**, stated she is not in favor of the proposed pedestrian lighting along 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> streets from Campbell Ave to Alvernon Way.
- **Rui Wang (virtual participant)**, stated she is in favor of the proposed pedestrian lighting along 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> streets from Campbell Ave to Alvernon Way.

*This is the time when any member of the public may address the 2018 Parks + Connections Bond Oversight Commission. 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, Commission 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.*

**4. Program Update** – Program Manager Aaron Williams provided a program financial update through January 22, 2024. Discussion was held.

- a. Program Financial Update** –Program Manager Arron Williams provided a financial update through January 22, 2024. Mr. Williams stated that \$57,107,248 was issued from the first set of bonds from 2018-A (2020). Total expenditure in the previous fiscal years (FY 2019-2023) was \$34,167,483 and the current (FY2024) fiscal year’s expenditures, which began in July 2023 and runs through June of 2024 have been \$7,394,467 with an available cash balance of \$15,545,299. The current encumbrances (commitments to pay contracts and purchase orders) are at \$31,043,922. Mr. Williams mentions that the next rounds of bond issuance for the years 2024-2025 are estimated to be \$70,000,000, but they are still looking at market conditions and best dollar amount. They will be ready to go out for the next round in about 4-8 months. Commission member Dr. Spark confirms that it would be before the end of 2024 and Mr. Williams agrees. Since their previous meeting the program has spent \$6,217,421. The most ideal timing for the bond issuance for 2024-2025 would be right before the available cash balance is gone, to assure that it is being spent. Dr. Spark proceeds to ask for a reminder for the commission on why that is important. Mr. Williams stated that they had only spent \$41,561,950, which is only 72.78% of the original bond issuance (\$57,107,248). The best outcome of bond issuance is that one spends at least 85% of the bond within the first three years. Due to the pandemic, projects were delayed, which caused spending and finances to fall behind. Mr. Williams believes they are on schedule with the current spend trajectory. The floor is open to any question and commission member Willie Blake asks if we are on track with the spending. Mr. Williams clarifies that they are still a little behind but there is not much they can do to catch up other than try to spend the rest of the bond proceeds.

Commission member Dr. Spark asked for approval of the financial overview. Commission member Kathy Kretschmer motioned to approve the recommended financial overview as presented. Commission member Willie Blake seconded the motion. The financial overview was passed unanimously 7-0.

**5. Project Updates**

- a. Parks** – Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation, Greg Jackson provided updates on Parks projects throughout the city. Discussion was held. No action was taken.
- b. Connections** – Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility (DTM) Planning Project Managers, Ryan Fagan and Collin Chesston, provided updates on Connections projects and talked about current projects and community outreach and engagement efforts.

Mr. Fagan began updating the commission on the status of all bike boulevard projects in progress.

-**El Paso & Southwestern Greenway** is in three sections. Mr. Fagan pointed out the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave to Kino Pkwy section is in 30% design, the St. Mary's Rd to Cushing St section is starting design soon, and the South Tucson section is currently pursuing RTA funding.

-**Camino Miramonte – Palo Verde Bike Boulevard** is currently in an alternatives alignment study that will be presented to the surrounding neighborhoods and general public in mid-March. Specific dates to be determined.

-**Mary's Pedestrian Safety and Walkability project** is waiting for a revised scope and fee.

-**Alamo Wash Greenway** is being designed with a mindfulness of federal funding towards construction costs. Dr. Spark asked why this is the case. Mr. Fagan explained it is the most expensive 407 project, a larger project, and they are looking to use American Rescue Plan Act funding which requires them to go through the RFQ process.

-**The 12<sup>th</sup> Ave Pedestrian Safety and Walkability project** is slow moving and needs an updated cost estimate.

-**The 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, 18<sup>th</sup> St, and S. Campbell Bike Boulevards** are in 90% design.

-**The 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Protected Bike Lane project** is going through a revised design scoping.

-**Mary Ann Cleveland Way Shared Use Path** is awaiting ADOT approval on final details before construction can begin.

-**Andrew St Bike Boulevard** is waiting on a consultant for a change order on the project. Mr. Fagan expects 90% design plans to begin next month.

-**The 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> St Pedestrian Safety and Walkability project** will have 90% design plans beginning in the next 2 months. Mr. Fagan commented that they will be discussing this action item later in the meeting.

-**Roger Rd Pedestrian Safety and Walkability project** is expecting sealed plans in the next month, with bids to go out in the summer. Real estate work is still ongoing.

-**Blacklidge Bike Boulevard** is expecting final design (sealed) plans in February, but real estate work is ongoing. Mr. Fagan mentioned they would be notified by spring if they received Federal funding for the project. Dr. Spark asked Mr. Fagan to clarify what sealed documents or plans mean. Mr. Fagan explained it means they are the final documents intended for construction with the engineer's seal. Dr. Spark opened it up to questions from the commission. A Commission member asked about when the St. Mary's pedestrian safety and walkability project will go into design. Mr. Chesston responded that this should happen next month after finalizing the scope and fee with the consultant and they are starting to plan the public engagement. Willie Blake agreed the project needs public input.

Mr. Chesston asked Dr. Spark and the commission to discuss how they prefer to receive updates on Connections projects and what is most helpful for them. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

## 6. Project Change Requests

- a. **Overview of Project Change Guidelines** – Program Manager Aaron Williams provided information on project change guidelines. He reminded the commission, in regard to the action item today, that connections and greenways projects were identified to improve safety, enhance accessibility, and to advance the goal of a low-stress regional pedestrian and bicycle network. Mr. Williams goes on to remind the commission of the requirements by which a proposed change must meet to be considered.
- b. **Connections** – Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility Planning Project Manager Ryan Fagan provided information on street lighting along the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Pedestrian Safety and Walkability project corridor.
  - i. **Alignment Change** – Request for decision on street lighting related to the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Pedestrian Safety and Walkability project related to street lighting. Staff will provide an overview of the initial review and public outreach actions. Staff will present a recommendation for the Commission to consider while determining a final decision on the proposed change. Mr. Fagan gave an overview of the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> St pedestrian safety and walkability project background.

The original scope from the project fact sheet:

*Street improvements to provide complete and connected sidewalks on both sides of the road, enhanced street crossings, street lighting, and landscaping for shade.*

Mr. Fagan continues by explaining the existing lighting on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> St from Campbell Ave to Alvernon Wy. and each section of the project's proposed lighting improvements. The proposed lighting on 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Campbell Ave to Tucson Blvd consists of 30-foot lighting on both north and south sides of the street. This section will use existing underground conduit for electrical. The proposed lighting on 5th Street from Country Club Rd to Alvernon Wy consists of 34-foot 3-inch lighting on the south side of the street. This section will require new conduits for electrical. Mr. Fagan continues by explaining why they're proposing street lighting for the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> St pedestrian safety and walkability project, and the historic safety data for the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> St project corridor. Over a five-year period from 2018 to 2022, FHWA reported 161 crashes along these sections of the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> street project corridor. PAG currently rates the level of safety as poor for the roadway and fair for the intersections. Mr. Fagan explains street lighting was chosen over pedestrian lighting due to the lower cost and higher safety benefit, and there is a lack of data to show reduction in crashes via pedestrian lighting. Mr. Fagan explained the details of the public engagement process for the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> St project. Two public open houses were held in spring of 2023 at Himmel Park and Alvernon Park to present 15% design concept plans. A booth was also stationed at the Cyclovia Tucson event. Two additional public open houses were held in fall of 2023 to present 60% design plans and ask specific questions about the project lighting. Support for lighting ranged from 73% to 85%, depending on the project segment. Opposition to lighting ranged from 9% to 16%. Mr. Fagan continued to explain that all open-ended comments received were overall mixed but largely in favor of street lighting. Mr. Chesston wraps up the presentation by stating that when concerns for the project were brought to attention, outreach plans were made in conjunction with Ward 6. The concerns are recognized, but safety is also recognized as a core value of DTM.

**The recommendation is to approve the proposed lighting improvements related to the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Pedestrian Safety and Walkability project as currently designed, and as originally described in the project documentation.** Dr. Spark commented how impressive the documents and presentation are and the hours put into interacting with the public for project feedback.

Commission member Willie Blake commented it's important to stay connected to the community and to continue to be transparent with the public in future projects. Mr. Blake motioned to approve the recommended street lighting related to the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Pedestrian Safety and Walkability project. Commission member Kathy Kretschmer seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a roll call vote of 7-0.

## **7. Next Steps**

- a. Next Meeting and Future Meeting Schedule (Tentative)** – Commission Chair Dr. Ron Spark pointed out the next tentative meeting dates.
  - i. 4.29.24 / 7.15.24 / 10.21.24**
- b. Future Agenda Items** – Staff reports as it relates to updates and reports for the connection project.
- c. Commissioner & Staff Announcements** – Commission Chair Dr. Ron Spark and Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility Planning Project Manager, Ryan Fagan stated they have been in contact with Pima County about adding additional bicycle signage in areas where the Loop transitions to a City of Tucson bikeway/bike boulevard. Ryan stated he has not heard back from Pima County and will reach out again.

**8. Adjournment** – Commission Chair Dr. Ron Spark adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

***Due to Open Meeting Law, only those items on the agenda will be addressed at this meeting. Action may be taken on any item. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Leticia at 520-885-9009 or [Leticia@kaneenpr.com](mailto:Leticia@kaneenpr.com). Please allow ample time to make these arrangements.***