



**2018 Parks + Connections Bond Oversight Commission Hybrid Meeting**  
**Monday, October 20, 2025, 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- Microsoft Teams Meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, Click On:  
[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 260 005 776 775 3 Passcode: mk7Pc9jx  
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**MINUTES**

Present			Absent	
Ron Spark Ward 6	Krista Romero-Cardenas City Manager	Jose Munoz Mayor	John Anderson City Manager	Nicole Fyffe City Manger
Ryan Anderson City Manager	Harold Coleman Ward 2		Lisa Vega Ward 1	
Kendall Kroesen Ward 4	Willie Blake Ward 5		Kathy Kretschmer City Manager	

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.  
 Commissioners- John Anderson, Katherine Kretschmer, Nicole Fyffe and Lisa Vega were absent.

**2. Call to Audience**

Beverly Tidwell addressed the commission with concerns regarding a bike path initiative and its potential impact on Loma Verde Park, particularly related to green space conservation.

Luis Mena provided the commission with feedback on the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway project specifically the segment from St. Mary’s to University. The comments highlight concerns about congestion in that neighborhood.

**3. Approval of July 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Willie Blake motioned, seconded by Commissioner Harold Coleman to approve the July 21, 2025, meeting minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a voice vote, 7-0.

**4. Project Change Request- El Paso & Southwestern Greenway (St. Mary’s to University segment)**

Project Manager Collin Chesston delivered a project update on the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway and presented a proposed change request for the program. The project includes an off-street asphalt path for cyclists and pedestrians, alongside landscaping improvements, lighting and bench installations. Various components of the project are at different stages of design and development. It was noted that there is a funding shortfall on the project, primarily due to construction costs increasing between the time the initial estimate was prepared and the anticipated bid date.

The project change request impacts the segment to University Boulevard at Main Avenue. It was noted that master-planned rail spur route is no longer feasible due to Union Pacific’s refusal to allow

for a new rail crossing. In recognition of the railroad's substantial limitations, staff engaged the engineering consultant to prepare and conduct an analysis of three design alternatives not involving a new railroad crossing. Option one includes 10' asphalt off-street shared-use path on Main Avenue. Option two includes two-way protected bike lanes on Main Avenue, and option three includes a Bicycle Boulevard on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The design concepts were presented at recent public meetings, and feedback showed that the public favored option three with a Bike Boulevard on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff proposed establishing a Bicycle Boulevard connection from St. Mary's Road to University via Davis Street, include a new crossing at Main Avenue, and continue along 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Castro connecting to 3<sup>rd</sup> and University. The revised route provides cost savings while preserving a level of connectivity and safety comparable to that outlined in the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway Master Plan.

Commissioner Willie Blake moved to approve the staff recommendation for the project change request for the realignment of the Bike Boulevard connection as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kendall Kroesen. Commissioner Harold Coleman abstained from the vote. The motion was approved by a vote of six, with one abstention.

#### **5. Project Change Requests- Eastside Bicycle Boulevards**

- a. Stella Road Bike Blvd
- b. Kevin Dr-Portia Ave Bike Blvd
- c. Pima Bike Blvd
- d. Carondelet Dr/5<sup>th</sup> Bicycle Blvd

Project Manager Lee Miller provided a summary of the Eastside Bicycle Boulevard project and multiple change requests within the project package. The package includes eight projects with approximately 20 miles of network including residential streets east of the Pantano Wash.

Staff proposed two change requests for the Stella Road Bike Boulevard program. The first requested change shifts the route from Stella Road to Hawk Drive. Realigning via Gray Hawk Drive provides a more direct and improved route for westbound to northbound travel and includes a more comfortable street environment. There were multiple public engagements sessions conducted for the initiative to solicit feedback from the community. The input received was generally neutral, with no specific concerns or suggestions identified. The second requested change is relocating the crossing at Irene Street and Stella Road to Sellarole Road. The proposed change provides direct connection to the Loop, south and Harrison Greenway. The community responded favorably to the change request.

In addition, Lee Miller brought forward a modification request for the segment between Kevin Drive and Portia Avenue. The proposed adjustment redirects the route from Portia Avenue and Kevin Drive to a new alignment along Black Moon Drive to Golf Links Road, creating a direct connection to the Miller-Golf Links Library for neighborhoods both north and south of the area. The change also includes relocating the hawk on Portia Avenue to a location in front of the library. This connection was originally explored in response to a phase-one comment requesting improved access to the library. While the revision shortens the overall route by 500 feet, the revision could fall outside the project budget due to higher costs than the original alignment. Staff's intent is to explore the feasibility of implementing this revision with the expectation that the project will remain within the current budget.

Staff also proposed a change request to the Pima Bike Boulevard, redirecting the alignment through an undeveloped section of Udall Park instead of the originally bond-approved route along Pima Street and Sabino Canyon Road. The initial route was determined to be infeasible due to challenging topography, proximity to the city property boundary, and conflicts with a large Tucson Water facility. The preferred alternative shifts the path north of the originally proposed alignment making use of existing paths and coordinating closely with Parks and Recreation as they develop the Udall Park

expansion. Although there were some constituent concerns raised regarding impacts on undisturbed areas and potentially increased traffic, there was substantial support for the proposal. Staff additionally introduced a request to modify the route at the eastern segment of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bicycle Boulevard to Tonner Circle in place of Lorian Street. Tonner Circle avoids a dip crossing located on Lorian Street and utilizes existing traffic calming elements. The new alignment is also a slightly shorter route, reducing costs. The program update received favorable feedback from the public.

The commission discussed whether to vote on proposed changes individually or as a package. The Commission agreed to proceed with a package vote contingent upon staff returning with cost-related updates impacting projects.

Commissioner Kendall Kroesen moved to approve the recommended change requests for the Eastside Bicycle Boulevard project. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Krista Romero-Cardenas. The motion was carried by a voice vote of 7-0.

## **6. Playground Improvements**

Administrator Jasmine Chan shared updates on playground projects reporting that the Jesse Owens Park playground replacement began construction on October 13, 2025. The playground replacement in Todd M. Harris Sports Complex is in design, currently. The Freedom Park playground replacement will begin design at the beginning of year 2026. Additionally, there are playground projects at Doris J. Thompson Park and Mission Manor Park that were originally classified as receiving a new playground. After reassessment, staff are proposing to adjust the project scope to replace the playground at Doris Thompson Park rather than build a new one. The department received an opportunity to work with playground manufacturer, Burke, who has previously completed work at Ft. Lowell Park and is offering services for Doris J. Thomson Park at a reduced cost. Mission Manor has two playgrounds for youth ages 5-12 years old, with one area featuring only a single climber. Considering the park's size and existing amenities, staff recommended replacing this area with a new playground for ages 2-4-year-olds rather than create an additional play area.

Commissioner Willie Blake moved to approve reclassifying the playground projects at Doris Thompson Park and Mission Manor Park in accordance with staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kendall Kroesen. The motion was carried by a voice vote of 7-0.

## **7. Bike Boulevard Map Update**

Chair Ron Spark inquired about the availability of on-line maps for bike boulevards. Commissioner Kendall Kroesen confirmed that Pima County provides maps accessible online.

## **8. Program Update: Finance Detail and Timeline**

Executive Management Advisor Aaron Williams provided a financial overview of the bond program through October 15, 2025. The program is in the second bond series with approximately 50% of resources spent, consistent with projections. It is anticipated that the current cash balance will remain sufficient throughout the current fiscal year. The next bond offering, projected for August-September 2026 will be used to settle existing encumbrances overages and fund remaining initiatives.

## **9. Next Steps**

### **a. Next Meeting and Future Meeting Schedule**

- i. 1/12/26, 7/20/26, 10/19/25

It was noted to add a meeting for 4/20/26 to the calendar.

- ii. Chair Ron Spark proposed a February or March special meeting to address the Alamo Wash Greenway project and discuss any program developments.

**10. Commissioner and Staff Announcements**

Commissioner Willie Blake shared details about a festival at the Willie Blake Community Park on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Ryan Anderson announced his resignation from the commission. Ryan Anderson also expressed his gratitude to the committee and staff for their support and service.

Chair Ron Spark shared a story about a book his family created for him, titled *Dear Bud: Letters from WWII from a Father to His Son*. The book contains a collection of short stories written by his father. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.

Project Manager Collin Chesston provided information about upcoming public meetings related to the Alamo Wash Greenway project. The meetings take place on October 21, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Claire Weeks Terra Del Sol Park and Fort Lowell Park on October 22, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**11. Adjournment- 7:31 p.m.**

Vice Chair Krista Romero-Cardenas motioned to adjourn the meeting, duly seconded by Commissioner Kendall Kroesen. All committee members were in favor of the motion.

-LAST ITEM-