



## 2018 Parks + Connections Bond Oversight Commission 2025 Annual Report

### January 13, 2025- Hybrid Meeting

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**- Chair Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Quorum was established with roll call, 10-1. Commissioner, Lisa Vega, joined the meeting at 5:52 p.m. Commissioner John Anderson was absent.
2. **Call to the Audience** –Dan Linhart addressed the committee regarding the Jacobs Park projects and sought clarification on how the remaining projects compare to the original resolution adopted by Mayor and Council.
3. **Approval of November 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes**- Vice Chair, Krista Romero-Cardenas brought forward a typo error in the second paragraph on page 2 of the November 4, 2024, meeting minutes. The statement, “The larger projects in Phase 3 will begin early.” was revised to read, “The larger projects in Phase 3 will begin early in 2025.” Commissioner Kroesen motioned, seconded by Vice Chair Romero-Cardenas to approve the November 4, 2024, meeting minutes with amendment. Motion passed by a voice vote of 10-1.
4. **6<sup>th</sup> Ave Protected Bike Lane Project: Speed Study, Speed Humps, Speed Tables**- Transportation and Mobility Senior Project Manager Collin Chesston provided an update on the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Protected Bike Lane project. Transportation and Mobility is under contract with the designer, and staff will have a 30% design by the end of February 2025. In addition to the project update, the agenda item was at the request of the commission to conduct a speed study to seek additional speed reduction strategies. Traffic Engineering conducted an assessment using Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) USLIMITS2 and supported reducing the speed limit from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles an hour. The next step in the process is Mayor and Council review. The old speed tables on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave will be replaced with newly designed ones, specifically intended for collector roadways. Transportation and Mobility are also exploring opportunities for additional speed tables for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave corridor.
5. **Jacobs Park Update**- Parks and Recreation Administrator Jasmine Chan provided an update on the Jacobs Park project. The project design phase has been completed, and staff will proceed with securing construction services.
6. **Fort Lowell Park: Historical Preservation Expenditure Update**- Administrator Jasmine Chan provided a PowerPoint presentation on the historical preservation project in Ft. Lowell Park. The project involves renovations of the Commissary Apartments and Donaldson House. The project also includes repairs to the interior of the Fort Lowell Museum, and adobe façade. The rehabilitation project for the Commissary Apartments and Donaldson House will facilitate a combination of commercial, event space and/or office use within these facilities. The project is in permitting status through Pima County. The timeline for construction will begin in Spring 2025 through Spring 2026.
7. **Program Update: Financial Detail and Timeline**- Business Services Deputy Director Aaron Williams presented a financial overview of the bond program as of January 9, 2025. The second issuance of the bond program began in December 2024. The program has utilized 21% of its allocated funds. The first series of bonds has been expended.
8. **Alamo Wash**- Senior Project Manager Collin Chesston provided information on the Alamo Wash Greenway program. The project is negotiations with a firm. It was noted that the costs exceeded the initial cost estimates due to the increase in construction costs. Staff plan to investigate federal funding opportunities for supplement funding.
9. **Bike Boulevard Loop Map**- Collin Chesston provided an update on the bike boulevard loop maps. Transportation and Mobility is working alongside the Geographic Information System (GIS) team to create a map incorporating bike boulevards.

10. **Loop Bike Boulevard: Signage Update-** Collin Chesston gave an update on the signage installation for the bike boulevards. The City of Tucson is in collaboration with Pima County for the sign program. A new sign design is the standard protocol for all bike boulevards.
11. **Next Meeting and Future Meeting Schedule--**April 21, 2025
12. **Future Agenda Items-** Items were discussed.
13. **Commissioner and Staff Announcements-** Commission Chair Ron Spark noted the absence of informational signage at city facilities that offers background information on recognized individuals. Senior Project Manager Collin Chesston invited the board to attend various public meetings for the Miramonte Boulevard project.
14. **Adjournment-** A motion was made by Vice Chair, Krista Romero-Cardenas, duly seconded, by Commissioner Kendall Kroesen to adjourn the meeting. All committee members were in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

### April 21, 2025-Hybrid Meeting

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call-** Commission Chair Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Quorum was established with roll call, 10-0. Commissioner Lisa Vega joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.
2. **Call to the Audience-** Jim Sims addressed the committee regarding the funding allocation for the irrigation improvement project at the Randolph North Golf Course and renovation projects at the David Bell multiuse path.
3. **Approval of January 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes-** Commissioner Willie Blake motioned, seconded by Commissioner Kendall Kroesen to approve the January 13, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 10-0.
4. **2024 Annual Report-** The 2024 Annual Report was included in the meeting materials distributed in advance of the meeting. Commissioner John Anderson motioned, duly seconded by Commissioner Willie Blake, to approve the 2024 Annual Report. The motion was approved unanimously, 10-0.
5. **2024 Attendance Report-** The 2024 Attendance Report was included in the materials circulated prior to the meeting. Commissioner Kendall Kroesen motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lisa Vega, to approve the 2024 Annual Report. All committee members supported the motion, 10-0.
6. **Jacobs Park Update-** The agenda item was at the request of Vice Chair Krista Romero-Cardenas to review the Jacob's Park Master Plan and compare it to the elements in the first construction phase with attention to shade structures, tree planting and irrigation. Parks and Recreation Administrator Jasmin Chan provided clarification on which elements from the master plan that are not included in the first phase of projects.
7. **Midtown Bicycle Boulevards Package Route Changes-** Project Manager Faffs Riederer presented change requests related to the Kenyon/Eastland Bicycle Boulevards. It was recommended to shift the voter approved route on Paseo Dorado and Columbus Boulevard to South Bryant Avenue. In addition, a second recommendation proposed adjusting the voter-approved route Kenyon/Eastland and 19<sup>th</sup> Street to the existing Timrod Bicycle Boulevard between South Venice Avenue and Craycroft Road, eliminating two proposed bike hawks and preserving two existing crossings. Commissioner John Anderson motioned, seconded by Commissioner Willie Blake, to approve the proposed change requests for the Kenyon/Eastland bicycle route. The motion passed unanimously, with all committee members in favor, 10-0.  
Project Manager Faffs Riederer also shared project change recommendations to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street/Calle Marte/29<sup>th</sup> Street Bicycle Boulevard. Staff recommended shifting the route at Kolb Road to one block north to Calle Ileo. Staff shared an additional change request, recommending Calle Marques, South Prudence Road and East Palma Street in place of 29<sup>th</sup> Street and South Avenue Guillermo. Commissioner Lisa Vega motioned, seconded by Commissioner John Anderson, to approve the proposed change requests for the Calle Marte/33<sup>rd</sup> Street/29<sup>th</sup> Street bicycle route. The committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion passed, 10-0.

8. **El Paso & Southwestern Greenway (St. Mary's to University Route)**- Project Manager Faffs Riederer provided recent developments on the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway project. The proposed path connects the University Boulevard at Main Avenue to the Kino Sports Complex. There are constraints associated with crossing the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. To address this, the project team has commissioned an alternative analysis and planning-level cost estimate of three possible routes: 1. An asphalt side path along the west side of Main Avenue. 2. A two-way cycle track on Main Avenue. 3. A 5<sup>th</sup> Street bicycle boulevard. These options are being considered and discussed with Ward 1 City Council Office.
9. **Camino Miramonte- Palo Verde Bicycle Boulevard**- Project Manager Collin Chesston introduced a project change request for the Camino Miramonte-Palo Verde Bicycle Boulevard project, proposing a small change in the alignment to instead of using Howard Boulevard between Bellevue Street and Speedway Boulevard, it is recommended to shift the route to one block east, using Jones Boulevard. **Vice Chair Krista Romero-Cardenas moved to approve the second proposed change request for the Camino Miramonte-Palo Verde Bicycle Boulevard. Commissioner Lisa Vega seconded the motion. The committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 10-0.**
10. **Program Update: Financial Detail and Timeline**- Business Services Deputy Director Aaron Williams provided a financial summary through April 11, 2025. A second issuance has been issued. The expenditure rates have increased. The city is approaching the end of fiscal year 2025. Due to budget constraints and economic uncertainties, the next bond issuance is now anticipated to be in fiscal year 2027, a shift from the previously planned fiscal year 2026. The city has allocated resources from the general fund reserves to maintain operations throughout this period. To honor voter-approved initiatives, the city plans to implement cost-saving measures across projects and explore additional funding sources to fulfill these commitments. **Commissioner Willie Blake motioned, seconded by Commissioner John Anderson, to accept the financial report. The committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion passed, 10-0.**
11. **Next Meeting and Future Meeting Schedule**-
  - July 21, 2025
  - October 20, 2025
  - January 19, 2026 (MLK Holiday)Alternative date suggestions: Monday, January 12 & 26 and Tuesday, January 20  
It was consensus of the board to tentatively schedule the January 2026 meeting for January 12, 2026.
12. **Future Agenda Items**- Items were discussed.
13. **Commissioner and Staff Announcements**- Chairman Ron Spark acknowledged that he sent a letter expressing gratitude to Frank Flasch for his dedicated service on the committee. Chair Spark recognized the Ward 1 newsletter honoring Commissioner Lisa Vega.
14. **Adjournment**- Chair Ron Spark adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

### July 21, 2025- Hybrid Meeting

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**- Commission Chair Dr. Ron Spark called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Quorum was established with roll call, 8-0. Commissioner Harold Coleman joined the meeting at 5:34 p.m. Commissioners, Ryan Anderson and Lisa Vega were absent.
2. **Call to Audience**- Jim Sims and John Hass addressed the committee regarding the funding allocation for the irrigation improvement project at the Randolph North Golf Course. Samien Clinco spoke to the committee regarding the bathhouse facility at Santa Rita Park, expressing opposition to its removal considering its significance.
3. **Approval of April 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes**- Commissioner Willie Blake motioned, seconded by Commissioner Katherine Kretschmer to approve the April 21, 2025, meeting minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 8-0.

4. **Project Change Request: Dell Ulrich and David Bell Bike Path-** Deputy Director Greg Jackson provided a PowerPoint with background on the processes to modify bond funded projects, as well as proposed changes for the Dell Ulrich Golf Course and David Bell Path project. Staff recommended allocating the Dell Ulrich funding to support golf course adjustments and improvements. These include creating a pocket park near the water treatment plant, shifting the path alignment to the north and installing additional vegetation and water harvesting features. To add, the realignment of the path will necessitate several modifications to the course layout. **Commissioner Kendall Kroesen moved to approve the suggested project changes and to reallocate irrigation funding for Dell Ulrich to the David Bell Path improvement project. Commissioner Willie Blake seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 8-0.**
5. **Update on Loop to Bikeway's Signage-** Transportation Project Manager Collin Chesston gave a brief update on the bike boulevard sign program. The sign installations have been completed through a collaborative effort with Pima County.
6. **Santa Rita Park Bathhouse Demolition-** Parks and Recreation Administrator Jasmine Chan delivered an extensive overview of the Santa Rita Park project including the planned demolition of the bathhouse, followed by additional insights from Desiree Miranda, Historic Preservation Officer. The project scope encompasses restrooms, playground, splash pad, plaza area, tree and shrub installation, walking path with decomposed granite and asphalt, and parking lot. It was noted that the Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation requested a pause on demolition of the bathhouse pending review. A historic review was completed and findings indicated that the bathhouse and pool are ineligible for National Register of Historic Places due to lack of unique features or historical significance.
7. **El Paso and Southwestern Greenway (6<sup>th</sup> Ave to Kino Parkway segment)-** Project Manger Dustin Ahlrich provided an update on the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway project including the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave to Kino Parkway segment. Designs are 90% completed, and construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2026. It was noted that the project crosses a railroad and enters South Tucson's right-of-way. Although the City of Tucson is designing this portion, construction will not proceed there immediately due to South Tucson City Council's decision to delay, citing insufficient public outreach, resulting in a gap in the greenway.
8. **Project Change Request: Kenyon Bike Boulevard #2-** Project Manager Collin Chesston submitted a second project change request concerning the Kenyon Bike Boulevard project, proposing a revised route that shifts from Kenyon Drive (between Kolb Road and Prudence Road) northward to Calle Arturo. **Commissioner Nicole Fyffe motioned to approve the project change request for the Kenyon Bike Boulevard project. Commissioner Kathy Kretschmer seconded the motion. The motion was supported unanimously by the committee and passed with a vote of 8-0.**
9. **Project Change Request: Drexel Road Shared Use Path-** Collin Chesston provided an update on the Drexel Road Shared Use Path project, joined by Brent Kirkman, HDR Engineering. Due to utility and right-of-way challenges on the original proposed south side alignment, a revised alignment primarily on the north side of Drexel Road between 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Country Club Road was recommended. Staff requested provisional approval to allow design flexibility, permitting the path to be built on the north, south, or both sides of the road, depending on feasibility during design. Staff committed to returning to the Commission for final approval once design is further developed. **Commissioner Willie Blake moved to provisionally approve the design process, granting flexibility in the alignment of the Drexel Road shared use path project with an understanding that staff will return to the Commission with a final design. Commissioner John Anderson seconded the motion. The committee members were in favor of the motion by vote. The motion passed, 8-0.**
10. **Program Update: Financial Detail and Timeline-** Executive Management Advisor Aaron Williams provided a financial summary through July 15, 2025. The cash balance is anticipated to fund costs through mid-2026. The next bond issuance anticipated August-September 2026 to cover current encumbrance overage and fund remaining projects.
11. **Next Meeting and Future Meeting Schedule**

- October 20, 2025, January 19, 2026  
In observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on January 21, 2025, the meeting has been scheduled for January 19, 2026.

12. **Future Agenda Items-** Items were discussed.
13. **Commissioner and Staff Announcements-** The commission announced upcoming events.
14. **Adjournment-** 7:15 p.m. **Commissioner Willie Blake motioned to adjourn, duly seconded by Commissioner Kendall Kroesen. All committee members were in favor of the motion.**

### **October 20, 2025- Hybrid Meeting**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call-** Commission Chair Spark called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Quorum was established with roll call, 9-0. Commissioners John Anderson, Katherine Kretschmer, Nicole Fyffe and Lisa Vega were absent.
2. **Call to the Audience-** Chairperson Ron Spark opened the Call to the Audience. Comments were made by Beverly Tidwell regarding a bike path initiative and Loma Verde Park. Luis Mena shared comments regarding the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway project.
3. **Approval of July 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes-** Commissioner Willie Blake motioned, duly seconded by Commissioner Harold Coleman to approve the July 21, 2025, meeting minutes. All committee members were in favor of the motion in a voice vote, 7-0.
4. **Project Change Request: El Paso and Southwestern Greenway (St. Mary's Road to University Boulevard 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 with landscaping, lighting, and benches. Different elements are at varying design stages, and a funding shortfall exists due to rising construction costs from the initial estimate. Staff proposed a Bicycle Boulevard connection from St. Mary's Road to University via Davis Street, adding 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. **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 approved with 6-1 vote.**
5. **Project Change Request: Eastside Bicycle Boulevards-** Project Manager Lee Miller provided a summary of the Eastside Bicycle Boulevard project and change requests to the following:
  - a. Stella Road Bike Blvd- Route shift from Stella Road to Hawk Drive. Relocation of the crossing at Irene Street and Stella Road to Sellarole Road.
  - b. Kevin Dr-Portia Ave Bike Blvd- Alignment change from Portia Avenue and Kevin Drive to Black Moon Drive
  - c. Pima Bike Blvd- Connection modification between Sabino Canyon and Pima Street, placing it within the undeveloped area in Morris K. Udall Park.
  - d. Carondelet Dr/5<sup>th</sup> Bicycle Blvd-Reroute the eastern segment from Tonner Circle to Lorien Street.

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 second 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 several playground projects. Construction for the Jesse Owens Park playground replacement began October 13, 2025. The Todd M. Harris Sports Complex playground replacement is currently in design, and design for the Freedom Park playground replacement is scheduled to begin in early 2026. Additionally, the projects at Doris J. Thompson Park and

Mission Manor Park were reassessed. Staff propose changing the scope at Doris J. Thompson Park to replace the existing playground rather than build a new one, taking advantage of a reduced-cost opportunity with playground manufacturer Burke. At Mission Manor Park, staff recommended replacing an underutilized area with a new playground designed for children ages 2-4, rather than adding another play area for ages 5-12.

**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 second 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 for on-line access.
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 Ryan Anderson announced his resignation from the commission and expressed gratitude to the committee and staff for their support and service.
11. **Adjournment: 7:31 p.m.**- **Vice Chair Romero-Cardenas motioned to adjourn the meeting, duly seconded by Commissioner Kendall Kroesen. All committee members were in favor of the motion.**

-LAST ITEM-