



I-19 East Frontage Road Canoa Road to Continental Road



Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Summary

February 17, 2009 • 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

First American Title Company • 101 S. La Cañada #24 • Green Valley, AZ

CAC Members Present: Sandra Stone (Committee Chair), Robert Reid, Dick Converse, Jay Knoll, Kay Coombs, Mavie Armstrong, Philip Gray, Les Gunderson, and Wayne Randle.

Project Team Present: Damon Ballesteros (Pima County), Kevin Thornton (Psonas), Rick Green (Wheat Scharf), Patty & Juan Navarrete (Artists), Jonathan Crowe (Pima County), Sally Krommes (Tucson Pima Arts Council), Priscilla Fernandez (Kaneen) and Lisa Spencer (Kaneen).

Observers Present: Jim Jordan, Barbara Epperson, Shirley Girod, Russ Symes, Lauren Harvey, William Clapet, Ed & Connie Pociot, Susanne Blodgett and R. Hopkins.

All attendees received the following materials: November 12, 2008 Open House comments, September 25, 2008 CAC meeting summary, RTA Project brochure, meeting agenda, Wheat Scharf landscape renderings, and art questionnaires.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Damon Ballesteros, Project Manager for the Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT), welcomed everyone to the meeting. The project team members were introduced to the CAC members and observers. Committee Chair Sandra Stone added that she had just been informed that Robert Baker could not make today's meeting because his brother had recently suffered a heart attack, and to keep him in our thoughts.

2. Project Update / Status Report

Kevin Thornton, Design Project Manager, announced that the team was near completing the design phase and had just submitted 90% design plans to Pima County and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), for comments. He anticipates turning in 100% design plans in late March 2009. The team anticipates construction of Continental Road at Interstate 19 (I-19) to begin this summer, and is now finalizing the construction plans.

ADOT requested that Pima County look at flattening slopes to allow for the removal of guardrail. The evaluation of flatter slopes resulted in the reduction of approximately

4500-ft. of guardrail. Guardrail is continuous from Continental Road, south for approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. This re-evaluation resulted in a complete revision of the design model.

Sandra asked that Damon explain the unique construction proposal requirements that may be implemented on this project. Damon explained that the County/ADOT were looking into specifying in the construction contract's language, that the contractor would be required to complete the construction along Continental within a five and a half month-period. This work would also need to take place in the timeframe of March through October 2009 when many residents are out of town, traffic is light, and the community experiences less construction impacts. The overall project is expected to take 18 months to complete. Sandra expressed gratitude toward the project team for finding a solution to a potentially stressful construction experience for Green Valley residents.

Jay Knoll asked how long both a typical bidding process and the anticipated accelerated process would last. Damon explained that once the plans are complete and the project goes out for bid, a standard timeframe to advertise and begin construction is 90 days. In this case, we anticipate an accelerated 30 to 40-day deadline, so that we can begin construction in the summer of 2009.

Damon wanted to give the CAC members an update on the west side roundabout's lighting issues. Last Friday, Damon met with the observatories to discuss their concerns for the lighting on this project; particularly at the east side roundabout. He made it clear to the group that the west side roundabout belonged to a private developer, but that the east side roundabout was Pima County's responsibility. He also said that Pima County would do as much as possible to have the lighting be in compliance with the Dark Sky Ordinance, if possible.

Damon said that the observatories prefer a high-pressure sodium light bulb over a low-pressure sodium light bulb for lighting structures, due to the color of the light possibly interfering with the visibility of the skies. High-pressure sodium light is clear and friendlier to observatories, whereas low-pressure sodium light is bluish, and does not allow for easy night-sky viewing. Damon said he and the project team would make every effort to meet the Dark Sky Ordinance, if possible.

3. November 12, 2008 Open House Update

Kevin Thornton updated the group on the November 12, 2008 Art & Landscaping Open House that was a success with 130-plus attendees. Public artists Patty and Juan Navarrete and Wheat Scharf's Rick Green showcased their preliminary art and landscaping designs for the public to review. All attendees were encouraged to leave the team feedback on the art, landscaping and/or the overall project, but only 12 comments were submitted to the team, and those comments were made available at today's meeting. Kevin noticed that one of the comments mentioned the need for noise walls over the need for project art. Kevin said that due to the Pima County ordinance for art, art is a required element on these types of improvement projects.

4. Project Art Presentation

Jonathan Crowe, Pima County Planner, introduced the project art portion of the agenda, and explained his role as overseeing the public art process. Jonathan said that he and the Project Team had been working closely with the Navarretes for the past several months. He passed-out several art comment cards for attendees to fill-out with their feedback. He said to give them to Priscilla Fernandez who will then get them all to Pima County to review.

Juan and Patty Navarrete, project artists, introduced themselves and gave a PowerPoint presentation of their art concepts. They both expressed their excitement about this project and the importance of incorporating the area's cultural and indigenous influences into this project's art. The Navarretes displayed large format art renderings and even brought small-scaled, handmade sculptures of their designs for the attendees to look at them close up.

They included drawings for the railings, painted concrete designs, form liners, and even the large sculpture at Continental Rd/I-10, along with actual samples of the materials used in the art for everyone to see. After showing the CAC members all the different railing designs, the CAC members voted on designs #2, #3, and #4. The results showed #2 was the preferred railing design. The public was also allowed to vote, and they too chose #2.

The Navarrete's designs for the form liners were 8-foot creosote flowers. A CAC member asked what colors these designs would be, and Jonathan said that color is another budgetary concern and that if only one natural-desert tone is chosen, it's easier to maintain and costs the project less money. He also mentioned that graffiti is an issue that must be taken into consideration as the paint color(s) is chosen.

5. Project Landscaping Update

Rick Green, Project Landscape Architect with Wheat Scharf, thanked the CAC members for all their hard work and mentioned that as a result of continuous collaboration with the entire project team, ADOT, Pima County, and the CAC members, he has finalized a landscape plan. He asked that everyone refer to his hand out rendering. He said that his plan includes gabion benches on each [4] quadrant of the expressway. He also said the native plant palette has not changed much since the last presentation, showing more sidewalks and paths that meander west of the traffic interchange, and more native plants near the art at the braided ramp.

Philip Gray said that he lives at The Springs and knows about the landscaping needing to be removed there, but wanted to know how much the team would take. Damon said that the landscape-removal was minimal, if that, and that he assured him the team would work with his group to ensure minimal to no impact.

6. Future Meeting Dates & Next Steps

Sandra Stone suggested that the next CAC meeting be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at the same location—First American Title. Priscilla Fernandez said she'd contact everyone when a location is reserved.

~ Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. ~