

# GRANT ROAD COALITION CENTRAL SEGMENTS

website: [grantroadcoalition.com](http://grantroadcoalition.com)



Diana Alarcon  
Department of Transportation and Mobility  
201 N. Stone, 4<sup>th</sup> floor P.O. Box 27210  
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

July 21, 2021

RE: Complete Streets, DTM, the Task Force, and involvement of neighbors in the planning of the Central Segments

Dear Ms. Alarcon,

Thank you for agreeing to meet and discuss our concerns.

The five neighborhoods bordering phases 5 &6 of the Grant Road expansion (First to Tucson Blvd) are comprised of residences that will be impacted, especially concerning safety, visual/noise pollution and environmental issues. Phases 5&6 are unique in that these “Central Segments” are the most residentially dense and sensitive of all phases included in the Grant Road Widening Project. The five neighborhoods are of diverse population both in age, income levels, and represent a cross section of Tucson’s heritage and architectural history, including homes, buildings and historic sites from the late 1800’s, early 1900’s. Being that Grant Road is designated as the main commercial vehicle artery connecting I-10 east and west, we expect significant impact.

Our neighborhoods want to proactively engage with the planners, but presently, do not have a path forward. We have been told that representation of impacted business and residential neighborhoods is the purpose of the appointed Grant Road Task Force. However, since “Central Segments” neighborhoods do not have a path of communication with the Task Force, we do not feel represented by them. There were three presentations submitted in writing and two of those orally at the last Task Force meeting. (One is attached). We received no response. On follow up with meeting organizers, we were told that the Task Force members cannot respond to “Call to the audience” and that the only way the concerns could be addressed was if “a member of the project team requested an agenda item”. It is not clear whom we address to get questions and/or items of concern on the Task Force agenda for discussion.

We are asking that a clear protocol be established and a designated liaison be appointed between the (phase 5 & 6) neighborhoods, the Task Force and the project planners.

In regards to actual neighborhood mitigation, the only reference to neighborhood mitigation in the 30% plan presented at the public meetings were described as the “possibility for greenspace” and “Landscape Opportunities”. These potential landscaped remnant parcels may be supported by a DTM contractor who will “stabilize and maintain” the parcels for only the first 2 years. Will there be a plan for future maintenance?

“Landscape Opportunities” as well as other means of traffic mitigation needs definition and must be included in the 30% plan!

We have read the City’s Exhibit A to Ordinance #11621. We find the Complete Streets Ordinance outlines excellent methods to move forward. It includes:

- “Community engagement/ Context sensitive”-at least 17 references
- “Neighborhood character/historic”- at least 3 references
- Table 2 p8, has lengthy discussions of “Safety”, “Engaging the Public”, “Green Infrastructure and Shade”, “Quality of Life” and “Environment”.
- “Shade/landscape”-at least 6 references

It is notable that an initial survey on a portion of the north side of Grant, reports at least 140 trees will be lost to the roadway construction!

Phases 5/6 of the Central Segments presents an exceptional opportunity because there is time and expertise on our side. We have time to create a model project for Tucson, educate the neighborhoods and their boards, and time to creatively seek funding in partnership with the city. With the expertise, creativity and flexibility of the project team, now is the time to practice Tactical Urbanism to “catalyze long-term change” (so well described on p17!) The spirit of the “Complete Streets” can save these unique inner-city neighborhoods from slow decay and under-planned urban development. The entire city benefits from keeping these neighborhoods vibrant.

We seek a way forward for us to work together, regularly, openly, and productively. We are advocating to become partners in the success of the Grant Road Expansion Project.

We look forward to meeting with you. Thank you.

Central Segments Neighborhoods - Grant Road Coalition  
Catalina Vista, Campbell/Grant, SAMOS, Jefferson Park, Mountain/First

CC: Ward III, Ward VI, Regina Romero, PSOMAS, B. Roggenthen