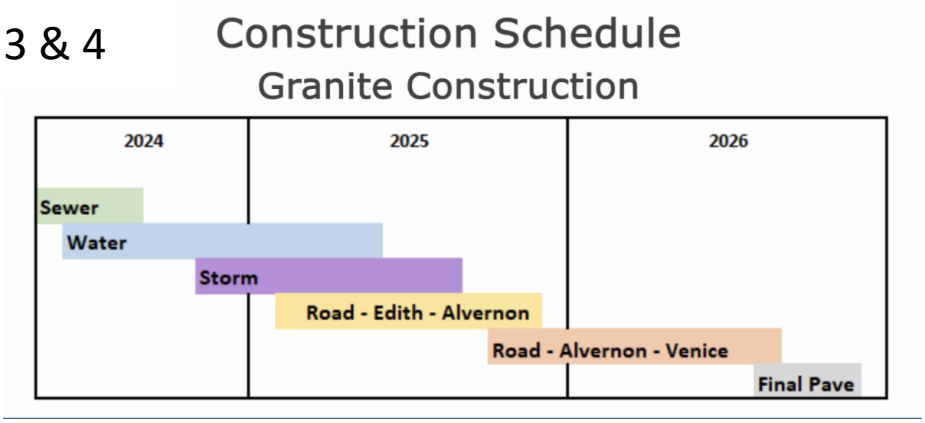
Grant Road Coalition Planning Paper for Grant Road Phases 5/6

***Neighborhood Representatives*:**
Campbell/Grant – Ben Elias
Catalina Vista – Janet Fischer
Mtn/First – Sarah Studd
Jefferson Park – Joan Daniels, Colleen Nichols, Fran Donnellan
SAMOS - Bam Miller, Denise Ceron
Other Interested residents
Grant Road Coalition Website: http://www.grantroadcoalition.com

***City/County/State Stakeholders*:**
City – Bob Roggenthen, DTM
Grant Road Task Force – Sarah Studd
PAG – Rex Scott/Regina Romero
PSOMAS – Alejandro Angel
RTA – Farhad Moghimi ????
Ward III – Kevin Dahl
Tucson Clean and Beautiful-Katie Gannon
Parks and Recreation-Greg Jackson

GRANT ROAD PHASES 3 & 4



PURPOSE

Review the past and plan for the future. Raise awareness for the "Central Segments" from Santa Rita to Tucson Blvd**.** The issue is to define "Landscaping Opportunities". Assist with identifying partners and grants to augment the limited landscaping funded by RTA/City.

HISTORY

2016 - Phases 1 & 2 - Jefferson Park section. The remnant parcels from First Avenue to Campbell are almost entirely residential. There is no commercial overlay from First Avenue to Tucson Blvd-these were designated "The Central Segments". The east end of Phase 1 & 2 Is three blocks east of First Avenue and adjacent to Jefferson Park and Mountain/First neighborhoods.

With the partnerships of DTM, RTA, City of Tucson, greenspace was negotiated for the remnant parcels. Three grants were written to augment the barren lots to include irrigation, berms, walking/biking pathway, trees, and historic signage.

- 2017, Western LSR AZ/Forest Pathway for $1,255,200 - DENIED
- 2018, Center for Pima Basin Sustainability for $245,970 - DENIED
- 2018 Tucson Clean and Beautiful for $17,615 - DENIED
- Finally, Tucson Delivers Parks+Connections, Prop 407 granted $225,000. The oversite for the Jefferson Park Health and Heritage Trail is now done by City Parks and Recreation.

May 17, 2023 meeting excerpt with DTM PSOMAS: (full minutes posted http://www.grantroadcoalition.com/)

"The JPNA linear park was $400,000 in 2020 for 2 blocks of landscaping. Due to increased cost of construction since 2020 it is estimated, the Linear Park would now cost $300,000 per block. Most costly in the JPNA linear park were the earth berms and irrigation. Xeriscape is the least expensive option. There was discussion to prioritize plantings over the berms and irrigation to reduce initial cost, as those elements could be added later. Funding is an issue; it would require $1.5-2 million to do a linear park similar to the existing one for north and south on Grant. Bob Roggenthen suggested that C.J. Boyd investigate to see if funds from the Storm and Shade grant could be obtained and used for this purpose the next time there is funding available."

Oct 20, 2022 meeting excerpt with DTM PSOMAS: (full minutes posted http://www.grantroadcoalition.com)

"Funding for Greenspace/Linear Trail – After construction of road is completed the remnant parcels will be maintained by DTM, but not indefinitely. Funding must be found to maintain as greenspace (LinearTrail) or city will pursue selling the remnants." Possible monies from Ward Offices - GSI? Ward III and V Grant Writing Collaboration with Tucson Clean and Beautiful"

2024 - UPDATED INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATION OF CURRENT STATUS FOR 5/6

April 23, 2024 e-mail response from Alejandro Angel (PSOMA) reviewed by B. Roggenthen

"We will do our best to clarify on question #1. Unfortunately, we don't know much about questions #2 or 3 (you may know more than we do).

- *We have attached one of the landscaping plan sheets near Cherry to illustrate the various areas available for landscaping - Attachment 2. The project will plant trees and other vegetation in the areas shaded in green (between the curb and the new right-of-way line). The area shaded in blue (from the right-of-way line to the alley) will be cleared of structures and non-viable or invasive vegetation. Existing viable trees will be preserved, but no new vegetation will be planted, no basins or berms will be constructed in the blue area because that's outside the scope of the project. There is a photo of a block in phase 2 that depicts the same approach.*
- *Budget - RTA allocates about 4% of construction dollars to landscaping, based on the current estimate that's about $1.6M (which lines up well with the level of plantings in the 90% plans)*
- *What does the green space allocation include currently.*
  - *The 90% design includes about 240 trees, 2,600 shrubs, and 200 new cacti (plus 80 transplanted cacti). There are also decorative boulders, a few tree grates, rock mulch and detention basins.*
  - *There is one shade structure and 20+ benches at bus stops but no water fountains, berms or interpretive signage.*
  - *There are 8' sidewalks along each side of the road, but no other pathways.*
- *The space shaded in green will be maintained by the contractor during the "landscape establishment" period. This is usually 18-24 month after planting. During this time they are responsible for replacing any vegetation that does not survive early on.*
- *After the landscape establishment period, the City crews will be responsible for maintaining the space shaded in green in the pdf. There is an irrigation system for those trees also. There is no irrigation for the existing established trees in the blue area*
- *TEP – Question #2 Unfortunately, we have no insight ☹. I am not sure what their planned alignment will be or how it will affect the greenspace.*
- *Scheduling – Question #3 There is also uncertainty in this area. As we mentioned at the task force, the RTA has not allocated any funding to acquire properties, which means none of the other activities can happen(demolitions, grading, utility relocations, etc). The City has been pushing RTA to allocate funds (watch the last RTA Board meeting, the mayor pushed hard for grant rd) but at this point all we know is that RTA is committed to the project, we don't know when we'll have moneys for acquisition"* *Alejandro Angel (PSOMAS)*

about selling properties after 2 yrs

Aril 24, 2024 Bob Roggenthen "…After the project is complete the parcel ownership remains in the control of the City of Tucson until the parcels are sold and disposed of. The money from the sale of the properties go back to the RTA for used on other projects. That said, the RTA can give direction "in the best interest" of the community to leave the parcels in control of the City if there is consensus.

This will need to be a negotiated agreement that management/Mayor/City Council will need to come together with the RTA for a commitment. At this time, I am not sure what DTM would need to keep maintaining an area that is not transportation related." Thanks Bob Roggenthen

4/24/2024 Alejandro Angel e-mail "I don't know of any plans to sell the remnants, but I also can't say that they will never be sold – that's a decision that would be made by RTA and/or City council. So, my base case is that the remnants won't be sold, but absent any moneys to maintain the remnants, the maintenance level of be the same the City has for surplus/unused properties. In my experience that's just responding to complaints about trash, homelessness or other similar issues (but I could be wrong)"

COALITION PRIORITIES

- Further education and awareness for the issue of the eventual fate of the remnant parcels
  - First meeting proposed for May 9, 5pm at Ward III

PLANNING MEETING of the Grant Road Coalition

May 9, 2024, Ward III meeting Room, 5pm in person or by zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89367155146?pwd=VUdBVmhUc1NHc21mVFZBYkNheUhnQT09

Meeting ID: 893 6715 5146 Passcode: 738657

- Create a greenspace on the two blocks on south side of Grant from Santa Rita to Mountain modeled after the Linear Park – FIND THE MONEY
- Create a greenspace on the north side from Mountain to Campbell congruent with the existing Health and History Linear Trail from Hampton to Santa Rita, complete with greenspace, berms, sound and lighting mitigation to maintain and protect the adjacent residential area. FIND THE MONEY
- Create mitigation on the south side of Grant for the Catalina Vista Neighborhood. FIND THE MONEY– Art monies?
- Include Neighborhoods -Campbell/Grant Neighborhood, SAMOS, Mountain/First, Catalina Vista, Blenman Elm in discussion
- Identify entities who could author/sponsor grants

ATTACHMENT #1 Grant possibilities, funding opportunities
ATTACHMENT #2 Picture a block
ATTACHMENT #3 – Water harvesting to Right of Way only

ATTACHMENT #1 – Funding Possibilities

- **Proposition 407 – Great Parks + Strong Connections Project to Date (through 3.3.2024)** https://cotgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=dbe0ebdb6fee4125b46ee46d9dc60939 Funding for Jefferson Park Health and Heritage Trail can we piggy back on the 407 we got for Hampton to Santa Rita? – Reach out to CJ Boyd for contact info , contact with Greg Jackson Parks and Recreation.
  Greg Jackson – "Yes, prop 407 funds are fully committed and would not be available. Since this is a potential new park, impact fees can be used, but we would need to specify the park in our next impact fee update (which we are doing now). Is there any wild guess on when these parcels might become available and when development could occur? 2 year, 5 years, "
  - Parks and Recreation –currently in charge of History Trail- Park Supervisor, Corey Martinez corey.martinez@tucsonaz.gov

- **Tucson Clean and Beautiful** Storm to Shade **GSI** are there GSI grants? Reach-out Nichole Casabeer, Katie Gannon
  Online Presence, Social Media, and Traditional Media The Storm to Shade website nested in the City of Tucson's Climate Action Hub (https://climateaction.tucsonaz.gov/pages/gsi) provides an overview of the Storm to Shade program, in addition to: • Tucson's Tree Equity Score mapping tool • GSI Maintenance Guide (downloadable pdf. version) • CIP project map • project-specific storymaps • GSI asset gallery
  Tree Equity score: SAMOS Moderate Priority 79/99 Campbell/Grant (low priority) 89/99 Jefferson Park, Catalina Vista (low priority) 99/100

- **LWCF – Land and Water Conservation Fund – federal program**
  Jeffrey Schmidt, *Program Manager*, ***Arizona State Parks & Trails***
  1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85007, (602) 542-7124, (480) 340-1305 - Cell Phone
  jschmidt@azstateparks.gov, 1-877-MY-Parks|AZStateParks.com
  "applications can be submitted at any time. Any applications submitted after the March 31st deadline will be reviewed during our next round of advisory committee meetings, which will occur sometime in late April/ early May. Let me know if you need any clarification, or if you have any additional questions."
  Reached-out Jeffrey Schmidt-do we qualify? E-mail response sent 4/23
  "Based on my understanding of the project, the best fit is likely the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is a federal program administered jointly by the National Park Service, and Arizona State Parks. Once an area is developed with this funding, it must remain open to public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. Eligible sponsors for this program are State, County, Local, and Tribal Governmental agencies. The max request for this program is currently $1,000,000 and requires the sponsor to provide dollar for dollar matching funds. This program, like all of our programs, operates on a reimbursement basis, meaning the sponsor will make a purchase, and submit a claim for reimbursement to State Parks. If applying for these funds, me or another staff member would need to come down and meet with the sponsor on site prior to the sponsor beginning an application. We use this meeting to ensure all of the proposed activities are eligible, and to ensure the sponsor understands the application submission, review, and approval process, as well as any future stewardship requirements.

We also administer funding from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), again, federal funding administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and State Parks. The pathways and signage could potentially be eligible for funding through this program, but some of the other activities such berms and irrigation would not. This program currently has a max request of $150,000 and requires sponsors to provide a 5.7% match. This program is open to Federal, State, County, Local, and Tribal governmental agencies, as well as officially designated 501C3 organizations.

Do you have an estimate of cost at this time? I was also wondering, who currently owns the land? Who would submit and administer the grant application? Who would be responsible for maintenance once developed?

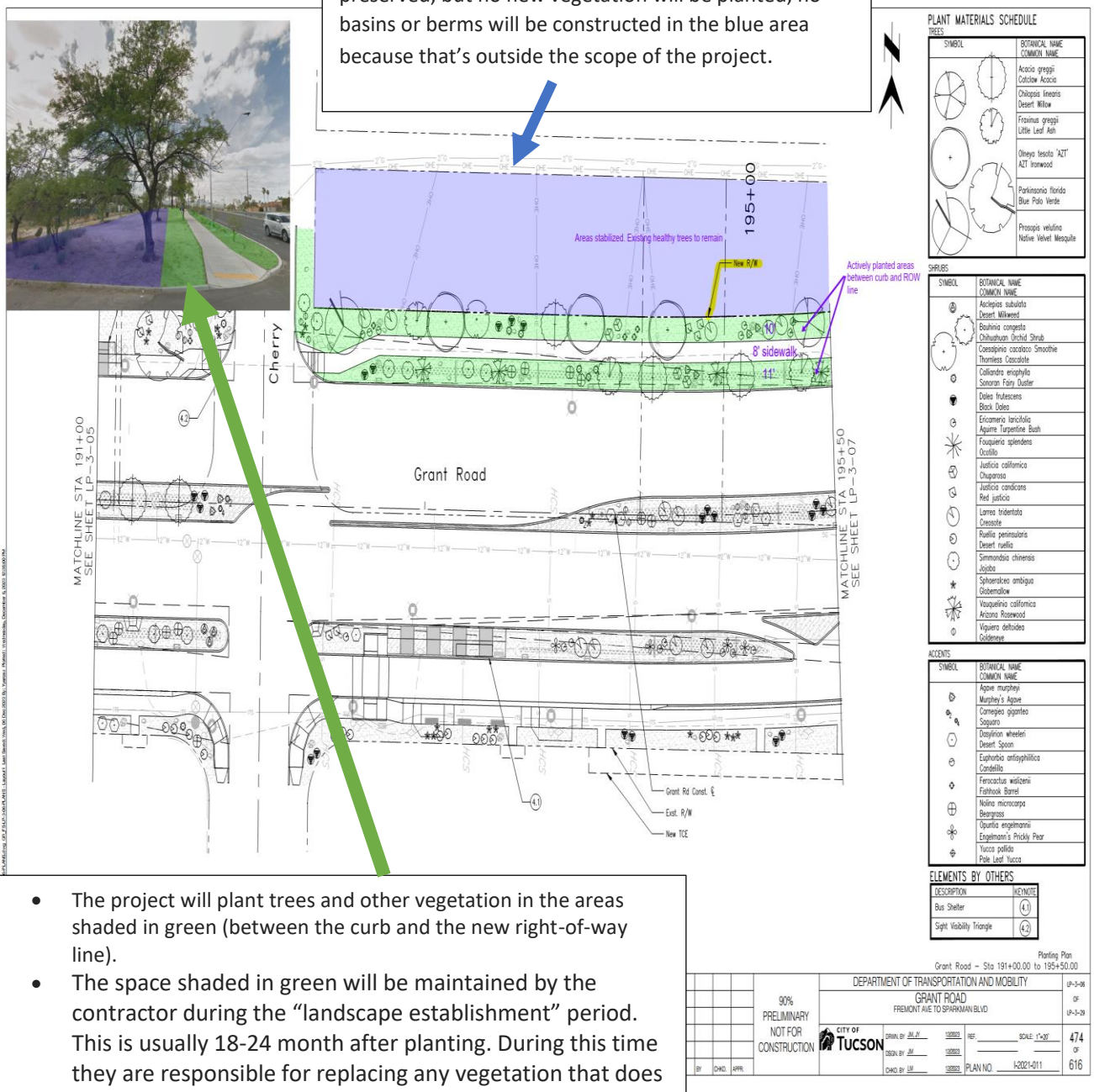
Please let me know if you have any questions, or need any clarification. If you'd like to set up a time to discuss, I'd be more than happy to do so. Thanks again for reaching out!

- **C2E – small grants** – phone call, message left, Watershed Management, contact Luis Salgado, 520-396-3266 x20 No more C2E grants. Per phone call 4/22 Luis will research other possibilities.

- **The APS Community Tree Program** will work to ensure people and neighborhoods in need across Arizona receive the many benefits trees provide. The program will reduce heat island effect by expanding the tree canopy cover in vulnerable communities within the APS service territory and support the **APS Clean Energy Commitment**.
- Trees and vegetation can create cooler spaces by providing shade and through a process called evapotranspiration (water lost through plant transpiration and soil and plant evaporation). These cooler spaces have the potential to limit overall heat gain and help lower overall temperatures. Shaded surfaces, for example, may be 20–45 degrees cooler than the peak temperatures of unshaded materials. Evapotranspiration, alone or in combination with shading, can help reduce peak summer temperatures by 2–9 degrees.
- APS will offer grant funding to qualified organizations for community-based tree planting projects in high need areas within the APS service territory. Through an open and competitive cycle, APS will accept only one proposal from a qualified organization per year. Proposals may be submitted for a minimum of $1,000 and a maximum of $10,000, and APS funding may only be used to purchase trees, tree stakes and ties. Funding priority will be given to projects in vulnerable communities that have low tree equity and high tree prioritization map scores. For questions, contact **CorporateGiving@aps.com**.
- **The 2024 Grant Application is now open**.

ATTACHMENT #2 – Picture a block

The area shaded in blue (from the right-of-way line to the alley) will be cleared of structures and non-viable or invasive vegetation. Existing viable trees will be preserved, but no new vegetation will be planted, no basins or berms will be constructed in the blue area because that's outside the scope of the project.



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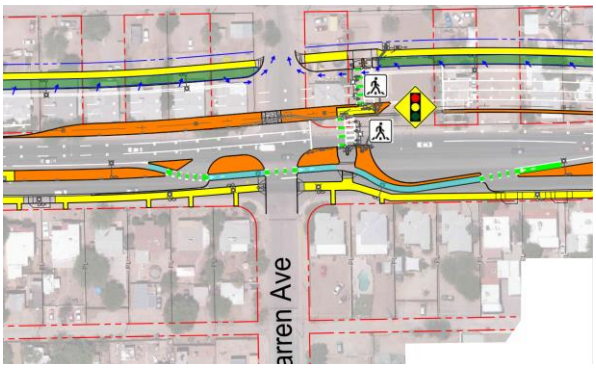
ATTACHMENT #3 – Water harvesting to Right of Way only

Water harvesting currently is from Grant Road run-off emptying to the north



Per Alejandro Angel, PSOMAS 4/18/2024

Cherry is a high point, so there is very little water running north on it. What little gets to grant is picked up by the proposed basins along the road median, the island for the frontage road, or the north side of grant road.

At Vine and Warren we using grates on the south side to capture the water before it gets to grant road. We do that because we need to keep the road open and drivable for the general public and for emergency services during storm events. Most agencies aim to have the road clear of any cross-drainage water during the 100-year storm, but the minimum requirement is to have water less than 1 ft deep during that storm so that emergency vehicles can use the road.

In our case, there will be a few inches of water going over the road at vine and warren during the 100-yr storm (less than 1 ft), but during smaller storms (even the 10-yr storm event) all the water will be captured in the storm drain system by the grates. So, the water from Vine and Warren would be so infrequent that trees could not depend on it.

Feel free to call me to review if I haven't answered your question. 520-954-5429