The Great Widening

A Grant Road Production
2017

WELCOME!

- Introductions: Name, neighborhood, why you came
- Meeting rules
  - Be polite and respectful
  - Please raise hand, identify your name & neighborhood
  - Please hold questions until end of each section
- Toilets, refreshments, exits
- Hosted by *Grant Road Coalition*

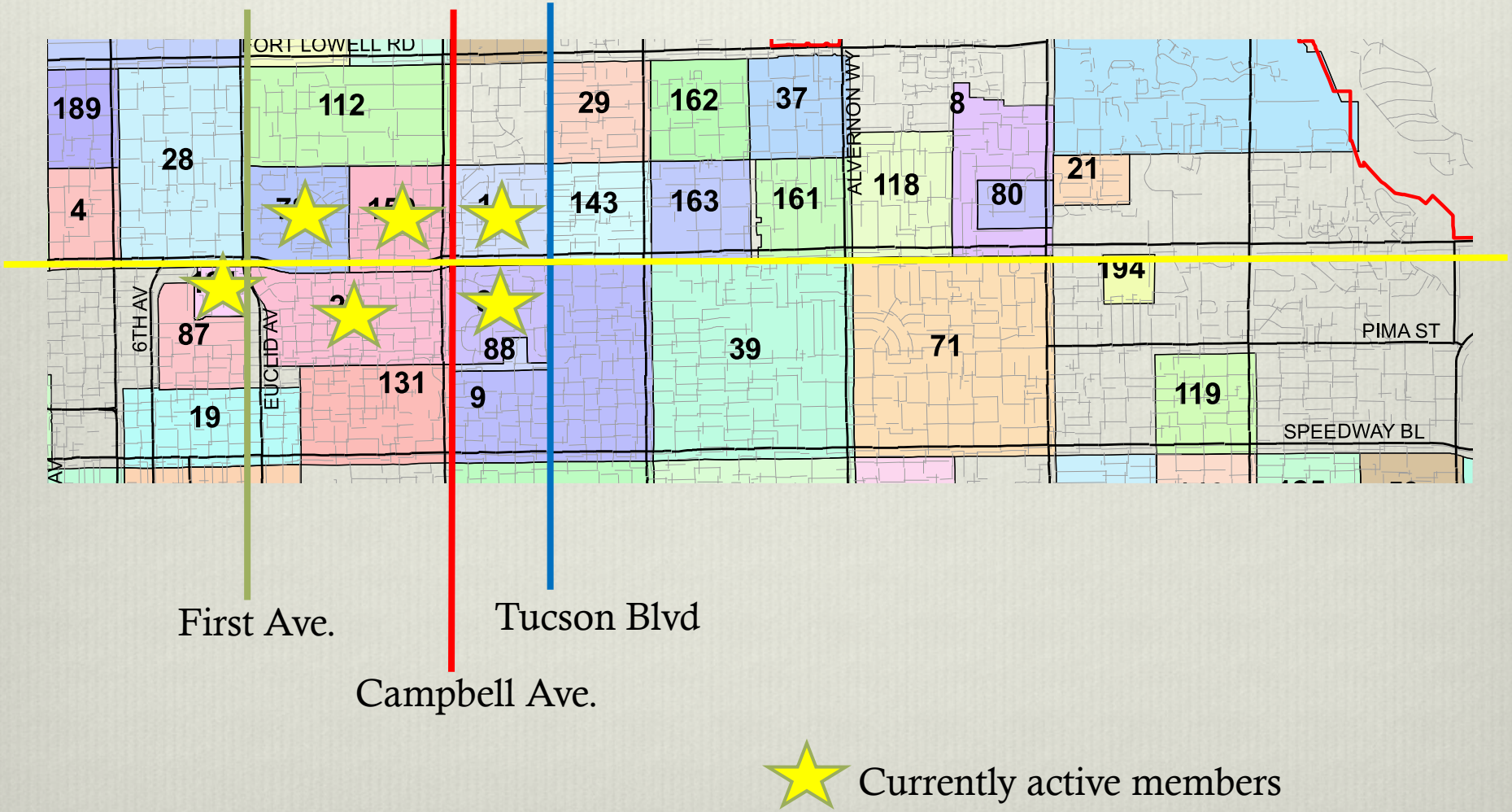
Reason for meeting

- Provide updates on the Grant Rd widening
- Share recent accomplishments of coalition
- Resources for more information
- Ask for ideas and support from residents

What is the Grant Rd Coalition?

- Advisory committee: representing adjacent neighborhoods
  - El Cortez
  - Jefferson Park
  - Samos
  - Mountain-First
  - Campbell/Grant
  - Catalina Vista
  - Blenman Elm & Country Glenn
- Fall in "**Central Segments**" from First Ave to Tucson Blvd (primarily residential areas)
- Volunteer group, since May 2015
  - Protect and enhance quality of life for all neighbors

Neighborhood map



What does the coalition do?

- Meet monthly here at Ward 3 office
- Maintains a website (www.grantroadcoalition.com)
- Attends public meetings: task force, city council etc.
- Develops proposals
- Applies for grants
- Sends correspondence -- Promotes the goals of the coalition every chance it gets!!

Sent postcards to city representatives.

2016 - WE SAW DESTRUCTION

The Urban Core's Turn for Beautification

Home Buyer Program - Family Friendly-Water Harvesting-Linear Parks-Bikeways-Walkways

GRANT ROAD-CENTRAL SEGMENTS ■ Phases 2 and 5 ■ www.grantroadcoalition.com

2017-HAPPY NEW YEAR

☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ **WE SEE POSSIBILY !** ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

To remind them of our commitment

What are the Coalition's goals?

- Represent neighborhood interests in talks with City of Tucson
  - Encourage open & ongoing dialogue
  - *Challenge:* Project staff turn-over
- Promote neighborhood-centric enhancements
- Focus on land use issues – what will happen to the 'leftover' land parcels
  - Alternative uses such as green spaces
  - Visual & noise mitigation
  - Protect NH values

Grant Road Project - Background

- Voter approved ½ cent sales tax – 2006
  - Regional Transportation Authority plan (RTA)
  - $167 million over 20 years
  - Tucson Dept. of Transportation manages project
- 5 –mile stretch, Oracle to Swan
- Project completed in separately funded phases
- Guided by a Citizens Task Force (CTF)

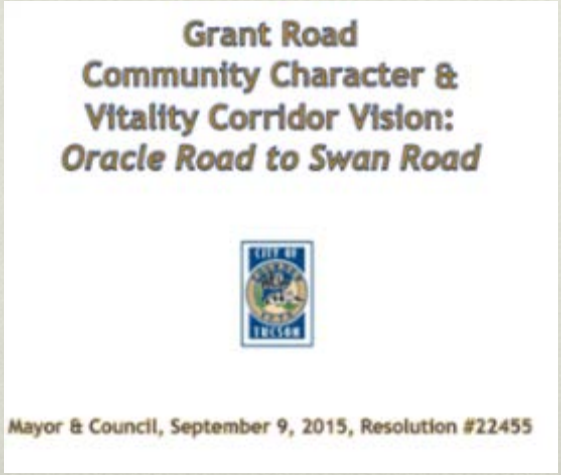
Citizen Task Force

- Who are they?
  - 17 citizens, since 2007
  - Residential (6) and business (5) representatives
  - Task force member often attends Coalition meetings
- 2015 - *Grant Road Community Character and Vitality Corridor Vision* adopted by mayor and council
  - provides guidance for land use planning
  - Coalition lobbied for *central segments area*– NO zoning change, NO overlay, NO commercial – A huge win!!

Vision Statement

"…pursue land uses and/or buffers that…"

- 1) are in-keeping with existing zoning, neighborhood /area plans, and existing uses
- 2) are compatible with and enhance surrounding properties.



Questions?

Project Phases -Overview

- Phase 1 – complete!
- Phase 2 – Stone to Park Ave (Castro-Santa Rita) – Active now
- Phase 3 & 4 – Alvernon to Swan (2018 – 2020)
- Phases 5 & 6 – Santa Rita to Country Club (2021-2023)

Design schedule

- Design plans are released at different ‘key milestones’,
  - 30%, 60%, 90% complete
- **Phase 3 & 4**: expect 60% plans in late 2017
- **Phase 5 & 6**: Unknown
- What does this mean?
  - We have to ACT NOW to have most influence!!!

Challenge: Remnant parcels & redevelopment

- Phase 1 example

- These are up for sale to the ‘best idea at the best price’
- Problems: small size, poor access – not attractive
  - City will offer incentives to sell these

Remnant parcels & redevelopment

- Phase 2 example. Coalition *opposed* selling remnant parcels and instead wrote a white paper proposing the Grant Road Heritage Landscape Corridor
- Preserve it as open space

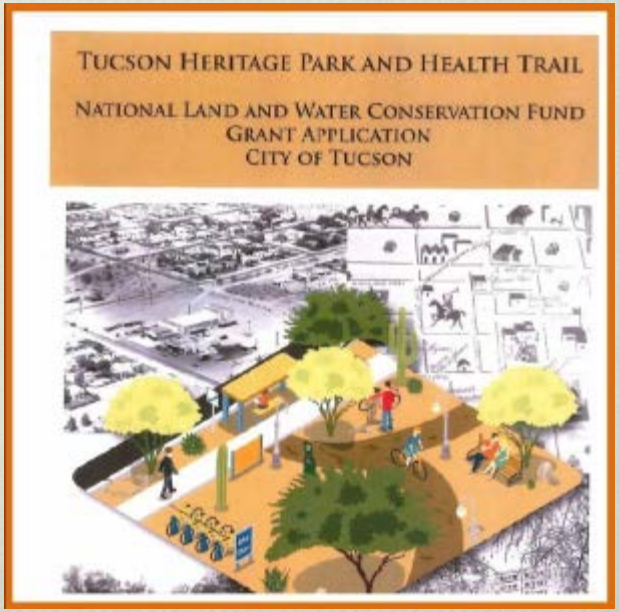
  Native plants -- Education & interpretation -- Highlight history of area -- Pedestrian and bike trails
- Build-off existing detention basin and continue linear parkway over to Tucson Blvd, using up all remnant lots
  - What a great idea!!

Basin and pathways between Hampton & Park

Courtesy of TDOT presentation: www.grantroad.info

State Forestry Grant

- *Partnership*: Tucson Clean & Beautiful, Pima Assoc. of Governments, RTA, Grant Rd Coalition, TDOT, City of Tucson
- Submitting grant to fund the heritage park & health trail from Park Ave to Santa Rita
- Grant ~$300,000
- Support of Ward III



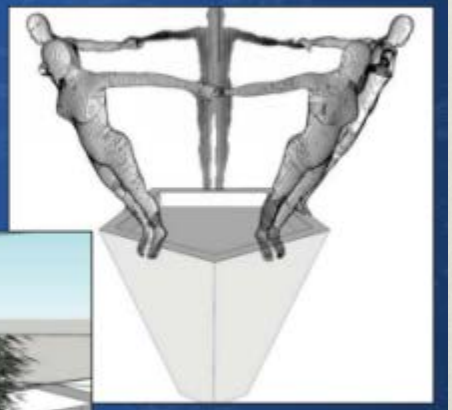
Accomplishments

- City will pay for Jefferson Park historic redistricting (~$10,000)
- No zoning changes in Central Segments – stays residential (R1, NR1)
- City will pay for Hampton Street partial closure
- City agreed to hold “amenities” budget for mitigation
- Hold on sale of remnants until grants can be pursued.

Other effects of public involvement on Phase 2

Improvements resulting from public/stakeholder input

- Rubberized asphalt in residential segments
- Incorporation of public art Simon Donovan and Ben Olmstead
- Buffered bike lanes



Courtesy of TDOT presentation: www.grantroad.info

Effects of public involvement on Phase 2

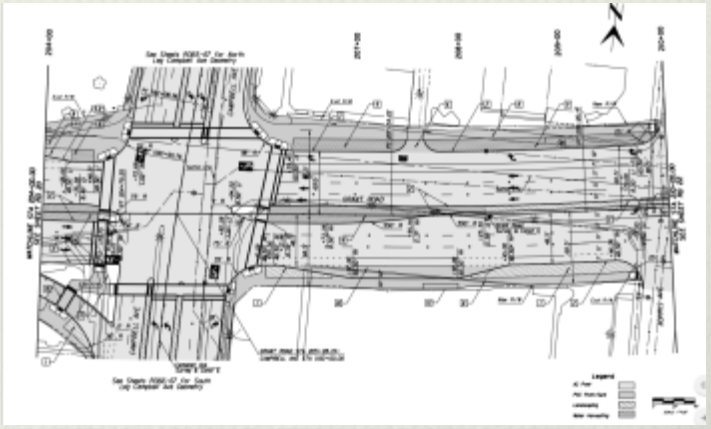
Courtesy of TDOT presentation: www.grantroad.info

Effects of public involvement on Phase 2

Courtesy of TDOT presentation: www.grantroad.info

Campbell/Grant Intersection

- "Centers" Sub-committee
- Survey conducted in 2016
  - 250 responses
- "White paper" in process
  - Appropriate businesses
  - Walkable/ Bikeable
  - Community-centric



What do we still want to achieve?

- Request walls or berms to lessen light and noise pollution (phase 2 and 4 & 5)
- Murals

What do we still want to achieve?

- Banner health partnership – RX walk
  - Health, urban improvement and connectivity

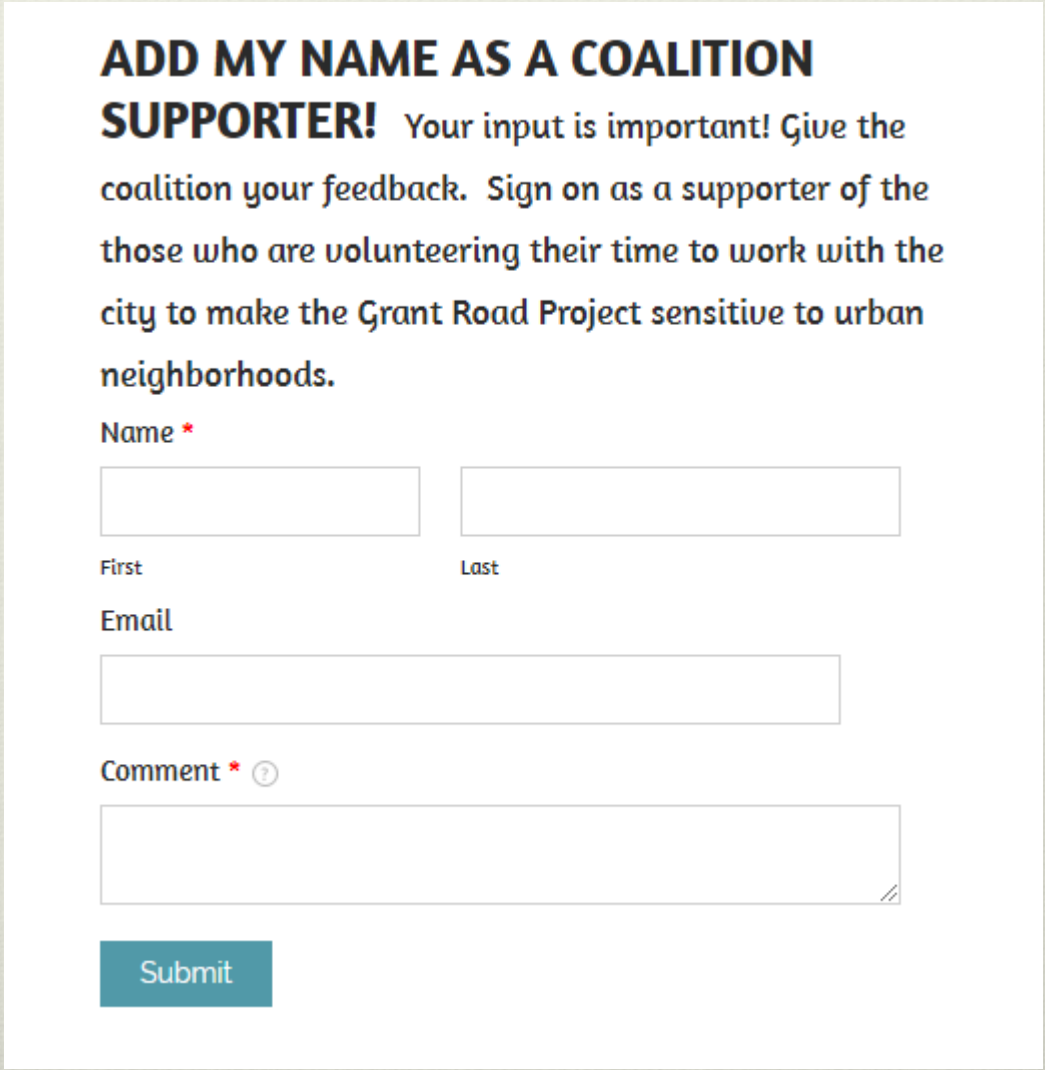
Resources

- Coalition website
  - **www.Grandroadcoalition.com**
    - So much information!

- Grant Road Project – City of Tucson
  - **www.Grantroad.info**
    - Schedule, technical design drawings
    - Maps, presentations, minutes
- Today's handout ☺

Show us your support!

- Sign your name on the coalition website and leave us a comment ☺



ADD MY NAME AS A COALITION SUPPORTER! Your input is important! Give the coalition your feedback. Sign on as a supporter of the those who are volunteering their time to work with the city to make the Grant Road Project sensitive to urban neighborhoods.

Name *

First

Last

Email

Comment *

Submit

Questions?