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Destinations

Tucson Department
of Transportation
Bringing Life To Transportation

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The latest information from the Tucson Department of Transportation
www.dot.tucsonaz.gov

Winter 2006/2007

Neighborhood Street Repair Underway City-Wide

\$11 Million Will be Spent Over the Next Two Years on Long Overdue Maintenance

Several city neighborhoods are getting a much-needed face lift, thanks to a recent effort to improve Tucson's cracked and deteriorating residential streets.

The Neighborhood Streets Maintenance Program was created and approved last summer by Tucson's Mayor and Council because of their growing concern over the worsening condition of neighborhood streets. The program includes \$11 million in funding over the next two years and is part of City Manager Mike Hein's Financial Sustainability Plan adopted by Mayor and Council as part of Tucson's biannual budget. Previously, all street maintenance activities were funded exclusively by State Highway User Revenue Funds, which come from gasoline and vehicle license taxes.

The program kicked off in July in the east side Terra Del Sol neighborhood, which is bounded by Kolb Road,

Wilmot Road,
22nd Street
and Golf
Links Road.
Potholes
were filled,
cracks sealed,

and the streets received an appropriate surface treatment to fill tiny cracks and prevent further deterioration.

Other neighborhoods that have benefited from the maintenance program include Colonia del Valle, Glen Heights and Amphi. The neighborhoods encompassed by Barrio Viejo, Barrio Santa Rosa, and Sunnyside neighborhood associations are next, as soon as the weather warms up and chip sealing can resume in the early spring.



Many of Tucson's worst neighborhood streets are now being maintained, thanks to \$11 million earmarked by Mayor and Council.

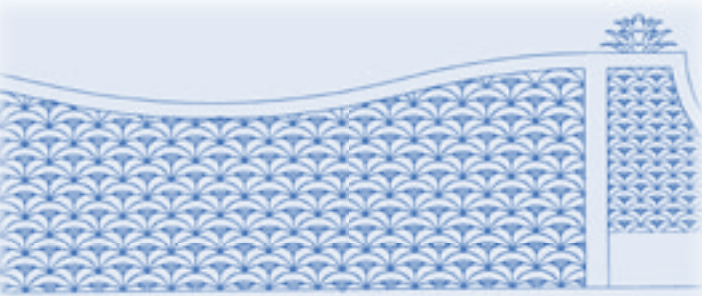
Continued inside...

Recent Improvement Projects

<u>WESTSIDE</u>	<u>EASTSIDE</u>	<u>SOUTHEAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>CENTRAL</u>
Silverbell Road/Goret Road Intersection Improvement	22nd Street/Craycroft Road Intersection Improvement	Valencia Road Pantano Road to Houghton Road	Oaktree Drive Drexel Road to Headly Road	Euclid Avenue/Sixth Street Intersection Improvement
New traffic signal and center turn lane.	Repave intersection and approach lanes.	Remove old asphalt and repave with rubberized asphalt.	Remove old asphalt and repave with rubberized asphalt.	New traffic signals, signal controller, street lights. Regional Transportation Authority Project.

Harrison Road Will Soon be Wider, Safer For Everyone

Harrison Road between Speedway Boulevard and Old Spanish Trail will soon be safer for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. The 18-month long improvement project includes widening Harrison to two lanes in each direction, adding medians, two pedestrian-activated crosswalks, bicycle and pedestrian paths, landscaping, lighting and public art.



New artistic walls along Harrison Road were designed to reflect the area's natural surroundings.

Currently, crews are widening the intersection of Harrison Road and Broadway Boulevard, which should be completed in April. Broadway will be widened approximately 1,000 feet east and west of the intersection, which will feature two through lanes in all directions, dual left-turn lanes in all directions, four dedicated right-turn lanes, and four bus pullouts.

The community has been very involved in the project's design through a series of public meetings designed to make sure all of their concerns are addressed. Traffic flow, pedestrian safety, noise, drainage, and of course the inconvenience of construction were the issues most frequently mentioned.

Neighbors have also played a major role in the project's aesthetics. Artists Nina Borgia-Aberle and Stephen Grede worked with area residents to develop a design theme that complements the area's natural beauty. They chose to focus on mountain views and the local desert environment for the overall design concept, using a variety of artistic forms and a color palette of deep rust and sage green. A repeated pattern derived from agaves and pinecones will decorate the concrete walls along the east side of Harrison toward the south end of the project. Similar elements will be incorporated into a number of new bus benches and metal barrier railings along the medians in front of Gridley Middle School.

The \$15 million, federally funded project is expected to be complete in the spring of 2008.

Watch for Construction on...

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE OF WORK</u>	<u>END DATE</u>
Anklam Road, Players Club Drive to Greasewood Drive	Drainage improvements, street widening (new center turn lane)	February 2007
Harrison Road, Old Spanish Trail to Speedway Boulevard	Street widening, new sidewalks, new streetlights, drainage improvements	Spring 2008

During these improvements, business and residential access will be maintained to the extent possible with only short, infrequent closures when necessary. Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians traveling in the work area are asked to please obey all traffic control signs and be alert for construction equipment and personnel working in the area. For more information, visit the TDOT web site at www.dot.tucsonaz.gov.

TDOT Earns Industry Accolades

Your Department of Transportation earned three prestigious awards from the Arizona Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) last summer. Each year the APWA recognizes outstanding public works professionals and projects throughout Arizona.

This year TDOT was awarded –

Outstanding Public Works Employee for 2005

Steve Pageau, Deputy Director, has been with TDOT since 2002 and oversees the department's Streets and Traffic Maintenance, Engineering and Traffic Engineering divisions.

2005 Award of Merit

Shellie Ginn, TDOT Program Coordinator, was recognized for her work on several projects,

particularly the Transit Alternatives Analysis and modern streetcar study.

Project of the Year Award in the \$2-\$10 Million Category

TDOT received this award for the **Pennington Street Garage**, located Downtown at 110 E. Pennington Street. The garage was recognized for its innovative use of solar technology and



2005 Project of the Year – the Pennington Street Garage is a solar-powered and fully automated, 24-hour facility.

the electronic payment system that allows drivers to park at any time, 24 hours per day.

Stone Avenue Improvements Complete



Stone Avenue is a more efficient and attractive Gateway to Downtown, thanks to the recent improvements.



A dedication event on October 25th

marked the completion of a 10-month, \$2.4 million project to improve Stone Avenue between First and Sixth Streets. The roadway received new curbs and sidewalks, landscaping and irrigation, lighting upgrades, and pavement resurfacing. Landscaped islands were added to the existing center turn lane, as well as textured pavement. The side streets of Second Street, Fourth Street and Fifth Street (from Stone to the first alley) also received many of the same upgrades, including a rubber chip seal for smoother driving.

Neighborhood Street Repair (continued from front page)

A number of factors were considered when selecting neighborhoods for the program. First, an overall condition index was created for each neighborhood by combining engineering data with maintenance records. That information was used to prioritize the neighborhoods with the worst streets – the ones that need maintenance most. Along with the street work, crews are looking at the condition of signs and striping within the area to make sure they are all taken care of during this process.

Look for more neighborhood street maintenance activity this spring as the program kicks into high gear again. Thanks for your patience as we work our way across the city.

Questions? More Information?

If you have a question about Tucson's transportation or if you would like to be added to the *Destinations* mailing list, call 791-4371 or e-mail Michael.Graham@tucsonaz.gov.

Word on the Street

By Jim Glock, Director, Tucson Department of Transportation

The transportation industry has evolved significantly during the last several years, and TDOT is no exception. One of the ways we're improving our service to you, our customers, is by involving you more in roadway projects and traffic plans. Through public meetings, Citizen Advisory Committees, frequent mailings and special forums, TDOT is working with you to make Tucson's streets safer, more efficient and well integrated into their surroundings. Here are a few current projects that are benefiting from extensive citizen participation:

Grant Road Corridor



Citizens share their observations about Grant Road's "sense of place" at a recent workshop.

One of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) projects approved by voters in last May's election was the improvement of Grant Road between Swan and Oracle Roads. Before the project's design effort kicks into high gear, TDOT is engaging the community in a series of "Community Conversations" about the corridor. Our goal was to hear what people had to say about Grant Road's "sense of place," that is the unique feelings, memories and qualities associated with it.

The response was remarkable. Hundreds of residents and property owners came to the meetings, sent letters and e-mails, and even shared their favorite historic photos of Grant Road. The comments we heard are being compiled and analyzed by Anita Fonte, the facilitator of the process, and will result in "guiding principles" for corridor planning.



Downtown Links

Downtown Links is a design project that will provide links between Barraza-Aviation Parkway and Interstate 10, Broadway Boulevard and the 4th Avenue shopping district, and Downtown and the neighborhoods to its north. Enhancements on this corridor will provide more efficient access to Downtown, new and safer underpasses, railroad crossings and sidewalks.

The Downtown Links Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) has worked closely with TDOT staff to develop an alignment that satisfies as many of the project goals as possible. We've also involved neighbors and other area stakeholders in a first-ever series of Land Use meetings to gather their unique input on how the project design can enhance land use in their areas.

I'm pleased to report that all of this hard work has paid off. During their monthly meetings in November and December, the CAC chose "Concept 2" as the preferred alignment concept. Selection of an alignment concept means that the CAC may now focus its energies on detailed design work, including traffic analysis, multi-modal access, roadway design and geometry, underpass design, Union Pacific Railroad coordination, land use planning and other issues.

E-mail Your Questions

If you have a question you'd like us to address in *Destinations*, e-mail it to me at Jim.Glock@tucsonaz.gov. Thanks!



Tucson Department
of Transportation

Destinations is produced by the Tucson Department of Transportation Public Information Office and the City of Tucson.

Para recibir esta información en español, sírvase llamar al 791-4371.