



JEFFERSON PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 41243, Tucson, Az 85717

www.jeffersonpark.info

JPNA Officers

*Rotating Chair
President*

Colleen Nichols
Vice President
cnichols17@cox.net

Erin Posthumus
Secretary
erinposthumus@gmail.com

Laurel-Heather Milden
Treasurer
trdswmn@cox.net

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Joan Daniels
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June 3, 2025

Dear Mayor Romero and Members of the City Council,

The Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association, as a member of the Grant Road Coalition, strongly opposes the two options discussed at the meeting to the Grant Coalition on May 22, 2025, that will reduce the scope of work of Phase 5/6 -- Central Segments to accommodate a large funding shortfall. It is clear that the plan attempts to make a fiscal bear fit into a fly trap. Those trapped in this plan will be the contiguous neighborhoods and a thriving cultural area of central Tucson.

This particular section of the project must be completed as promised, either now or postponed until such time as it can be honorably funded and implemented. It is mystifying that the project was scheduled in such a way as to leave the middle unfinished for years! Central Segments is just that: CENTRAL. It is the most residential, greatly traveled area by pedestrians and cyclists due to its location north of the University of Arizona. A residentially adverse plan will do irreparable harm to this central section of Tucson, which includes historic neighborhoods, Banner UMC, and the University.

The completed Phase 2 Health and Heritage Trail is a shining example of careful planning and continuous collaboration among project stakeholders, including residents. It is regularly utilized by pedestrians and bikes and, in the short time since its creation, already features nearly mature native growth providing shade and traffic mitigation.

Filling almost all right-of-way with asphalt eliminates any mitigation for the residents and pedestrian/bikes who utilize this area. It ignores Tucson's need for, and promise of, climate control--trees. Currently, remnant parcels are only partially acquired (4 properties on north side) and create the appearance of a down-trodden, irregular area ripe for the degradation of the border of the neighborhoods.

Although we may not totally understand the intricacies and twists of the funding process -- money now and money "next", we strongly advise that funding be found to finish the originally proposed amenities of this project, including landscaping, greenspace, noise buffers, a reasonably wide right-of-way, the Dutch intersection at Mountain and Grant, and other critical safety and aesthetic features in this, the most residential section of the project.

The current proposals may meet a funding shortfall, but they woefully fail to meet the original intent of the project and promises made to residents as they were forced to accept the road widening project. To review the original amenities proposed to be included in this project, see https://www.tucsonaz.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v1/city-services/planning-development-services/documents/grant_road_ccv.pdf

Please do it right the first time, even if it means we have to work a little harder and wait a little longer for the funding needed. To do less is to fail our community. The neighborhoods have been active since 2016 and created white papers that describe the importance of preserving neighborhoods and quality of life for residents: <http://www.jeffersonpark.info/grant-rd-widening.html>. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association

Cc: Grant Rd Coalition

Sam Credio: sam.credio@tucsonaz.gov

Jim DeGroot: James.DeGroot@tucsonaz.gov

Rob Lane: rob.lane@tucsonaz.gov

Kristina Swallow: Kristina.Swallow@tucsonaz.gov

Sherry Martin: Sherry.Martin@tucsonaz.gov

Alejandro Angel: aangel@psomas.com