



1st Avenue Citizens' Corridor Planning Task Force

Thursday, March 26, 2026, 5:45 p.m.

Donna Liggins Recreation Center

2160 N. 6th Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85705



LEGAL ACTION REPORT

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Co-Chair Ruben Robles called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. The quorum was established through roll call.

PRESENT	ABSENT
Caroline Bartelme	Mindy Gutzmer
Dave Boston	Maxine Dunkelman
Ruben Robles	Marci Caballero-Reynolds
Kathleen (Susan) O'Brien	Kate Saunders
Nancy Reid	
Karl Peterson	
A.M. Rivers	
Melissa (Mimi) Noshay-Petro	

2. Approval of January 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Ruben Robles asked the members of the 1st Avenue Citizens' Corridor Planning Task Force (1ACCPTF) if they had an opportunity to review the minutes from the previous meeting on January 22, 2026. All 1ACCPTF members reviewed the minutes, and A.M. Rivers made a motion to accept, seconded by Susan O'Brien. All approved.

3. Call to the Audience

No comments were received during the Call to the Audience.

4. RTA next, what it means for 1st Avenue

City of Tucson DTM Administrator, Patrick Hartley, told the task force that because of the RTA Next election results, the 1st Avenue Improvement Project is now officially fully funded.

Right now, we have completed 15% of the design, and the Design Concept Report (DCR) is complete, and we are now advancing to 30%. We were looking at different phasing plans depending on the results of the election.

Now that we are approved for \$134 million, everything is a go on this project. Next step is taking this to 30%, and our phasing plan will likely be a multi-phase plan. We will bring this phasing plan back to the task force for input, but our intention now is to advance the project in a way that is most economically beneficial to the project.
No action was taken.

5. Public Outreach Summary and Design Concept Report (DCR) Open Discussion

City of Tucson DTM Administrator, Patrick Hartley, noted that we have provided the task force with a copy of the Public Outreach Summary for Phase II and the DCR and now we are opening it up for any comments or questions that members might have.

HDR Project Manager, Brent Kirkman added that we have also posted the completed Traffic Report on the project website for anyone to review. Patrick added that there is a lot of great information in the traffic report. The purpose of this report is to document, show and defend the decision-making through this process.

Patrick added that if any questions or comments come up after reviewing the traffic report or the DCR we can discuss it in a future meeting or you can email one of the team members.

No action was taken.

6. Intersection Right-Turn Alternatives

City of Tucson DTM Administrator, Patrick Hartley started this section by saying that if you have looked through the comments we received in Phase II outreach, you will see one of the main themes and topics was about some of our intersection design and focusing on the channelized right turn options. So, we want to address this head on and give a presentation on the channelized right turns.

Kittleson & Associates Principal Engineer, Felipe Ladron de Guevara, made a lengthy presentation on how the team has analyzed the intersections in the 1st Avenue corridor and their current design suggestions, including channelized right turn lanes, but not ones that were done in the past but new safer “Smart Channels”.

Here is a list of the topics that Felipe presented:

- When to Implement a Right Turn Lanes
- Right Turn Lanes for 1st Avenue
- Evaluation Criteria
- Right Turn Lane Options
- The Right Turn Challenge Video
- Additional Considerations
- Federal Highway Administration Safe System Design Hierarchy
- Evaluating Right Turn Lane Options: Channelized Right Turn Lane Benefits
- Existing Channelized Right Turn Lanes in Tucson
- Evaluating Right Turn Lane Options: Channelized Right Turn Lane Challenges and Considerations
- Evaluating Right Turn Lane Options: Channelized Right Turn Lane Research Findings
- Case Study: Smart Right Turn at Lamar Boulevard/Parmer Lane Intersection, Austin, Texas

- Case Study: Smart Right Turn at Northmoor Road and Knoxville Avenue, Peoria, Illinois
- Channelized Right Turn Options and Configurations
- Comparing Channelized Right Turn Options
- Smart Channels: Addressing Channelized Right Turn Safety Concerns
- Refining Channelized Right Turn Elements with the Tucson Department of Transportation 20 Flag Framework
- Key Intersection Design Elements
- Bike Lane Departure Ramp
- Other Design Considerations
- 15% Design Concept
- Right Turn Lane Configuration and Bus Stop Location and Configuration
- Right Turn Lane and Protected Intersection Configuration

The summary of this presentation was that the previous channelized right lane designs do have some negative issues, and that is why we are looking at new Smart Channel right turns only. The evidence shows that these are a safer alternative for both bikes and pedestrians and that the project is looking at only using Smart Channel right turns and only at intersections where it makes sense. We will be having continued discussions on this as we move forward.

No action was taken.

7. Schedule Update

HDR Project Manager, Brent Kirkman presented the updated project overview timeline and right now the team is exactly where it should be with the goal of 30% design to happen this summer. Construction to begin at the end of 2028 and finish at the end of 2031.

In the meantime, the HDR team has a lot of work to, and here is how it will happen:

During the Next Two Weeks, Team will Complete the following:

- Address City of Tucson Department of Transportation Staff Comments on the DCR
- Kittleson & Associates will complete – Street Lighting System Design and Traffic Signal Design

In Two Weeks, the team will work on:

- Responding to Public Engagement Comments
- Balancing Safety, Mobility and Right of Way Impacts
- Bus Stop Locations and Details
- Bridge Substructure Design
- Bridge Superstructure Design
- Storm Drain System Design
- Property Access Design
- Project Phasing and Delivery

No action was taken.

8. Future Agenda Items

Patrick Hartley and Brent Kirkman asked the task force members if there was anything else that they would like to discuss and put on future agendas. No one had anything else to add.

No action was taken

9. Adjournment

Ruben Robles moved to adjourn the meeting; A.M. Rivers seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.