

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

Public comments as of February 22, 2013, 4:52 PM

All Participants around Tempe

Comments sorted chronologically



As with any public comment process, participation in Tempe Forum is voluntary. The statements in this record are not necessarily representative of the whole population, nor do they reflect the opinions of any government agency or elected officials.

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

Introduction

Background:

The University Drive Streetscape project will improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities, enhance the streetscape and calm traffic on University Drive between the Union Pacific Railroad and Priest Drive. The project will likely include bicycle and pedestrian enhancements, public art, additional crosswalk opportunities, ADA improvements and landscaping. The project is intended to promote neighborhood stability, sustainable business and development efforts while continuing Tempe's commitment to alternative modes of transportation. The University Drive Streetscape Project is identified in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan as part of the Tempe 2030 General Plan.

This project is funded with \$1.1 million in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant money. The city of Tempe would also contribute (through the transit fund) five percent of the total grant money received. The project is currently in the design phase. Council direction will likely be sought in early 2013. Construction would then begin in summer/fall 2013 and last six months.

View the proposed design concept:

<http://www.tempe.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=13952>

For more information please go to <http://www.tempe.gov/universitydrive>

Have Your Say

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue? Click on POST below to have your say.

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

As of February 22, 2013, 4:52 PM, this forum had:

Attendees:	234
Participants around Tempe:	58
Hours of Public Comment:	2.9

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

Bryan Harris inside Tempe

November 1, 2012, 3:32 PM

As an avid biker, and local resident, I for one am delighted about the proposed concept for bicycle and pedestrian improvements on University Drive. I am also a regular patron to numerous businesses along University in every means of transportation.

I understand that a change in the way that cars/motorized vehicles can turn into businesses can be alarming for business owners, but all it would take is more planning in the route that a vehicle operator needs to choose. Also, motorized vehicles aren't the only patrons for said local businesses and this concept will allow a more symbiotic relationship between cars and pedestrians/bicyclists to all be able to have safer access to places they enjoy visiting.

With University Drive being the main East-West thoroughfare for A.S.U., I feel this upgrade will mediate motorized vehicular traffic and provide a safer street with more conscientious drivers, walkers, and bicyclists where there is a higher volume of all three. This concept will also assure a much needed renovation for ADA accessibility and inhibit the heat island effect and provide a cooler micro-climate and cleaner air with the landscaped medians. By using native Sonoran Desert plants there will be minimal water use and maintenance. This will not only aesthetically enhance the visual realm, but will also express the importance of the local landscape that has been so quickly eradicated by expansive development. It shows we are proud to be Arizona natives and residents, and we want to unveil our very unique floral beauty to all walks of life.

I am honored to live in Tempe, and this project will undeniably benefit the local residents and businesses by creating a inspiring poise impacting the character of Tempe street design in a positive manner.

8 Supporters

Paul Deskines inside Tempe

October 30, 2012, 5:12 PM

As a small business owner in the area directly affected by this project, I ask you to please reconsider the proposed traffic restrictions on University Drive west of Ash Avenue. This will negatively impact local businesses, residents, and the flow of traffic in the area.

The current restrictions at the intersection of University Drive and Ash Avenue already make it difficult to enter and exit the University Plaza Complex. Traffic at peak times will back up at this intersection, and further restrictions will only increase the lines and wait times.

If this project proceeds as described in the draft concept, residents approaching University southbound on Ash would be required to make a right turn, continue on University across the railroad track, make a U-Turn at Farmer, and cross the railroad track again just to gain access to these local small businesses.

I implore you; please do not allow this project to continue without providing access to these

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

businesses.

7 Supporters

Drew Sullivan inside Tempe

October 30, 2012, 4:50 PM

I'm a Tempe business owner in the University Plaza complex at the southwest corner of Ash Ave. & University Dr. in downtown Tempe. My business, Ash Ave. Comics, along with all other shops in our plaza would be impacted negatively by the proposed median island between the railroad tracks and Ash Ave. I already hear complaints from customers who travel to the shop southbound on Ash Ave. and are frustrated that they cannot drive south through University to access our business. Anyone who currently accesses University Plaza after turning onto west bound University Dr. has two opportunities to turn into the plaza using the median turn lane. For drivers who are traveling west bound on University Dr. from Mill Ave. or further east, they have an additional opportunity to access the plaza by turning left at the signal at Ash Ave. and University Dr. It appears that the next chance for a west bound driver to access the shop would be by making a u-turn at Farmer Ave & University.

This proposed median island will make it more difficult for drivers to access any of the businesses in University Plaza from west bound University. I would ideally like both driveways to be accessible to westbound drivers who may have no option to make the left turn from University onto Ash at the signal. I am interested in seeing what alternatives to the current median island plan the city can offer in a manner which will benefit pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and take the concerns of businesses and residents into account as well.

7 Supporters

Alex J inside Tempe

November 2, 2012, 10:51 AM

I'll first say that I think signalized intersections at both Farmer and Roosevelt are preferable, both from increasing safety for those crossing the street on foot and bike, and for providing auto drivers easy, safe access to both directions on University (and by extension, all the businesses along this stretch of road).

Considering that along this project area, there are increasing biking/walking/transit volumes, decreasing auto travel volumes, close proximity to ASU (many ASU customers to this area, especially east of Roosevelt, will walk, bike, or take transit from campus; with many of ASU's parking locations, it's faster to just walk or bus than go all the way to your parked car and drive there), and the impending Tempe Streetcar with a stop near Ash and University, the changes proposed here make a lot of sense. It will be much safer for everyone walking or biking, as there are less turning cars to worry about. Even drivers will benefit; I can't count the number of times I've seen a driver turn so close to oncoming traffic that the oncoming cars had to hit their brakes to avoid a collision.

As someone who has shopped at University Plaza, and has come there by bike, car, AND foot, I'd like to say that the concerns of the business are certainly valid, as anything that could impact your

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

customer base should not be taken lightly. However, drivers who would patronize these businesses from the north and east can and will quickly adjust, particularly if Option B (a future signalized intersection at Farmer) is chosen. A new signalized intersection here would be ideal. Not only would it allow pedestrians another safe crossing space, it would also allow drivers to make an easy left turn onto eastbound University from the northern neighborhoods, providing them a convenient, easy alternative to the Ash/University intersection and median turn lanes that exist now. And with new developments like Encore on Farmer, it's important for these residents to be able to safely cross the street and get to all the great businesses on University! I'd hope that Tempe considers either building the signal at Farmer as part of this project, or completing the rest of the project while holding off on the landscaped median east of the railroad until Farmer can be signalized, to ensure that these businesses don't have to worry about losing customers.

6 Supporters

Nicholas Kalargyros inside Tempe

October 30, 2012, 12:12 PM

Living in Tempe for the past few years I have driven down, walked, cycled and used public transportation down University Drive in the project area. The area definitely needs more crossing opportunities. I can't tell you how many times I have seen people almost get hit running across the street because the nearest crosswalk is over a quarter mile away. The area could use HAWK signals like the one at Apache and the canal or in front of Vista Del Sol on Apache where the light only changes when someone needs to cross. Roosevelt Street could definitely use a traffic light because the neighborhood to the north is quite dense and there is usually a backup trying to turn east onto University. I have noticed that people speed from Ash to just past Hardy because the road seems like a highway, but then slow down until Priest. I am not sure if the road narrows or if it just seems that way because the buildings are closer to the street. Also, along the entire project area the sidewalks need to be widened or a buffer should be created because when walking on the sidewalk you feel as if you are going to fall into the street.

6 Supporters

Victor Ong outside Tempe

November 13, 2012, 10:17 PM

I am the landlord of the building located at 1323-1325 W University. It has been a difficult four years in trying to find successful businesses for this location. I have had 4 tenants in four years for the two retail spaces. I have had 30 months of vacancy between the two spaces. I am in favor of the bike lanes and landscaping but not the left turn lane restrictions. This restriction would reduce traffic to my building and decrease the rental. This would also reduce the value of the property.

City of Tempe: Please send me updates on this project to P O Box 15236, Phoenix 85060.

5 Supporters

KEITH ROGERS inside Tempe

October 26, 2012, 4:23 PM

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

I strenuously object to the proposed impediments (landscaping) to be made in the middle of University Drive. This street carries heavy traffic, which now crowds the street to capacity. Adding landscaping in the center of this busy street would unnecessarily impede and obstruct traffic. It would cause additional dangerous traffic hazards. Construction costs and the required on-going maintenance costs would be a waste of the government's (Taxpayers') money, and it would definitely not add to the aesthetics of the area.

5 Supporters

Julie Volz inside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 4:26 PM

I am the business development manager at AlphaGraphics on University and I am very concerned at how the proposed median on University Dr. will negatively impact our business. Customers will not know how to turn into our building (at McKemy) and will be forced to make dangerous u-turns at a busy intersection that sees many accidents. This will frustrate our clients (and new client prospects) and will surely have an impact on revenue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Volz

4 Supporters

Dale Larkin inside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 4:21 PM

This will create more congested traffic on University and limit access to many businesses along University Drive. I think we should save the money and use it for maintenance of our existing roads that need work rather than to spend more money just to make a good street look better. University Drive works great the way it does and if it is turned into the same way it is between Rural and Mill, then all it will do is slow down traffic and create more congestion as the area grows in population.

Just keep it the way it is.

4 Supporters

Tom Kaspor inside Tempe

December 7, 2012, 6:14 AM

I am the owner of the Original Hoagie Shop located in the Hohokam Square on the southeast corner of University and Priest. My business has been in our family at the same location since 1979 so we have seen a lot of changes over the years. I am very concerned about the proposed plans for University for several reasons. The no left turns will hurt all businesses along University. We can hope our existing customers will figure out how to get into or out of our parking lots without causing an accident, but we can pretty much forget about getting any new customers. As we all know business is tough enough with the poor economy and many of our regular customers have gone out of business or moved to other locations, therefore there will be many new companies filling there spots and we do

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

not want to make it any more challenging for them to get into our parking lot than we have to.

Please take this into consideration,
Thank You,
Original Hoagie Shop
(480)968-7409

4 Supporters

Mark Russell inside Tempe

December 3, 2012, 9:52 AM

To: Mayor Hallman and the Tempe City Council

As the owner of Oregano's Pizza Bistro on University Drive I'm extremely concerned over the plans to install new and restrictive lane medians. While positively affecting the habits of cyclists and pedestrians, these road barriers will prevent our guests from easily making a left turn going west on University Dr., resulting in countless unsafe U-turns, increased risks and a sure decline in revenue.

In the mid 90's, Oregano's was one of the first businesses to reinvest in the Mitchell District. There was little economic activity in the area and a desperate need for change and revitalization. Over the years we have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to not only make Oregano's a destination place but also a source of civic pride. We are asking to be a part of creating a new or updated solution that is safe for pedestrians and cyclists without being less favorable to the businesses that support the city of Tempe.

We respectfully ask that you consider our position moving forward. Frankly, our decision to stay on University for the long term hinges on our guests having proper access.

Sincerely,
Mark S. Russell
Oregano's Pizza Bistro

4 Supporters

Andrew Costanzo inside Tempe

December 3, 2012, 12:49 AM

I am a business owner in Hohokam Square, located at the Southeast corner of University and Priest. I am concerned about the unintended consequences of the median project.

1 - I think that a result of eliminating most of the left turn opportunities will be an increase in turn around traffic in Hohokam Square. This will create a hazard to the pedestrian traffic in our private parking facility.

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

2 – I think that this project will create a financial hardship to the business along the project route. Many business are already struggling in this depressed economy, this project could force some business to close their doors.

3 – I think that this project will result in lower sales tax collection for the City of Tempe from the business along the project route.

Andrew Costanzo

The Irish Gift House

1335 W. University Dr. # 7

Tempe, AZ 85281

480 731-9755

4 Supporters

P.J. Gonzales inside Tempe

November 26, 2012, 9:16 PM

I am the owner of Arizona Firearms and Collectables. Regarding the proposed street changes in front of our business on University near Priest Drive. I am all for improvements in this area of Tempe, we all know it could use some love. However anything in that median is going to kill businesses such as mine. Many of my customers come from the east end of Tempe near ASU and from Mesa. They all use the University corridor. They will have nowhere to turn into our business. This will lead into some nasty unneeded U-turns at the Priest intersection. I also see them becoming alley travelers once they familiarize themselves with the neighborhood. This will take many people south on Margo Dr. looking to cut through alleys or worse zipping through the residential neighborhood that sits behind us. We already see alot of congestion on University Dr. in both directions, and I would hate to see it get any worse. I don't see how this will help any of the traffic issues on University either. Our little shop brings in quite a bit of business into this town from all over the valley. I know several of the other businesses along University Dr. do as well. Please do not make it more difficult for us to do business by restricting the left turns into our businesses. I would like to point out how well the sidewalks and bike lanes look between Mill and Rural in the heart of the campus. This was done without putting landscape in the median and destroying turn lanes. This project can be great for all parties involved if it is done in a matter that wil work with both the businesses and residents in the community.

4 Supporters

Arthur Markman inside Tempe

November 18, 2012, 5:29 PM

I am Strongly opposed to any "improvement" which in any fashion, hinders, obstructs, or disallows customers, patrons,or deliverers of goods and services to any Business, Merchant, or Real Estate parcel by restricting Any turns, either Right or Left, into Any Existing Driveway along University DR. or for that matter, any driveway currently existing anywhere that such Businesses, Merchants, and parcel owners have come to rely upon for TRADE. Arthur Markman, Tempe Feed and Tack

4 Supporters

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

I am writing to show my support to this project. Projects such as these differentiate Tempe from the rest of our metro area and are part of the reason many people are attracted to our city and our neighborhoods. University Drive provides a direct line into the center of the ASU campus and it is essential that this corridor become more pedestrian friendly and safe given the amount of students and residents that travel this street each day. Although I would like to see the median at the western half of this project be less wide to accommodate separated bike lanes in that area too, I am more than willing to see this project proceed as now planned.

I do feel a need to comment on the University Plaza issue regarding people that are traveling south on Ash Ave. If you look at the traffic markings on University west of Ash in front of this plaza you will realize anyone making a left into that plaza before the last entrance west of Buffalo Exchange (which isn't an entrance to the main plaza) is making an illegal turn across the left turn lane intended for traffic turning left off University to travel north on Ash Ave. Is an argument based on saving what amounts to an illegal turn really a valid topic of discussion? My thought is that a person that now travels via car south on Ash and wants to end up at University Plaza probably lives, works in, or frequents the neighborhood enough to quickly realize they should come south down Roosevelt instead (soon to be a controlled intersection) and take a left on University to then turn right into the plaza or on to Ash Ave. It will be safer for everyone involved and safety is one of the big reasons for this project in the first place.

4 Supporters

kathleen tucker inside Tempe

November 4, 2012, 4:22 PM

Like the over all design. I live in Mitchell Park and having university more ped and bike friendly on this stretch of road will be most welcome. Walking to Harlow's and having to traverse the horrible sidewalk at the intersection of Hardy particularly where the Circle K, Harlow's strip mall has been challenging especially when my daughter was in a stroller. Getting that area more ped friendly will be greatly appreciated. Hopefully those owners will allow some street tree plantings which would be very welcoming in the summer.

I love this city!

4 Supporters

Dan Johnson outside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 4:47 PM

While I support the beautification efforts for the City of Tempe, I think that there has been a glaring oversight on the impact some elements will have on existing businesses. As an employee of Alphagraphics on University for eighteen years, who relies solely on my income to support my family of 4, I have serious concerns as to the adverse effect construction of this median will have on the flow of customers into our business. West-bound traffic will have no direct access to our entrance. They would be forced to make several turns - possibly including a dangerous/illegal u-turn at Hardy. In the highly competitive business environment in which we all live, it is imperative that no company loses

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

any customer traffic by means that could be easily avoided. I strongly object to the proposed layout of the median. University Drive in Tempe contains no less than 4 companies that are direct competitors to Alphagraphics. None of them would have to endure the access limitations from the proposed project that Alphagraphics would, and I submit that this gives them an unfair advantage directly related to the creation of the median. Please consider the comments of this long-standing business in the community before creating such a blatant obstacle to our future success.

3 Supporters

Anthony Avery outside Tempe

December 8, 2012, 11:21 AM

Dear Mr.'s Kaspor, Hauser, Russell, et al:

As you can clearly see from my information, I am not a Tempe resident. However, being a very frequent visitor to Tempe I maintain my involvement in the civic process particularly when it comes to transportation-related issues. I consistently visit the businesses along the area affected by the proposed University Drive street scape changes, particularly Oregano's, Cartel, Dilly's Deli, Alpha Graphics and Essence Bakery, so this project does have a direct impact on me and my patronage to the businesses in the affected area.

My concern with your stance in opposition to these improvements is the lack of evidence supporting your statements that business will be hindered by installing a median. Mr. Kesto stated that the locals will find this "annoying", Ms. Chatwin purports that her customers would be unable to return to their point of origin west of her location, and Mr. Weninger opines that pedestrians will be in greater danger due to vehicles making u-turns.

The FHWA cites studies that have taken place in Texas, Kansas, Iowa, and Florida that share the common discovery that the results of installing movement-controlling measures were beneficial to the community and businesses at large (source:

http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/amprimer/access_mgmt_primer.htm). In the Florida study, 70% of businesses saw no impact to their property values [the implication is that rental rates stayed the same] while 13% increased and 17% decreased. The consensus among all these studies is that "'Before and after' studies of businesses in Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, and Texas along highways where access has been managed found that the vast majority of businesses do as well or better after the access management projects are completed." The findings also go on to state that "Only five percent [of businesses] reported a sales decrease." The findings also determine that "...the left-turn into and out of a driveway is less safe than a u-turn and comprises the majority of driveway crashes."

My point of this post is to illustrate that the fears of improving pedestrian and bicycle safety and accessibility in this heavily congested area is unfounded. The benefits for this project far out-weigh the negatives and even the negatives are being over-stated. I ask that the readers and business owners take a moment to consider actual evidence that has been observed through similar improvements across the country rather than responding with a knee-jerk reaction against change. These improvements will enhance the experience of your customers and as such, your business will

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

reap the benefits.

Sincerely,

Anthony A. Avery

3 Supporters

elton kesto inside Tempe

November 27, 2012, 4:09 PM

I am the owner of Beer Hop Smoke Shop near the north east corner of University and Priest. This comment is in regards to the center median possibly being future planned in front of my business as well as many other business' and residents homes. I personally think this is an terrible idea for both business' and residents. Residents will start to find it very hard to get to their local store and the local stores will find making money very hard because of no local business. On top of that, even the Non-locals that come from different sides of the city will find it very hard to make their way into our stores as well and just may end up finding an easier store to shop to. I just don't find it necessary to put this median into our streets especially only within the mile. this will do nothing but no good for everyone around it and the locals will just find this very annoying to work around so really, our taxes are going to something that will just upset us and cost us money and even maybe shut business' down. future residents may steer away after finding out the difficulties of how much driving is involved just to go down the street. if little by little business' in Tempe start closing down, does that not effect the City of Tempe its self? so all and all, the city is paying money to lose money. this whole project is a lose lose situation. everyone can agree that YES the city can use a little improvement but making the roads more difficult for everyone is not any improvement at all. If it will matter and show more on how this is not a good idea i will be more than happy to collect signatures on hundreds of people that live and work in Tempe asking the City not to do this project. Please hear us, the people of Tempe, as well ALL ask that the City finds alternative ways on improving the looks of Tempe. Thank you.

3 Supporters

Billy Miller inside Tempe

November 6, 2012, 3:53 PM

As a resident of the area, this is another welcomed project along with the Hardy Drive improvements for the same reasons as mentioned by other residents. Improved safety measures for cyclists and pedestrians could not come soon enough, given the number of those using alternative transportation in the area. The jobs created by projects like this help keep those in our communities employed. The improved aesthetics of this project cannot be expected to do anything but increase usage of the travel corridor by cyclists and pedestrians, improving foot traffic for those businesses in and around University.

I understand the frustration in trying to access the SW corner of University & Ash, I patronize the businesses there like anyone else despite the difficulty in making the turns in to the parking lot. I do not think removing the median between Ash and Farmer is the solution to the problem. We still have

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

traffic restrictions traveling south on Ash, and as a result still have motorists making last minute turns, U turns further west on University, etc. I do question why the city wouldn't remove the traffic restriction of having to turn east or west on University when traveling south on Ash. This would seem to resolve some of the concerns of those opposed to the project in that area, and perhaps minimize motorists having to make difficult left turns.

3 Supporters

Jason Silberschlag inside Tempe

November 6, 2012, 2:45 PM

We own a local coffee shop and roastery in the University Plaza complex. We are located at the SW corner of University and Ash Ave. While we are supportive of any effort to increase the aesthetics of our neighborhood, we do not believe it increases the functional qualities, in the case relating specifically to University Drive between Wilson and Ash avenue. We already experience challenges in getting to the complex when trying to access the business heading southbound on Ash, as you can not drive thru the intersection at University. The only option is to turn right onto University and then left into the complex. It would be detrimental to remove this left turn lane into University Plaza.

3 Supporters

John De Boer inside Tempe

November 6, 2012, 11:14 AM

I think the streetscape would be an improvement to University Drive.

When will they replace the sidewalk at 1986 E University Dr. before someone gets killed or injured when walking on the street. The lawsuit against the city would be huge.

There have been several close calls for an accident.

3 Supporters

Kyle Hancock inside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 4:51 PM

My name is Kyle Hancock and I work for Alphagraphics on University Drive at McKemy. I have worked for this company for almost 19 years.

These proposed changes would have a huge negative impact on the company I work for and would be much more difficult for me personally as I come to and from work. The negative impact to the company would be felt in loss of business, which loss could and would result in the loss of profit and jobs, even, potentially, mine.

There are two entrances to our building; off University and off McKemy. There are also three businesses in this building; Alphagraphics, 5R Cha, and Thai Elephant. We have a busy location with

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

customers coming to and from our center all day. These customers come from every direction, including from ASU, for whom we do much work for many ASU departments, faculty, and students. Everyone coming from the east, including our delivery drivers will have to pass through the McKemy entrance or go through the neighborhoods to work around the new inconvenience. Our supply vendors will be affected and large trucks may not be able to pass through our parking lot as they currently do. Couple our company traffic flow with the traffic of the two restaurants in our center and we will have a huge amount of traffic passing through both McKemy street and our one entrance on McKemy resulting in potential heavy bottle-necking at University and McKemy. This does not even take into account the residents of the area or other businesses that use McKemy.

Please reconsider these plans and do not put a median along University.

Thank you.

Kyle Hancock

2 Supporters

Daniel High outside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 4:47 PM

I work on University near Hardy. Putting a median in front of my place of employment would hurt revenues and possibly my employment. I work at Alphagraphics which is located near the Hardy intersection. Putting in a median would block half of the traffic from being able to turn into where I work. For our delivery trucks to get out safely we would be rerouted thru the Mitchell Park Neighbor, this would also apply to our customers would will have to loop around from the side that is blocked by the median. Forcing traffic into neighborhoods is not safe or improves quality of life.

There have been scores of stories of business that closed because of the effect of the light rail construction. Please do not hurt my source of employment and income. Please beautify the streets on current sidewalks and space already provided.

Thank you,

Daniel High

high.daniel@gmail.com

2 Supporters

Mick Lanus inside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 4:47 PM

To Whom it may concern:

This project not only will affect the Business i work at negatively but it would eventually affect me as an employee, cause and effect, the less business the less hours/money i get, & consequently city taxes; not only that but i find it aesthetically unnecessary, if it were a family neighbourhood were kids walk, it would probably make sense, the street it's mainly businesses; you have to consider the problems it causes for traffic and city money that could be use for better & necessary projects.

2 Supporters

Z Wright inside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 4:39 PM

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

I have a few concerns with this project in the way it is presented now. I am not sure how this is going to effect all the businesses in the area, however I am sure it will have a negative impact on our business here at Alphagrahics, although we would love the beautification of the street, there should be some sort of middle ground that can be reached so businesses will not have their access from University Dr blocked or made more challenging. I feel if people have a hard time finding us, or turning into our parking lot, they will choose another more convenient place to shop for printing, in the long run this will have an impact on my job, if we have less sales, we won't need as many employees and some of us will be let go as a result.

Also am very certain that this will drive more traffic into the surrounding neighborhoods. The Mitchell Park community is a big supporter of our business and I know that they are long term residents that deserve to have some privacy. I hope that something can come of this so everyone involved can benefit in some way. Thanks

2 Supporters

Jennifer Gale in (your neighborhood)

December 10, 2012, 4:35 PM

I'm not fond of the median idea. It would severely limit traffic in and out of where I work (AlphaGraphics on University). I've lived in cities with extensive medians, and they were not conducive to an easy traffic flow. I know I passed on going to businesses because I couldn't get across the street to where they were located without making difficult U-turns. Going to and from work shouldn't feel like a road rally.

2 Supporters

Elaine Chatwin inside Tempe

November 27, 2012, 4:19 PM

While I understand that the area east of Farmer would be an improvement for pedestrians and cyclists, I am most concerned with the area west of Farmer, as our business would be adversely affected by the proposed changes. Access to our business would be limited, and our customers would be limited in exiting. Most of our customers come from west of Hardy and need to be able to return to their locations. As now proposed, they would not be able to do so. We have been in this location for 34 years and were actually here when University was changed from a 2 lane road to the current 4 lanes. Going back in time, just doesn't make sense to me and our business would suffer during the changes, as well as after.

2 Supporters

John Minett inside Tempe

November 9, 2012, 4:20 PM

While the City should be congratulated for getting a Federal Grant to improve University Drive, I find the present proposal very disappointing. I support the concept of safer crossings and in particular traffic signals at Roosevelt and at Farmer or a crossing via median there. However, I am afraid the

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

proposal does not live up to the stated aims on the City:

'the project will improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities, enhance the streetscape and calm traffic on University Drive between Ash Avenue and Priest Drive'.

In my view, the proposal will fail to improve the pedestrian environment, do little if anything to calm traffic, and only help bicyclists who are traveling along the street for the reasons I state below..

The prime desires that the public asked for are shady pedestrian sidewalks and slower traffic so that the street is safer to cross; a situation that is also important for bicycles and cars. We hoped for a multi-purpose street handling different traffic modes: pedestrians, buses, bicycles as well as vehicles. What we are presented with is two potential race-tracks for cars, and bicycles, conveniently separated by a median which should help reduce potential collisions. A median with a line of trees maybe intended to enhance the streetscape, but I believe will do little to slow traffic and only emphasize the sense of a clearway for cars (and bicyclists) to speed.

A city employee is quoted in The State Press (9/27/12) that "we are trying to make streets places rather than just be a street. We want to add color with public art and streetscaping to make the area a real destination and compliment to downtown and ASU."

Places require pedestrians to be able to stop and stare, chat to friends, shop, walk across the street. What do pedestrians get in the present proposal? Crosswalks beautified with pavers that may be visible to drivers, although not really as clear as white striping. All crosswalks are at traffic signals, or possibly at a z crosswalk that may be provided, if money is available. Sidewalks are to be only 'improved' with ADA ramps at driveway entrances. As far as I understand, no other environmental improvements are planned. As there are over 50 curb cuts required, and well over a mile of curbing for medians, it is difficult to believe that there will be any money left for new traffic signals at Roosevelt, or crosswalks/traffic signals near Farmer.

I regard the present design as a great failure of imagination on the part of the City and its consultants, which if built as presently proposed will have a detrimental affect on the development of the city. West University Drive and adjacent neighborhoods provide an entrance and commercial lead into downtown Tempe. It should not be a speedway, but a place – an experience. Furthermore, in its length between Priest and Rural it is very much part of a multi-modal traffic environment involving a section of the proposed streetcar line and the ASU campus. I urge the City and its consultants to quickly rethink the proposal so that the grant is used as the initial stage for improvements to University Drive as a whole, for all users. And this time, please involve the public. We have many ideas that do not have to slow down the process.

2 Supporters

Mary Villarreal inside Tempe

January 17, 2013, 7:03 PM

I live very near the intersection of University and Farmer. I encounter the challenge of this intersection every day in one way another. My greatest critique of the existing crossings north to south in this area

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

is that vehicle crossing is limited at the Ash Avenue intersection. At least you can not cross from the north side to the south. I have to make a right then merge to the left turn lane immediately to cross onto Farmer. This is not always possible in heavy traffic. I wish Ash Avenue was a normal crossing for vehicles, since a good number of drivers disregard the turn lanes anyways. I think the neighborhood traffic would adjust well to that option without adding another signalized crossing at Farmer. Another good option would be a signal at Roosevelt, but I feel that Farmer is too close to the train tracks and Ash Avenue to alleviate any traffic concerns. It is difficult to make left turns onto University at most times, but the addition of the proposed medians would redirect traffic to signals anyway.

The other way I encounter this intersection is walking my dog in the morning or evening. If it is early enough, I do not have any trouble crossing to the north (to get to TCA and the bridge). If it is evening or later in the morning then I have to go to the signalized light at Ash Avenue. I dislike walking my dog up Ash Avenue (too many parking structures, and therefore cars zooming by) so I double back to Farmer for the residential route north. I don't think a light at Farmer is necessary for vehicle traffic, so I much prefer the option of the non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing just west of Farmer Avenue. It would serve the purpose of assisting pedestrian traffic across without having people stand in the turn lane (or the proposed new median). I think people will take advantage of the proposed medians to cross University anyways- might as well give them a lawful place to do it, as well as a handicap accessible option.

The proposed medians solve a lot of traffic issues and will give pedestrians a safe haven to jaywalk (might as well add as many non-signalized crossings as possible to protect the plantings); but I agree with many other commenters that the trees in the center are not adding to the pedestrian experience. I realize that there is not much of a R.O.W. to add plantings next to the sidewalks for much of the University streetscape, but placing trees in the medians is a waste of resources. They will not provide meaningful shade and will end up pruned into deformed masses to allow Semi-trucks to pass. I call this phenomenon "semi-trees" they are almost a full tree, except for the square chunk removed for a Semi to pass under. I think the medians will serve better with low water use plantings. I believe the lightrail project had many planting suggestions for those medians that were not trees. Another option that may work is if the 11' wide medians had the single row of low shade trees and the 4' wide median the palm trees to preserve the aesthetics of the proposed plan.

1 Supporter

Scott Mitting inside Tempe

January 9, 2013, 8:40 AM

I think the functional concerns regarding U-Turns from the owner of Alphagraphics are valid, but if you want to see an example of functional U-turns, look at Detroit's model. They do no left turns everywhere and have an occasional extra lane dedicated for U-turns. Like round-a-bouts, it confuses people for about a week, and then turns very efficient. The loss of this U-turn design is the one complain from friends of mine that relocate here from Detroit, actually.

As far as a signalized crossing at Farmer, something definitely needs to be done at that intersection, but I believe it would be much better for traffic to put up a barrier to block traffic on Farmer from

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

crossing University. I had a close friend that lived in Villa Nicole for several years, so I spent a lot of time at that intersection, and I've gotta say we used Ash much more than we used Farmer to cross University. I don't see the need to halt University traffic at that intersection, when its quite easy to shoot over to Ash on 5th Street or behind Casey Moore's.

My bicycle idea is something I'll keep posting as a general statement, and I stole the idea from Bill Nye, but I think covered and sealed bikeways with a back-draft in both directions is the way of the future, and could keep bicycle riding an option in the Arizona summers, when I usually put my bike away.

1 Supporter

Karyn Gitlis inside Tempe

January 3, 2013, 5:04 PM

The discussion over the past six months concerning pedestrian and bicycle improvements along University Drive has been exciting; I see us moving toward the accommodation of the pedestrians and bicyclists on University after talking about the problems here for years.

To answer the questions posed: I love the idea of signalized and mid-block signalized (or not) crosswalks. I hope that two are just the start. I love the bike lanes and hope they will be wider and separated from traffic.

Given the discussion, I think we need to back up a bit.

University Drive from Ash to Priest is currently four lanes of 40 mph traffic in a dense urban setting. This is an absurd situation and, off the top of my head, dangerous. What we have is a boundary between the neighborhoods to the north and south that is as inimical to vehicular traffic as it is to pedestrians and bikes. There are so many types and speeds of movement along so many paths, many unsanctioned, that we currently have a mutli-modal mess - and this is prior to the addition of the streetcar . I don't know whether I feel least safe in a car, on a bike or walking. As usual, the devil is in the details.

Did we not, at the start, look at this project as "University Drive Improvements and Traffic Calming?" Can we use the available funds to implement elements of this plan, already identified, that will be basic or easily modifiable/removable in the future if more comprehensive planning (which I believe to be the crux) proves them contraindicated? The improvements should fill an immediate needs and solve immediate problems - and hopefully not create new ones. New crossings on University Drive would be helpful for all users: pedestrians, bikes, cars, businesses, and residents.

John Minett and Kirby Spitler have submitted suggestions that are part of the current plan. These seem to be a great starting place for this small grant that would eliminate some work and possibly leave more money for crossings or additional planning or necessary infrastructure work. They also address the business concerns that medians may create more problems than they alleviate.

People participating in the conversation (who are not solely fixed on the addition of medians) are

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

bringing up again and again: more shade; slower traffic; wider sidewalks; places to cross; protected bike paths; pedestrian and bike amenities. I see many comments on the Forum and on the city website that demonstrate vision, community and functionality – or ‘sense of place’ as John Minett calls it, and rightfully so. Our northwest Tempe neighborhoods Downtown Tempe and ASU all have this sense of place. University Drive should exude this as well.

As Tom A said so succinctly on the Forum:

“Projects such as these differentiate Tempe from the rest of our metro area and are part of the reason many people are attracted to our city and our neighborhoods. University Drive provides a direct line into the center of the ASU campus and it is essential that this corridor become more pedestrian friendly and safe given the amount of students and residents that travel this street each day.”

Karyn Gitlis

1 Supporter

Darin Osborne inside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 7:39 PM

From the standpoint of a walking or cycling neighborhood resident, this project may seem a bit of a no-brainer. However, I urge you to look at the project through a broader lens. This project could dramatically affect sales volumes for the businesses in this area...if businesses are brought to close or move to less restrictive areas...where will residents be biking or walking too? The scope of this project is radically prohibitive to businesses that not only need foot traffic but rely on customers, vendors and suppliers that drive to our locations. As a co-owner of AlphaGraphics on University, a local business we've owned for over 23 years in this area, I'm deeply concerned about the restrictions that the aesthetics of this project impose upon business access. We all want a safe and attractive environment in which to live and enjoy but a measured balance of entrepreneurial consideration needs to be included. Commercial property taxes and sales taxes collected by the businesses in this area empower beautification projects to be possible, however, absent allowing these businesses to flourish the revenue streams will dwindle and employment opportunities reduce and/or businesses close and relocate. At an economic time of heightened trepidation, I feel this project should either not move forward at all or at the very least undergo drastic modification to minimize restrictive vehicular impediments.

1 Supporter

Jennifer Robinson outside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 7:21 PM

I do not support this project, although it would probably make the street look nice, I believe it would make it more dangerous to cross for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists. It would also need ongoing tax dollars to maintain and pay for the landscaping and water usage in future years. This does not seem like an idea that will help attract new clients to our business either, in fact, it will detract from our business. People will not be able to easily get to our business nor many of the businesses along

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

university drive. This would cause an additional hardship on the local small business owners who are already struggling in a slow economy.

1 Supporter

Blake DuPree inside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 5:53 PM

To Whom it may concern,

As an Arizona State University (ASU) student and employee of Alphagraphics (on University) I believe this University Drive Streetscape Project is not only an economic drain for tax payers, but a death sentence for all businesses between Ash Avenue and Priest Drive. As a student and tax-payer I believe that this proposal restricts access to homes, businesses, and other affiliative groups. According to statistics unemployment in Arizona has reached 8.1% (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012). If government officials of Arizona spent as much time, planning, and money trying to reduce unemployment as they did trying to come up with pointless "aesthetic and functional qualities" then we wouldn't be in this conundrum. The proposed median will limit access to multiple businesses along University, potentially decreasing my company's revenue, thus ending my employment. Do not contribute to the problem government officials, fix it by eliminating flawed proposals like this one!

Sincerely yours,

Blake R. DuPree

1 Supporter

Mahmoud Riyad outside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 5:19 PM

I do object to the proposed project (landscaping) to be made in the middle of University Drive. I live in Chandler and I work in Tempe on University Dr between Mill and Hardy. This street carries heavy traffic, which now crowds the street to its capacity. Adding landscaping in the center of this busy street would unnecessarily impede and obstruct traffic. It would cause additional dangerous traffic hazards. Construction costs and it will required an on-going maintenance costs that would be a waste of the Taxpayers' money, and it would definitely Effect all the businesses in that area in very negative way. Most of the businesses in Tempe are still recovering from the recession effect and this project will make it impossible to recover and improve as it will restrict the customer access to the businesses in that area.

1 Supporter

Lee Walters outside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 5:09 PM

I have been employed at the same business in Tempe for 15 years and while we have been surviving

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

the economic downturn, we depend on visibility and access to the business to attract new customers and maintain our current customer base. The proposed median down University Drive would restrict traffic to our business from the east and exiting our business traveling west nearly impossible, restricting our customer base and the amount of business we can conduct. In my opinion, the construction alone would make our business so inaccessible and unusable to customers that my place of work would be unable to survive such a deliberate and devastating blow to our day to day business. While my one job or the jobs of the nearly 40 people employed here may not matter to the city planners or council, without this job I and my family will suffer, my fellow employees and their families will suffer, the businesses around us will not only suffer from the same restrictions, but the loss of monies that the 40 people employed at this business will no longer be spending in Tempe. I urge you to not go through with this plan for a divided University Drive, for the sake of my job and my family there must be another way.

Lee Walters, AlphaGraphics on University

1 Supporter

Matt Banning outside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 4:54 PM

I do not agree or think the proposed design for a median down university is wise nor properly thought out. There are several places in other cities that I saw this very same thing done which ruined access to local businesses and as a driver I had the horrible decision between avoiding the business all together or taking increased risk in taking a turn I did not want to take to get off the road and then get back onto the road just to visit a business. In addition many of the established businesses on this street have limited parking lots, by adding this restrictive turning you are only moving your risk of accidents from the street to a parking lot. Considering I work in Tempe, as well as on this street, and have seen the traffic that comes down the road at rush hour as well as after events and games, I find it insane to impose construction let alone make the street more difficult for people to access various businesses. Emphasis on asthetics and design to make the street look more beautiful should not in any way take away from a street's first and most important role, to act as a conduit of travel while allowing access to local businesses. With the traffic this road sees, removing turns to "some" local business is a noose around their business opportunities. A driver will see the fact that they cannot turn and between that fact and the traffic around them, will many times consider not making the turn.

1 Supporter

Kurt Hauser inside Tempe

December 5, 2012, 9:51 AM

I believe the proposed median for University Drive will have a very negative effect for businesses. It will severely restrict access on an already clogged thoroughfare. The pedestrian and bike enhancements are certainly welcome. Please do not put up a barrier to my business!

1 Supporter

Abdu Hangalay inside Tempe

December 2, 2012, 10:42 PM

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

I am the owner of Access Passport & Visa Services located at 1055 West University Drive, and have been operating from this location since 1999. While in principle I support proposed design concept to improve pedestrian and bicycle options I believe the restricted access to our facilities will present serious challenges for our customers and become detrimental causes for our businesses to suffer tremendously. I urge the city to reconsider the proposed plan and stop the construction of the median that will prevent drivers from making left turns into our business and avoid unintended negative impact to our business.

Thank you for your consideration.

1 Supporter

Russ Cummings inside Tempe

November 30, 2012, 6:49 PM

I am the owner of Extreme Micro on the South East corner of University and Priest, We are a full service, Stocking Computer Store with the ability to build and/or repair all Servers, Workstations and Laptops.

Aside from the obvious economic impact and construction delay this project introduces we would like to point out this concern...

The Hohokam Plaza parking lot will become a virtual round about for all the traffic moving West bound having to navigate back East bound as a U-turn alternative.

Hmmmm, something more to think about. Please listen to the community and address these concerns, Tempe .

Thank you

1 Supporter

T. E. Lucier inside Tempe

November 22, 2012, 9:24 AM

It looks like the design concept succeeds in it's goal: improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians.

I would prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer with a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing near Roosevelt.

1 Supporter

George Love inside Tempe

November 16, 2012, 9:33 AM

I live at the Brownstones at Tempe, which between Roosevelt and Wilson, so I strongly commend the idea of the light at Roosevelt and University, which creates a key pedestrian crossing for the neighborhood. The idea of a proposed light at Farmer seems a good idea as well but I assume there

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

are budgetary constraints so, relative to option A, the two phase pedestrian crossing, which seems to be between Farmer and Wilson, I think an idea from the book *City Comforts: How to Build an Urban Village* may be helpful, which is making that a raised crosswalk which the author of the book notes is referred to as a "sleeping policeman" because it slows down traffic flow and I think, makes it more visible that it is a pedestrian crossing.

I did see the plans included the idea of different material to indicate a pedestrian crossing (also in the book), which is great. While the green medians look lovely I think we might want to consider slimmer medians and instead, expand the sidewalk size (where it is not already expanded) and create curb bulbs to create more pedestrian space. I also think the idea of allowing more on-street parking is another way, and yes another idea from the book, to create a traffic calming device and a barrier between pedestrians and cars, thus making the area more pedestrian friendly and possibly bike friendly as the street parking would be a barrier between the street and the bike lane and the sidewalk. Another alternative is to put a green space between the street and the bike lane, basically something more visible to separate the bikers and the pedestrians from the cars.

Overall, I like many things about the current design but I was inspired by someone else's comments to look at some additional ideas and put them forward for consideration and if the planning committee has not looked at the book I recommended I encourage you to review it as it has some wonderful ideas that might be of value to the project.

1 Supporter

mark lymer outside Tempe

December 28, 2012, 2:33 PM

i have lived in this area off and on over 30 years. the focus should be on slowing down speed of traffic and on the pedestrian experience. who cares if there are nice trees in the median - cars dont need shade to walk in! put the money where you get bang for the buck. widen the sidewalks, add parallel parking, and plant lots of trees! do not make the same mistakes as at Mill Ave. think business friendly along Univ, and the tempe residents living north and south. also, if it's easier to get access to the north, then you will get more residents at Town Lake too!

Tony Merlino inside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 6:00 PM

Our business, AlphaGraphics, is located on the south-side of University, just east of Hardy.

I've reviewed the proposed layouts for the median running along University Drive. I strongly believe that introducing this median could likely produce a number of heavy problems with the current flow of traffic, and more importantly, public safety.

On Public Safety:

On a road that is already congested, vehicles making U-turns everywhere will not only be a source of

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

frustration for the drivers making the turns (they will not only have to further extend their routing maneuvers to enter businesses or change course, but also avoid collisions with speeding vehicles who find the median as a source of comfort with regards to justifying an increase in acceleration). Timing an approach to the proper lane of travel will surely become a frantic issue, and frustration could lead to rash or fanatical tactics used by many drivers under stress.

I am typically in favor of Tempe's aesthetic improvements, but not of those with potential to severely inhibit public safety (or worse, cause unnecessary dangers). The road simply isn't wide enough and is too congested to incorporate an efficient stretch of median. Aesthetics are no match for the argument that we could see a significant increase in mangled vehicles and possibly an increase in pedestrian and bicycle accidents.

On Frustration among Drivers, Workers and Residents:

I agree with the concerns of many business owners on University with regards to the potential loss-of-business...

The median could cause an excessive amount of frustration among drivers trying to enter and exit local businesses along this route. Locals will, of course, become used to the changes and find workarounds, but those unfamiliar with the area (i.e. prospective clients and first-time visitors) are likely to be the victims of this frustration. This could negatively affect businesses who typically deal with B2B clientele, and could severely affect those business who rely on walk-in customer volume.

In the event of an accident, there will be no easy way to get the daily (and hourly) volume of vehicles past a crash site, other than to re-route them through neighborhoods. Certainly, this will immediately begin frustrating local residents on non-arterial streets who have come to expect calm, bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly side roads. With that in mind, I expect more traffic will hit these neighborhoods as a direct result of local drivers attempting to create new routes for themselves in order to avoid new areas of congestion due to the median and forced U-turns.

One more thought comes to mind: Delivery vehicles, such as box- and semi-trucks (you know, the ones that supply all of these local business with their foods, inventories and supplies each and every day) will have the WORST time moving around efficiently. I can only imagine the headaches that ALL drivers will face when these large vehicles attempt to maneuver around medians, compounded by existing obstacles just to get to their destinations. With that in mind, we're looking at even more possibly unforeseen challenges, or accidents caused by the challenges faced by the drivers of these large transport vehicles.

Final response: In my humble opinion, I believe the project and its allocated Federal funding should be re-examined and possibly moved to a less intrusive project that is more beneficial not only to the City of Tempe's pedestrians and bicyclists, but to its businesses and residents.

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

I do not support the proposed project of placing a median on University Dr. I feel that this would impede the flow of traffic, causing more congestion which would result in more accidents. The turn lane restrictions would have a negative impact on all businesses located along the proposed route, eventually leading to layoffs from decreased revenues. I agree that University Dr. could be improved in many ways, but feel that this is the wrong idea. Please consider the long term impact it could have on this neighborhood and the local businesses.

Michael Hohenadel outside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 5:23 PM

my major concern is how restrictive this median design will be for the business's that have already contributed to the community and Tempe as a whole. I am employed at Alpha Graphics at 815 W. University. By placing a median in front of our business, customers will have to flip u-turns at Hardy or continue south on Hardy, making the first left thru the residential neighborhood and left again to enter our business from the rear side. This can't be good for residence or fair to existing business owners and customers. As Tempe and surrounding areas become more populated, more lanes would seem appropriate. Though medians with grass and trees sounds very attractive, it does not sound conducive to population growth. In closing I have to wonder what the annual cost might be to maintain such medians and are they really the best way to spend federal monies. Thank you for reconsidering what could be a restrictive proposal to all of us.

Michael Cash outside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 5:18 PM

Being a long term employee of Alphagraphics I have had the opportunity to watch this business grow in services and clientele. I believe introducing a median to University in front of our business location will lead to an extremely negative impact on our business as well as the surrounding community. We serve clients throughout Tempe and the Phoenix Valley who visit our store, some of them several times a week. Hindering access to our location will become a nuisance to our clients and can only lead them to look for a more easily accessible printing / marketing company to work with. This will cause Tempe to lose money overall...as our customers come from surrounding cities.

I would think the City of Tempe would want to continue to keep and grow the money that is earned through taxes from the services we offer in these difficult economic times. Ultimately, the City of Tempe would be spending money on a median that will only hurt the community.

~ Michael E. Cash

Linda Trostle outside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 4:57 PM

We are located at Hardy and University. The impact of this plan on our business would be devastating. We are still not at pre-recession volumes and the inability for customers to access our building would push our recovery further back. This would result in cutbacks and job losses at our location.

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Linda Trostle

Jon Heiskell inside Tempe

December 10, 2012, 4:55 PM

As an employee of a long time small business on University I would hate to see the city implement something that could cause financial damage to it's biggest assets. Not a good time to roll the dice.

Chris Chatwin inside Tempe

December 3, 2012, 8:32 AM

I am the owner of University Lock & Security on the SW corner of Hardy and University. We have been in business at this location for over 34 years here in Tempe. We have seen Tempe grow through the years. We have seen what construction work can do to businesses and traffic flow in the area. Construction kills businesses.

I support the safety of the community on our streets. However, I don't believe the proposed plan will provide the safety desired because of unforeseen consequences. Namely - U turns all over the place. People driving through residential streets and commercial parking lots to try and get to (or out of) local business locations. I do not support having medians constructed along University Drive. Please seriously reconsider the designs proposed that will have a negative impact on these local businesses on University that support our Tempe community.

Jeff Weninger outside Tempe

November 29, 2012, 10:42 PM

I fully understand the need for pedestrian improvements. Finding safe ways to cross University makes sense. As a business owner in Tempe for almost 20 years and having Dilly's Deli on University since 2000 we have some concerns. As some have stated we have a problem with the proposed medians. Our customers need to be able to reach us without having to make u turns and cut through other businesses parking lots etc. The most concerning item is the proposed plan has the city closing one of our driveways which would funnel all vehicles for Baja Fresh and Dilly's through one driveway with some cars making u turns to turn in. With all due respect, I believe that would make University more dangerous to pedestrians. I firmly believe there is some middle ground here that would make University safer and more visually pleasing without sacrificing business owners livelihoods and investments in the City of Tempe. Last point would be the construction schedule. Whether it's six day work weeks or aggressive timelines I believe the project must be done in an expedient manner.

thank you,

Jeff Weninger

lew fox inside Tempe

November 7, 2012, 3:53 PM

University Drive Streetscape

Given the varying interests and concerns of the neighbors, businesses and users of University Drive, as well as the budget constraints, do you think the proposed design concept improves both the aesthetic and functional qualities of the street for the community, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support a signalized crossing at Roosevelt? And, would you prefer a signalized crossing at Farmer Avenue or a non-signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing west of Farmer Avenue?

All Participants around Tempe

There are certainly many considerations and there is always the "Law of Unintended Consequences" to deal with, but I will only comment on the real need for a light at Farmer & University.
