

University Drive Streetscape Project

What do you think of the preferred design concept for University Drive?

Public comments as of March 5, 2013, 1:43 PM

All Participants around Tempe

Comments sorted chronologically



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Introduction

Background:

The University Drive Streetscape Project will improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities, enhance the streetscape on University Drive between the Ash Avenue and Priest Drive. The project will include bicycle and pedestrian enhancements, public art, additional crosswalk opportunities, ADA improvements and landscaping. It 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 final design phase. Council direction will likely be sought in early spring 2013. Construction would then begin in early 2014 and last six to eight months.

View the proposed design concept:

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/peakdemocracy/public/uploads/99/296/1085/UniversityDrivePreferredConcept2.2013.pdf>

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

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As of March 5, 2013, 1:43 PM, this forum had:

Attendees:	128
Participants around Tempe:	32
Hours of Public Comment:	1.6

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Mark Tauber inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 10:44 AM

I am in full support of all aspects of this project. I believe every facet is an improvement. These improvements will bring only prosperity and livability to the area.

I fully support every part of the project including traffic calming, median islands with turn pockets, improved bike lanes and sidewalks, and street crossings at Roosevelt and Farmer. This will help improve University Drive for all types of traffic, and make Tempe a better place to live!

8 Supporters

Ryan Guzy inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 10:40 AM

It's great that the City of Tempe continually works to improve the community, it's one of the main reasons I choose to live in Tempe. I have attended all of the public meetings for the University Drive Streetscape Project, and I support all aspects of the design including: traffic calming, median islands with turn pockets, improved bike lanes and sidewalks, and crossings at Roosevelt and Farmer. Currently, the two-way center turn lane is very dangerous for any kind of traffic, car, bike, or pedestrian. Addition of some medians is essential to calm traffic along this road, to reduce conflicts between traffic, and make it a more enjoyable street for everyone. These improvements will attract more customers to current businesses, and encourage new businesses to open along University.

6 Supporters

Stacey Wong inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 4:09 PM

I am fully in support of all aspects of the University/Farmer project including traffic calming, median islands with turn pockets, improved bike lanes and sidewalks, and street crossings at Roosevelt and Farmer. These intersections are so dangerous. Please help Tempe to be a model for safer streets, let's protect the safety of our citizens, bicyclists and motorists!

4 Supporters

William Kincaid inside Tempe

February 13, 2013, 10:02 AM

I think this design will be a wonderful improvement to this very busy street. I especially like the landscaping and bike lanes that will be added. I look forward to seeing it all in place.

4 Supporters

Daryle Dutton inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 4:26 PM

As a small business owner in Tempe, I regularly see accidents occur at the University and Farmer intersection--it is very dangerous for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists alike. I am in full support of all aspects of the University/Farmer project including traffic calming, median islands with turn pockets,

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improved bike lanes and sidewalks, and street crossings at Roosevelt and Farmer. Thank you to the City of Tempe for moving forward with these much needed improvements. Tempe should be a model for other cities in providing safety to its citizens!

3 Supporters

Ryan James inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 2:58 PM

Every time the City of Tempe increases the friendliness of neighborhood for pedestrians and bicyclist to travel in, it sends a message to the surrounding residents in other cities, regions, and states that the City of Tempe is a community to be taken seriously. They care about the sense of place its residents live in, they respond to meet the demands of a changing society, modifying the city so more people can easily access nearby residences and businesses. This sort action aids not only in attracting more residents and businesses, but also retains residents/businesses that otherwise would relocate to other cities that have already made pedestrian/cyclist accessibility a priority. I implore the City of Tempe, to invest in the long term payoff by making this and many more infrastructural improvements like these.

3 Supporters

Billy Miller inside Tempe

February 13, 2013, 6:06 PM

This design has many great elements, especially the seperated and improved bike lanes, traffic signals at Roosevelt and Farmer, and the landscaping installation. It would be great to see the the art installation idea at light/utility poles happen as well. I'm glad to see the city continuing in this direction of improved streetscapes to enhance the safety and aesthetics for those living and traveling through this part of Tempe, and making it a more livable community.

3 Supporters

Thomas Tomczyk inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 11:52 AM

I FULLY support the current design. I'm very happy to see significant bicycle infrastructure included in this project. My only suggestion would be to limit the height of vegetation in the median so as not to cause visibility issues with oncoming cyclists.

2 Supporters

Bill Lettow inside Tempe

February 26, 2013, 12:56 PM

I work at Tempe Camera, and my workspace is right at the corner of University and Roosevelt, and daily, and for years, I have heard the screeching tires, honking horns, rear-enders, serious accidents and then the sirens of the police and ambulances as they rush to this intersection. I can also hear the roar of the vehicles as they fly by on University, blowing in or out of downtown way too fast, as it it were an unregulated dragstrip.

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Some years ago we contacted the Traffic Department about a light here and were quite smugly told "there will never be a light at Roosevelt", that it would be less safe with a light than without one. Since then the neighborhood has had dozens of multi-family housing developments approved and built, ASU has greatly expanded, and popular restaurants are now located near this intersection so the time for the light has long since come.

I also commute to work from south Tempe and in my whole 7 mile commute, by far the most dangerous part is crossing University. Like the pedestrians trying to cross, I either wait 5 minutes to cross, then take my life in my hands, or I just take my life in my hands.

So I am in favor of the plan. It has always amazed me how the city can do a great job on street projects like 5th, Mill, east University, Apache and College, and still allow such a dangerous situation on west University.

1 Supporter

Maureen Olmsted inside Tempe

February 22, 2013, 11:36 AM

I am a Tempe resident who lives near Broadway and Mill. I like the preferred design concept for University drive as long as there are easy and legal ways of making u-turns after the median islands. Although not included in these plans, I would also like to see the intersection at Ash and University modified so that it is much harder for people to break the law and disregard the turn-only except for bicycles requirement from Ash crossing University. I have frequently seen drivers traveling southbound on Ash cross University straight through the intersection rather than turning right or left as required. As a driver coming north on Ash, this has put me at risk and is very risky for cyclists.

1 Supporter

Sarah Graff inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 10:07 PM

I support this project. I would like to see safer bike riding conditions for commuters going to work and school. I would like to see safer roads that allow people to walk and bike with ease. It will reduce traffic, create a safer city, and give people the opportunity to live healthy lives by remaining active more often.

1 Supporter

Sarah Brown inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 2:05 PM

It will be amazing to be able to cross at Roosevelt and not risk life and limb darting across University!

1 Supporter

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I was at the public meeting last night. I looked at the design for University Drive and talked to representatives about the project. I support the improvements made for bicyclists and pedestrians (bike lanes and sidewalks), and also the traffic calming efforts and the median islands. However, I would like to see bike lanes that are protected from traffic. A lot of students are riding bikes in this area and currently it is not safe enough. Protected bike lanes could get more people riding their bikes. Please consider more improvements for bikes and pedestrians.

1 Supporter

Matt Adams inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 12:54 PM

I love the fact that the city of tempe is working hard to improve our streets. bike lanes and safe turns are 100% critical to the tempe culture, lifestyle and well being of its residents. We moved to tempe for this exact reason. Please keep the bike lanes, medians and road improvements as you had them planned!

1 Supporter

Anthony Avery outside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 9:08 AM

Thank you so much for making all modes of transportation a priority in the city. The bicycle enhancements are fantastic and I look forward to the right sizing of many more of the streets in Tempe!

1 Supporter

Kiyomi Kurooka inside Tempe

February 20, 2013, 1:01 PM

I cannot wait this to be done. Last night I saw an accident involving a cyclist at Priest & University. I hope he is ok. New traffic signals at Roosevelt and Farmer would be fantastic! Will the speed limit be reduced?

1 Supporter

Katarina Djordjevic inside Tempe

February 12, 2013, 10:30 AM

I am very happy to be asked to participate in this conversation. I am a young person who bought a home in the heart of Tempe last April. Since then I have felt like the community is headed in the right direction. Aside from the street appearance, it would be great to open up for new business' that are meant to last, reduce crime and clean up the streets where we can. Tempe is great for tourism and we need to show that all the funds we receive from that are going toward the right areas.

1 Supporter

Mark Eastwood inside Tempe

March 4, 2013, 10:13 PM

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I fully support the preferred design of University Drive for the following reasons:

1. I think that the medians and signaling in the plan will make street safer for all users of University Drive.
2. I think that as the traffic slows due to the medians, business traffic will increase since it will be safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to access the businesses on University. My experience as a motorist is that if I am driving in a safer/slower environment, I can see the signage better and stop more frequently at businesses that were not my original destination. I have heard complaints that the medians will decrease the number of customers that business will have. If the business owner has made their business a place that people want to go to, customers will adapt to the medians.
3. I feel that more businesses will open once the improvements are completed, the traffic calmed and the number of pedestrians and cyclists has increased. Take a look at Mill Ave. now, comparing it to the way it was 30 years ago. The amount of development and the number of businesses increased once the streetscape renovation was completed and Mill Avenue became a pleasant destination.

Matthew Messina outside Tempe

March 4, 2013, 12:03 PM

I love the changes that are being made to help make walking and bicycling a more safe and practical mode of transportation for Tempe commuters. When Tempe starts a transformation, usually the surrounding cities soon follow. Thank you so much for this. Anything to create awareness is a start. I love all of the plans. We would just need to keep in mind the size of some delivery to trucks that need to safely access the businesses along the project areas. "Delivery Trucks Only" type of access so everybody does not use it.

Christopher Brennan inside Tempe

March 4, 2013, 11:45 AM

Medians, stop lights on Roosevelt and farmer and wider bike lines are going to increase the beauty and safety of our city. I've bicycled in Tempe for 7 years and have seen many injuries and fatalities along university. Making this rode a safer route will benefit all the citizens of Tempe.

Dana Bennewitz inside Tempe

March 4, 2013, 11:35 AM

As a student whose main mode of transportation is a bicycle, I fully support better bike lanes, median islands and larger sidewalks. I'm excited be green while riding on some green bicycle lanes.

Joey Korkames outside Tempe

March 4, 2013, 11:09 AM

I'm a Phoenix resident but have commuted regularly to Tempe for work over the last 6 years, and have always headed to an endpoint on University Dr. Right now, I work at the Bike Saviours collective (bikesaviours.org) at Roosevelt & Uni. During rush hour, I drive my truck and ride my bike on redeveloped roads like Washington and College with reasonable speed AND safety (protected turn medians, 2 lanes each direction w/wide shoulders and bike lanes), but once I make it to University, I must become a fighter pilot in a warzone, where crossing or merging with it anywhere without a traffic signal is a dangerous and aggressive maneuver. I support the entire proposed redesign (medians, signals, and bike lanes) so that West University can enhance the community and business

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establishments along it rather than be a continued eyesore and danger to them. 40+ mph trans-valley traffic should not be catered to, but instead be directed to the existing expressways (143, 202, 60) built for those speeds.

Hopefully Mesa will extend their downtown streetscape on Main/University further west to meet the redesigned Tempe side, making the entire road the Valley's #1 grand boulevard for residents, visitors, and businesses.

Dawn England inside Tempe

March 4, 2013, 10:46 AM

Thank you for adding green bike lanes to Tempe, they are greatly needed! Please continue to go forward with all median plans. They will help keep traffic from colliding with cyclists on the roadways. Please install a stoplight at Roosevelt and Farmer, this will help cars, bikes and pedestrians safely cross.

Thanks!
Dawn England

Julia Skinner inside Tempe

March 3, 2013, 8:14 AM

I think this design is an excellent idea. When I first started riding my bike around Tempe, I had assumed University Drive would be very bike-friendly due to its location and size. I was very surprised to find that this was not always the case, particularly in the area west of Mill Ave. I think the plan is a good improvement to the area and will help alleviate traffic congestion by both encouraging alternate forms of transit and by improving traffic flow. I also think that the ADA improvements are greatly needed in some areas and should be a top priority for our community.

William Terrance inside Tempe

February 22, 2013, 4:56 PM

As a resident of Tempe, who lives North of 5th street and west of Hardy, but works 3 jobs on University, one on Ash just south of University, one on Southern and Priest, and one on University itself; this streetscape is an extremely important part of my life. I tend to avoid riding on University, especially between Priest and Hardy (even more so just west of Hardy where the apartment buildings and Tempe Feed & Tack's parking lot abut). This is because I like my life, and don't want to get killed by a car.

I think that the project, as it stands with medians, is the best thing that could happen for the businesses along university and, more importantly, the thousands of residents in the area bordered by Rio Salado, University, Priest and Farmer. Crossing University is one thing, we all agree that something needs to happen to allow pedestrians to cross from North to South. However, what good is crossing if cars, desperate to get into businesses opposite their direction of travel, can just run you down in the bike lane or driveway. University is a dangerous street and will be more navigable with medians. Much like many other places in the valley cars will simply have to make a U-turn in order to get to stores opposite their direction of travel. Which is reasonable with lights at Roosevelt and

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Farmer with scooped turn lanes.

Furthermore, the stretch of University from Priest through Mill is one of the ugliest streets in Tempe (the ugliest is Broadway from Priest through Mill). This plan makes it look nice, which will have a large affect on those who live here. It is well proven that when the place people travel through looks nicer, they treat it better. See the NYC subways for an example, they were cleaned up by cleaning (See Malcolm Gladwell's The Tipping Point for more on this).

I cannot wait, as a cyclist and pedestrian, to feel like I can walk down the street with my dog and not get run down by cyclists who are afraid to ride on the street. I cannot wait to ride down the street and not have to be hyper-vigilant about what every vehicle in my field of vision is going to do to potentially kill me. I cannot wait for us to have no more ghost bikes installed on University. I cannot wait to be a consumer on University, and not take my life in my hands!

Alex Stewart inside Tempe

February 22, 2013, 9:55 AM

The most important element to make University more accommodating for cyclists and pedestrians is reduced vehicle speeds. The improvements to the sidewalk and overall 'beautification' are good for pedestrians and residents of Tempe.

One significant concern I have is over the proposed use of pavers or stamped asphalt to separate the bike lane from the adjacent shared travel lane. Cyclist need smooth uninterrupted pavement to move in and out of the bike lane as traffic conditions warrant and to avoid hazards and turning vehicles. Some of the proposed locations for the stamped asphalt is at intersection and driveway approaches. These are the very places that cyclist need to be able to smoothly and safely leave the bike lane to avoid and/or interact with right turning vehicles. Adding bumps or roughness in places where cyclists will need to drive is a very bad idea.

susan soroka inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 9:11 PM

The design concept seems to benefit City of Tempe and residents in terms of beautification and safety on such a heavily trafficked street. I worry about the impact this project will have on businesses and residences residing north and south of University during the time it takes to complete, and wonder what communications may be in place with businesses and residences along University regarding the impact of completing the design project.

Wayne Steidley inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 4:52 PM

I think this is a great project which will enhance life for tourists and all members of the community including students, residents, and business owners.

A. J. inside Tempe

February 21, 2013, 1:38 PM

I am in full support of this project! It is disappointing that it has already been scaled back from the

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original proposals, but please do not scale it back any further; this street needs to be safer and more calm! I particularly like the improved bike lanes and enhanced pedestrian crossings. I wish the median and turn pockets were more well-defined and expansive, but at the very least, the current proposal needs to be implemented. Thank you to the City for trying to make this a better place to live and shop!
