

## Sustainability and Economic Vitality (SEV)

Council Committee Meeting Minutes  
Virtual and In-Person Meeting in City Council Chambers  
31 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
February 9, 2024  
1:00 p.m.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

*Meeting called to order by Vice Mayor Adams at 1:03 p.m. with Councilmember Chin and Vice Mayor Adams both in attendance.*

### 2. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES

#### A. October 16, 2023 SEV Meeting Minutes

*Approval of the October 16, 2023 SEV Meeting Minutes was moved by Councilmember Chin, seconded by Vice Mayor Adams, and approved unanimously.*

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - The committee welcomes public comment. According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Committee may only discuss matters listed on the agenda. Matters brought up by the public under public appearances that are not listed on the agenda cannot be discussed by the Committee. A 3-minute limit per person will be in effect.

#### A. Comment Cards Submitted

Two comment cards were submitted by the public and asked to be presented to the Council Committee regarding Item 4A1.

- Katie Boligitz of the Tempe Bicycle Action Group and resident of Tempe shared the following statement:

We at the Tempe Bicycle Action Group are supportive of the Kyrene, Roosevelt, Farmer Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvement Project. This project will help fill a crucial gap in our transportation network and enhance the safety and accessibility of our city's roads for both cyclists and pedestrians. The multi-use path through Dwight Park will preserve the park grounds by providing a dedicated paved crossing that circumnavigates the park, minimize potential conflicts with motorists, and enhance accessibility for all park users, especially those using wheelchairs or with strollers. We are excited for the pedestrian signal across Baseline, which will allow a more direct and safe way to access Kiwanis Park. The cycle track and narrower car lanes on Kyrene should make it safer for all road users.

Personally, I live by Dwight Park and I use part of this project every day, from running to Kiwanis or riding my bike to Fry's or downtown or even taking a walk around the park. These will be great improvements.

- Tempe resident Jack Ketcham shared the following statement:

The Kyrene, Roosevelt, Farmer Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvement Project represents an important step toward enhancing urban mobility and safety in our community and I strongly approve it. This project aims to improve the connectivity and accessibility of Farmer Avenue, Roosevelt Street, and Kyrene Road through the introduction of protected and buffered bike lanes, ADA directional ramps, new pedestrian signals, and upgraded sidewalks. These changes align with Tempe's commitment to fostering a more accessible, multi-modal transportation network.

By linking key areas such as Kiwanis Park, Clark Park, and Downtown Tempe, and improving the 'Handlebars' BIKEiT Bike Boulevard, the project promises to not only improve transportation but also to strengthen the community ties within our city. The addition of wayfinding signage, street crossing treatments, and connections to regional bicycle and pedestrian paths like the Western Canal Multi-use Path underscores the project's potential to promote more sustainable travel options.

Acknowledging the project's ability to enhance the social, environmental, and economic aspects of Tempe, I encourage the Sustainability and Economic Vitality Committee to consider its value. While its implementation will address immediate transportation needs, it also represents a forward-thinking approach to urban planning, aiming for a more connected and vibrant Tempe.

#### 4. COMMITTEE SESSION ITEMS

##### A. Current Items and Updates

##### 1. **Engineering & Transportation Update**

*Principal Planner Chase Walman provided an update on the Kyrene/Roosevelt/Farmer Bike and Pedestrian Project.*

*Chase began the presentation by re-iterating the importance of the project, as it will provide a multi-modal North/South route that will help to connect bike and pedestrian pathways to Tempe activity centers like the Maker District, Kiwanis, Clark, and Dwight parks, and downtown Tempe/ASU campus, along with the Western Canal MUP and the Alameda streetscape project and I-10 pedestrian bridge.*

*The project was originally awarded federal funds in 2016, approved by Council and sent through the planning and outreach process from 2018-2020, and then stalled in 2020 when the pandemic hit. Due to a disagreement with Union Pacific Railroad, and as construction costs went up significantly post-pandemic, the original scope of the project needed to change to fit the existing budget. The new consultant and design phase began in 2022 and has moved through several rounds of meetings with both the public and key stakeholder commissions and advisory boards through 2023.*

*The project will begin at Baseline and move North on Kyrene Road, turn West down Manhattan Drive and through Dwight Park, then proceed North on Roosevelt to 13<sup>th</sup> Street, where it will head East from Roosevelt to Farmer Avenue, then proceed North on Farmer until the project ends at University Drive. Proposed improvements along the project include protected and buffered bike lanes, dedicated pedestrian crossings, a 2-way cycle track, an*

*off-street multi-use path, ADA directional ramps, new pedestrian signals, new sidewalks, wayfinding signage, the installation of permanent Orbit stops, and upgraded landscaping and lighting.*

*Original plans to create a multi-use path in Dwight Park were met with resistance from nearby residents, but once the path was re-designed with their concerns in mind (keep existing shade trees and do not use a section of the park turf that is regularly used for other activities) the project is moving forward.*

*Next steps include 60% design to be finished in June of 2024, with 100% by September of 2024. Final project to be presented in March of 2025 with a bid for RFPs to go out in May of 2025 and construction to start in August of 2025.*

*Proposed changes along this corridor include removing middle turn lanes and narrowing the vehicle lanes – both of which will be traffic calming measures that will help reduce vehicular speeds in the area. The addition of dedicated Orbit stops will also help reduce traffic delays along Roosevelt. Vice Mayor Adams noted that both the addition of buffered bike lanes and the reduction in speeds along these roads will save lives.*

B. New Items for Consideration

1. *No new items were presented for consideration.*

C. Announcements

1. *There were no announcements.*

**5. NEXT MEETING DATE: March 8, 2024**

**6. ADJOURN**

*Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m. by Vice Mayor Adams.*