



# PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

## Sustainability & Resilience Commission

### MEETING DATE

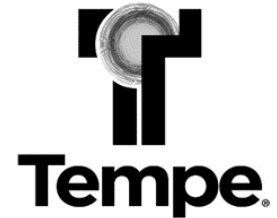
Monday, December 19, 2022  
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

### MEETING LOCATION

**Microsoft Teams meeting**  
Join on your computer or mobile app  
[Click here to join the meeting](#)  
**Or call in (audio only)**  
[+1 480-498-8745,,565023865#](#) United States, Phoenix  
Phone Conference ID: 565 023 865#  
[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)  
[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER	ACTION or DISCUSSION
<b>1. Welcome and Mission of SRC</b>	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair(4:30 – 4:33 pm)	
<b>2. Public Appearances</b> The Sustainability Commission welcomes public comment for items listed on this agenda. There is a <i>three-minute time limit</i> per citizen	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair (4:33 – 4:35 pm)	
<b>3. Approval of Meeting Minutes</b> The Commission will be asked to review and approve meeting minutes from the November 21, 2022 meeting.	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair (4:35 – 4:37 pm)	Discussion
<b>4. Tempe River Bottom Initiative</b>	Paul Bentley and Craig Hayton – Incident Managers  Richard Adkins, Urban Forester (4:37pm-5:15pm)	Discussion
<b>5. Smith Road Improvements</b>	German Piedrahita, Senior Civil Engineer (5:15pm – 5:40pm)	Action
<b>6. Board and Commission Annual Report to Council</b>	Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager (5:40-5:55pm)	Action
<b>7. 2022 Water, Wastewater, Stormwater Rate Letter of Support.</b>	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager (5:55 – 6:15pm)	Action
<b>8. Housekeeping Items</b>	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair (6:15 – 6:20 pm)	Discussion
<b>9. Future Agenda Items</b> Commission may request future agenda items.	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair (6:20 – 6:25 pm)	Action

According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Sustainability Commission may only discuss matters listed on the agenda. The City of Tempe endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. With 48 hours advance notice, special assistance is available at public meetings for sight and/or hearing-impaired persons. Please call 350-2775 (voice) or 350-8400 (TDD) to request an accommodation to participate in a public meeting.



**DRAFT Minutes**

**City of Tempe Sustainability Commission  
November 21, 2022**

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, September 19, 2022, 4:30 p.m. at a virtual meeting on MS Teams, through City Hall, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Kendon Jung (Chair)  
Barbie Burke (Vice Chair)  
Natalie Mendoza  
Katja Brundiers  
Erin Boyd

Meaghan Coon  
Jake Swanson  
Shawn Swisher  
Morgan Winburn

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

**City Staff Present:**

Brianne Fisher  
Braden Kay  
Evelyn Brumfield  
Maddie Mercer  
Andrea Escobar

**Guests Present:**

Mauricio Juarez Leon  
Mike Hoffman  
Luke Ramsey

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Welcome New Members and Mission of SRC**

Chair Jung announced new member Erin Boyd from Culdesac to the Commission. Commissioner Boyd leads Government and External Affairs of Culdesac. She is excited to see be part of the Commission and looking forward to helping to make a difference.

## **Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances**

Luke Ramsey, graduate student at ASU, brings something to the Commissions attention. City of Tempe doing forestry efforts in the Rio Salado. He works with organization that does river restoration and spends millions of dollars preserving it. He mentions that he understands that this was an emergency management tactic as there are a lot of individuals experiencing homelessness living at the river bottom. He mentions his disappointment in finding information about the decision to do this work at the river bottom and feels it is a large amount of money and resources for a solution that is not long term and, in the process, not giving thought to the biodiversity and ecological systems in the river.

Chair Jung mentions that this is not agenized but the Commission will consider placing this on the agenda for the future.

Mauricio Juarez Leon, representative a new movement called Fridays for Future which is a international organization and starting to create a Phoenix chapter. Goal of Fridays for the Future is to build movements, power diverse voices, elevate individuals stories, climate stories though art, letters of support to government. Wanted to make sure this Commission as aware and could spread the word or if anyone is interested in joining.

Mike Hoffman, Chair of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Committee states he is joining just to hear what is going on within the City and find synergies going forward.

## **Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 17, 2022.

**Motion:** Barbie Burke

**Second:** Shawn Swisher

**Decision:** Approved 7-0

## **Agenda Item 4 – Board and Commission Annual Report to Council**

Staff Liaison Brienne Fisher, states that this report was shown to the Commission at the last meeting but did not receive any comments for changes. Fisher states she made some changes but now was the opportunity for the Commission to discuss at large any additional changes.

Commissioner Swisher asks to add the AIA Phoenix-Metro design competition to the report, specifically within the future goals section.

Chair Jung mentions he likes how it is organized around the highlight actions that mimics our work done at the retreat.

### **Agenda Item 5 – 2022 Water, Wastewater, Stormwater Letter of Support**

Chair Jung reports that this letter represents what was presented during the last meeting and this is the opportunity for the Commission to discuss the drafted letter of support.

Commissioner Swisher mentions second paragraph of the letter around equity was interesting. Swisher wants to know more about what the City can do of what the effects are of these choices. Didn't understand how higher water users are getting more equitable treatment so clarity there would be great, even if not in this letter.

Commissioner Brundiers asks to expand more on equity. Perhaps coming back to it in second paragraph about masterplan and strategies...we had a presentation about Equity urban cooling" in preparation of Climate Action Plan Update in September 2021. We could say in the letter that this continues this conversation, more tools for this analysis. There has been more progress on the heat maps. Its different but not totally uncoupled from the water conversation.

Commissioner Swanson says he feels similarly on both points of the two comments.

Fisher reminds Commissioners that the biggest shift in this rate study was from 5 tiers to 4 tiers. This has allowed more residents to enter into tier 1 – the lowest water rate. This means that more than half of Tempe residents are falling into tier 1.

Chair Jung says it is important to highlight this shift and how this advances our resiliency to drought and water conservation. Jung also asks how policy work beyond the rate studies, state and federal level, could be pushed.

Fisher states that Tempe City Council does approve of State and Federal Legislative Principles each year and can look at those as a reference point for the letter.

## **Agenda Item 6 – Budget Overview**

Fisher provides an overview of the submittals from the Sustainability and Resilience Office for supplemental asks for fiscal year 22-23. Fisher mentioned that this document was provided and overviewed many different times. Fisher states that staff did not go over in as much detail the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget. CIP budget is more of the infrastructure such as bridges and roads. Sustainability and Resilience Office (SRO) does not receive any CIP line items directly, however SRO does advocate for several programs that get funneled to Engineering and Transportation staff. Fisher provides an overview of several CIP programs including:

- Community and Workplace Charging Infrastructure
- Energy Conservation Program
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Green Infrastructure
- Resilient Energy Bubs & Microgrids
- Solar Power Partnerships and Solar in City Facilities

Member Burke asks if we are going to use the same process this upcoming budget cycle to use the same process. Preparing comments, advocating, and attending council meetings were all very successful tactics.

Chair Jung asks in the supplemental budget asks there were a few asks that didn't get funded, can you remind the Commission what did not get funded at the eleventh hour?

Director Kay states that Council was trying to push the Climate Justice and Ingenious Land Stewardship Specialist through, but it did not end up getting funded.

Chair Jung asks what percentage of growth in CIP investment have we seen over the last few years?

Director Kay states it's been a little complicated but there has definitely been an increase. This years CIP is not that much difference in last years however the year before there was an additional \$3 million investment. One thing we will be looking towards is increasing what we are asking for in 27, 28... we want to increase our ask where the bond hasn't been asked for yet. Kay continues that we want to increase our budget in EV Charging as well as Green Infrastructure. On the CIP side, the Commission will need to focus on making bigger asks and advocating for that.

Commissioner Brundiers asks how can we leverage EV charging asks to support asks for renewable provisions, which is somewhat extended outside of our focus as it relates to utilities.

Kendon Jung says it's a great comment and a good thing to integrate into our talking points about how we are educating our community so they can advocate on their own.

## **Agenda Item 7- Housekeeping Items**

Kendon Jung says he celebrates last week that Governor Ducey announced a \$40 million gift to the Global Institute of Sustainability to do water conservation and innovation work. Want to discover ways to work with ASU for a pilot space for these unique ideas.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items**

Please refer future items to staff and CC Chair Jung

**Motion:** Commissioner Burke

**Second:** Commissioner Boyd

**Decision:** Approved 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm.

Prepared by: Henry Pearson

Reviewed by: Brianne Fisher

# Tempe River Bottom: Protecting Public Health & Safety



**Tempe**

Making waves in the desert



## Objectives

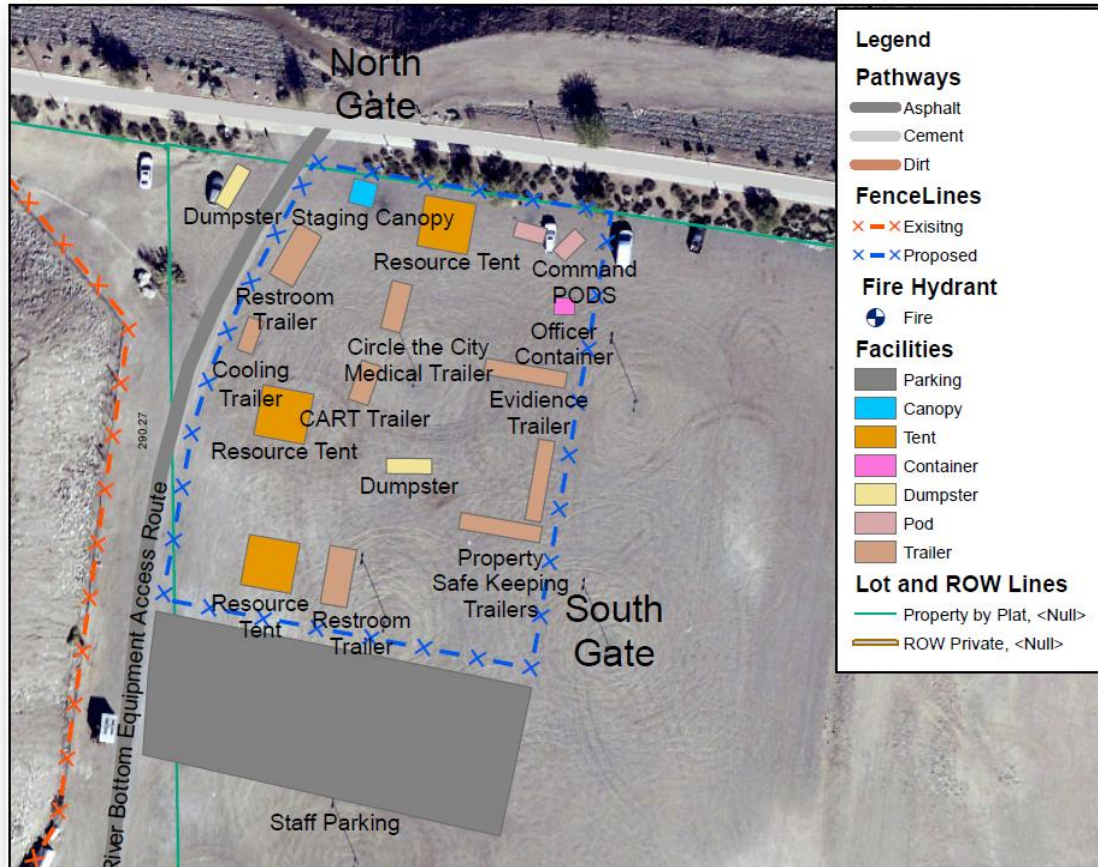
- **Phase 1 - Sheltering People**  
Resources, services and shelter options
- **Phase 2 - Clearing Debris**
- **Phase 3 - Pruning Vegetation**  
Safe Harbor Agreement (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022	January - December 2023
TASK							
PRELIMINARY OUTREACH	Active	Active					
DEBRIS*			Active	Active			
VEGETATION*				Active	Active	Active	
MAINTENANCE*							Active

\*Outreach included in each task



# Tempe River Bottom - Resource Village



## Services (Interdepartmental and Community Partners)

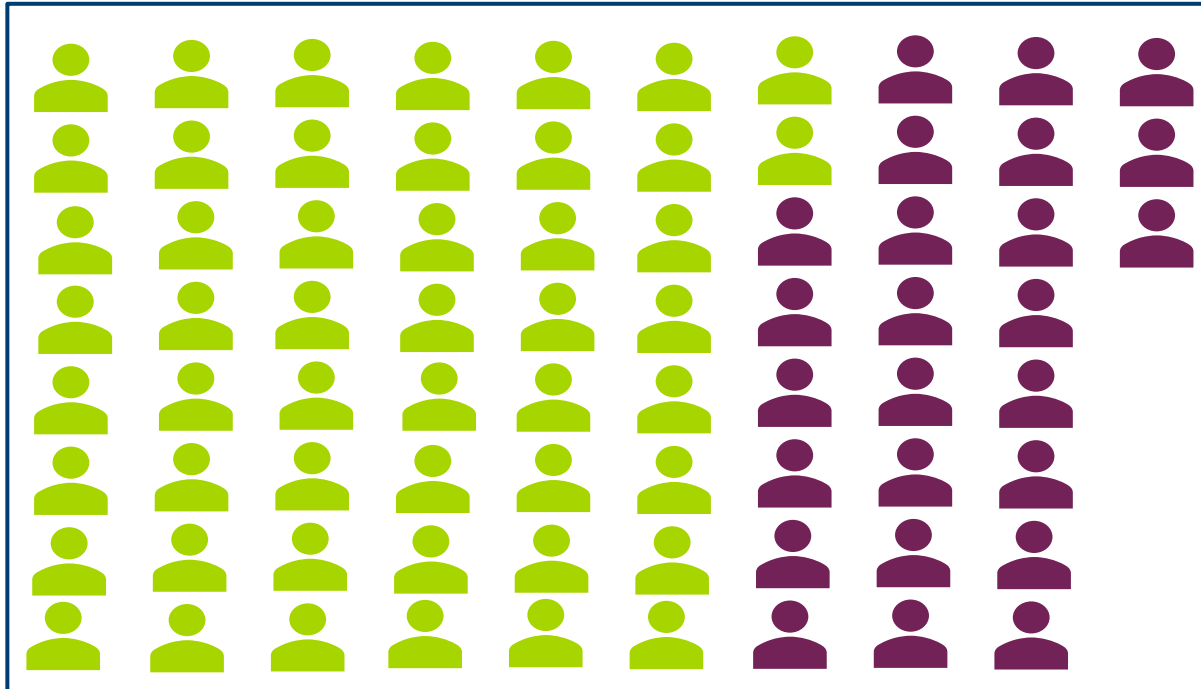
- Medical care
- Veteran's supports
- Shelter and housing access
- Pet services
- Warrant Resolution Program

## Amenities

- Mobile cooling centers
- Restrooms
- Showers
- Dedicated storage for securing personal property

Multiple partnering non-profits and other agencies are working with the City of Tempe to provide these resources and services to our community.

# Tempe River Bottom – Phase 1 Sheltering People



 = Persons accepting shelter

**75**  
People Engaged

**50**  
People Accepted Shelter

**66%**  
Percentage of People Engaged who Accepted Shelter

# Tempe River Bottom –

## Sections 1 and 2 (West Side of Tempe Town Lake)

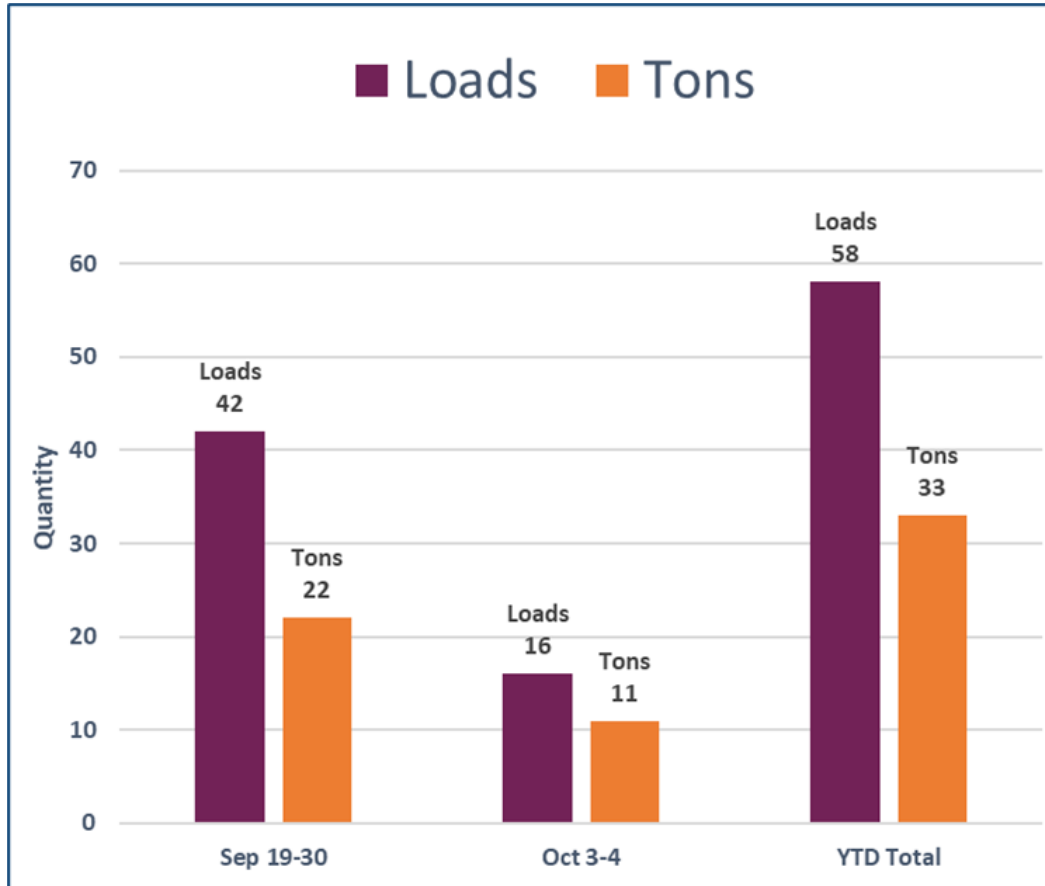




# Tempe River Bottom – Section 3 (East Side of Tempe Town Lake)



# Tempe River Bottom – Debris & Trash Clean-up



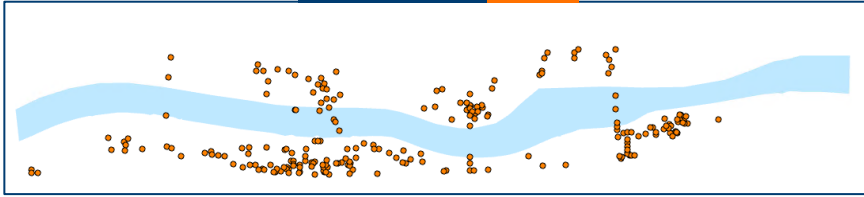
## Tempe River Bottom Debris & Trash Clean-up 2022 (YTD)

Projected fiscal year cost for  
debris clean-up and vegetation pruning \$1.3 million

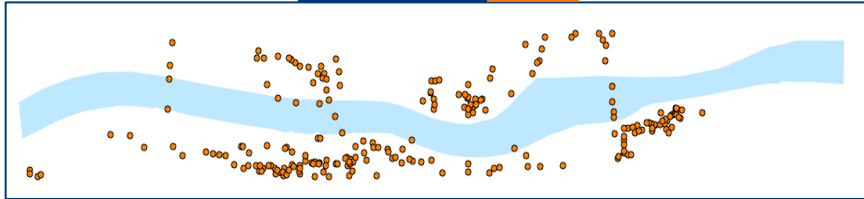
# Tempe River Bottom – Police Calls for Service



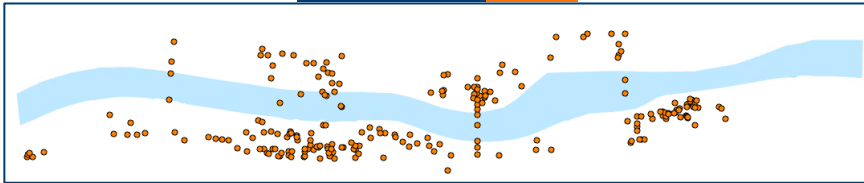
2017 1,473



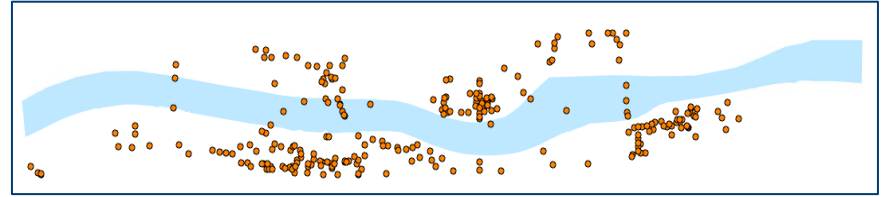
2018 1,640



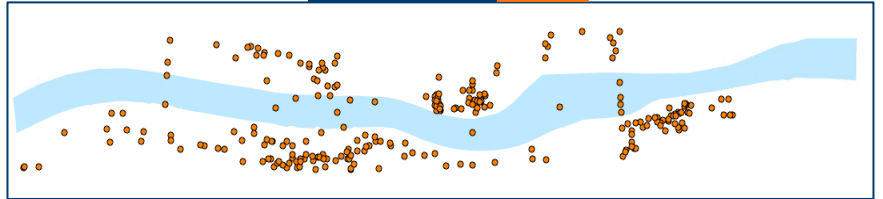
2019 1,549



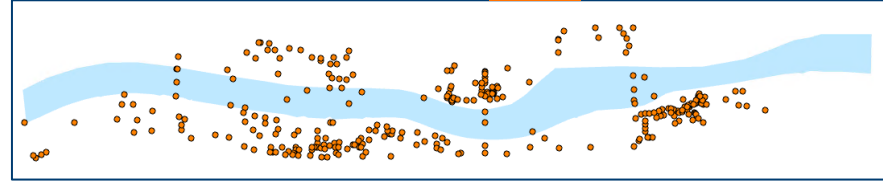
2020 1,374



2021 1,509



2022 (JAN - SEP) 3,011



**North Boundary:** Approximately Curry Rd.  
**South Boundary:** Just South of Rio Salado Pkwy  
**West Boundary:** 143  
**East Boundary:** Just East of the 101  
**Perimeter:** Within a Quarter Mile of Tempe Town Lake

# Team Tempe Business Focused Efforts



## Impacts on Business

- Survey and Interviews (July/August)
- Focus Groups (October)

## Homeless Solutions Business Update

- November 4, 2022 – 8:30 a.m., Council Chambers
- Resources and mitigation tips for business and how they can help
- Led by Team Tempe with
- Expert advice from Police, HOPE and CARE 7

## Food and Necessities Drive November

50 businesses participating



## Water Bottle & Resource Campaign (November)

300 Tempe businesses

3,000 reusable bottles for unsheltered individuals





# Downtown Tempe Security Contacts



## WHO TO CALL WHEN...


**dt** DOWNTOWN TEMPE

**CLEAN SAFE & QUALITY OF LIFE**



Maintenance Requests  
Letters of Trespass  
City Codes  
Crime Prevention Tips

To report an encampment directly to the city, use this online form:



**CARE & HOPE Line**  
480-350-8004

For unsheltered, homeless, or mental health assistance, call the CARE & HOPE line.  
24HRS / 7DAYS

<b>SAFE-T-PATROL</b> 480.236.2527 OR 480-236-4140	<b>911</b> EMERGENCY SERVICES	<b>TEMPE PD</b> NON-EMERGENCY 480.350.8311	<b>WINDOM SECURITY</b> 480.865.4272
M-F: 7AM - 8PM SAT: 11:30AM - 8PM SUN: 9AM - 5:30PM	24 HRS / 7 DAYS	24 HRS / 7 DAYS	8PM - 6AM
Person needs social services.	Crime in progress.	Non-violent crime in progress OR no longer in progress.	Trespassing, Loitering, Unwanted Guests.
Person making staff uncomfortable but NOT committing a crime.	Someone in imminent danger.	*Be VERY specific in description of behavior that occurred in order to be serviced properly	
Person sitting/lying on sidewalk in public right-of-way (not on private property)	Violence being exhibited.		
	Threats of danger.		
AFTER calling TPD for a crime in progress.	Threats to person or property.		



SAFE-T-PATROL



WINDOM SECURITY





## Changes Include

- **Additional Outreach**  
Assistance from HOPE and CARE 7 teams for community crisis services
- **Updated Park Rules**
  1. Prohibitions blocking access to park amenities
  2. Damage to landscaping
  3. Use of ramadas for longer than four hours without a reservation
  4. Additional unarmed security and increased patrols to combat the use of illegal drugs and the possession of illegal drug paraphernalia such as hypodermic needles within parks
- **Congregate Meal Services**

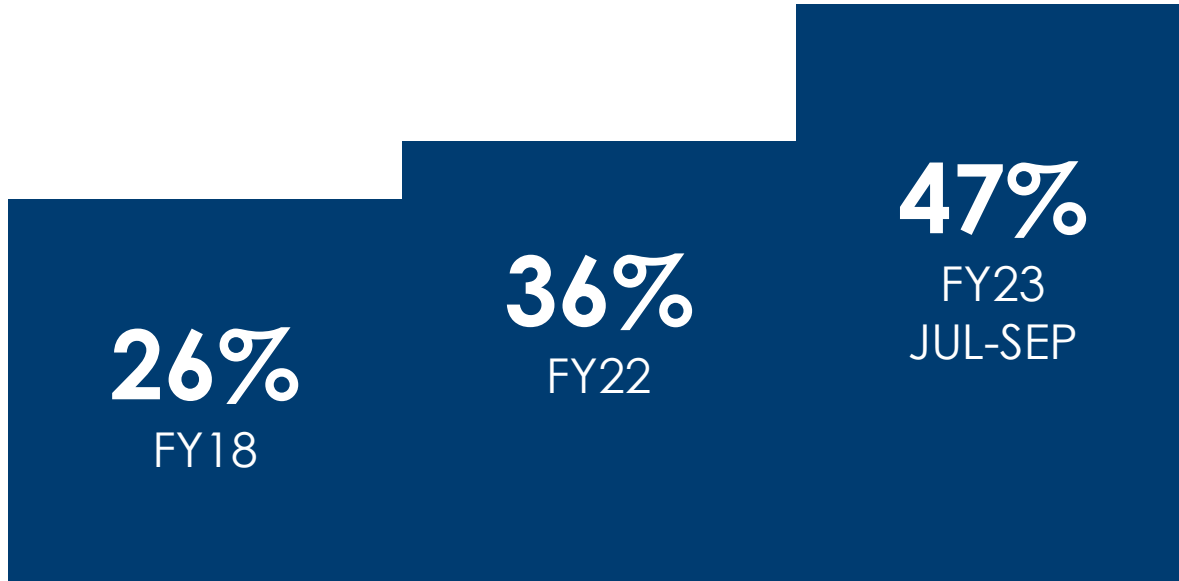




- **Campaign for Safety on the Streets**
  - “Real Change, Not Spare Change”
- **Shopping Carts**
  - Pick-up Services, Abandoned Property
- **Salvation Army (2023)**
  - Mobile Unit
  - New Facility – approximately 11,000 sq. ft.
- **Pilot – Step into Housing**
  - Partnership with TCAA
  - Tiered-approach to shelter with I-HELP
  - Shelter for those with age-related challenges



## Increase of seniors (55+) being served by I-HELP



# Future Action - Steps Into Housing (Pilot)



## Issues

- Prolonged stays among employed individuals (**I-HELP**)
- Adults with mobility/disability issues (**I-HELP**)
- Not available to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift employed individuals (**I-HELP**)
- Non-congregate shelter options ideal for house-ready participants (Motels)

## Proposed Solutions

- Create a continuum of care at intakes (**I-HELP**)
- Housing prepared individuals (Motels)
- Ensure efficient placement immediately

## Target Populations

- Congregate Shelter (**I-HELP**)
  - Adults requiring assessments, adults in need of emergency shelter
- Non-Congregate Shelter (Motels)
  - Adults prepared for housing placements, adults with mobility/disability issues



- 1. Dedication**  
Westside Center Room
- 2. Water Safety**
  - Rescue Tools - Throw Bags
  - Flotation Devices
  - Water Safety Consultant
- 3. Co-Response (CARE 7 and Police)**
  - Homelessness
  - Homicide
  - Domestic Violence
  - Sexual Abuse
- 4. Warrant Resolution Program**
- 5. Officer Training - Transformational Policing**

# Tempe's Commitments



**\$1,273,742**

## HOMELESS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- City Funding:
  - FY22 Mid-Year Funding
  - FY23 Budget

**\$1,600,000**

## NON-CONGREGATE SHELTER

- FY 21-23 General Fund
- Leveraged Emergency Solutions Grants Funds (HUD)

**\$18,600,000**

## HOMETOWN FOR ALL

- Donations
- Pledges
- Business Permit Fees Funding

# Funding and Investments



## Hometown for All: Funding and Investment Summary

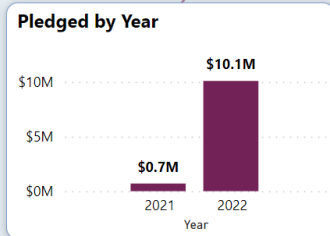
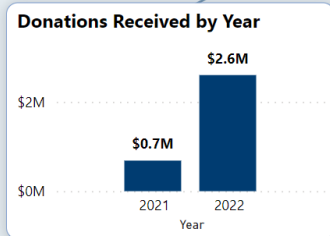
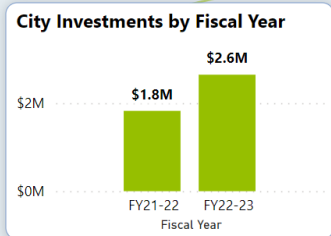


City Investments:  
**\$4.5M**  
Total

Donations Received:  
**\$3.3M**  
Total

Pledged:  
**\$10.8M**  
Total

### Funding:

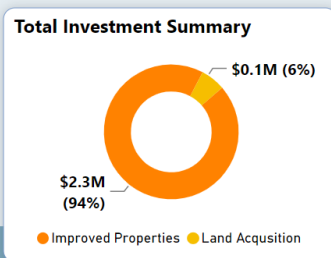


#### About Pledged Funds:

Pledged funds reflect the year they are recorded and may be disbursed later or over a period of time.

For example, 2022 Pledges include \$10M in contributions to be distributed over 20 years starting in 2026 and \$100K upon certification of occupancy in 2027.

### Investment:



Improved Properties:  
**\$2.3M**  
Total Invested

Land Acquisitions:  
**\$146K**  
Total Invested

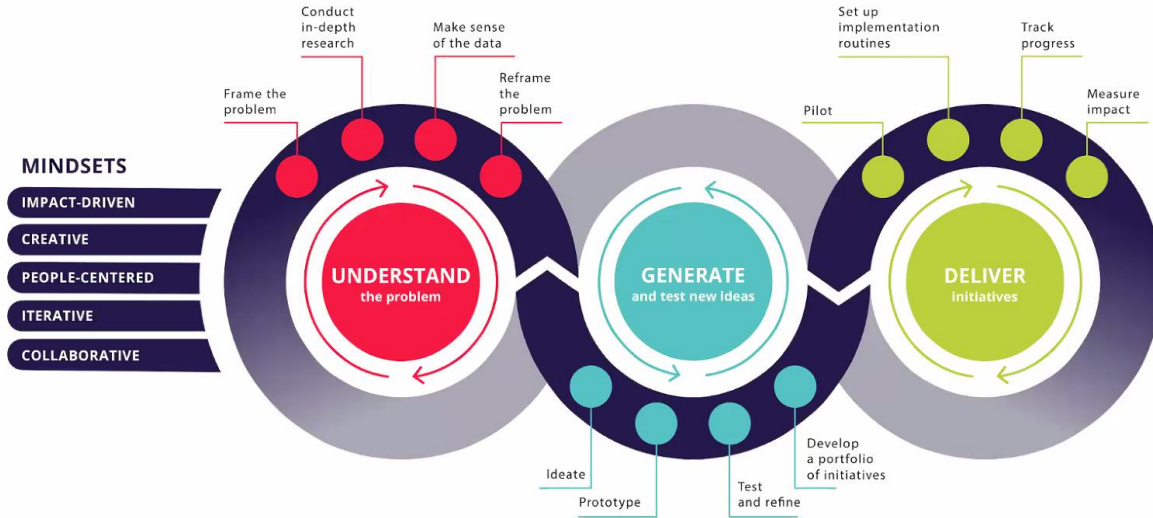
#### Funding and Investment Summary Table

Year	Fiscal Year	Fund Status	Category	Name	Amount
2021	N/A	Received funds	Donation	Viawest Agreement	\$35,000
2021	N/A	Pledged funds	Pledged	Banyan North Tempe	\$70,000
2021	N/A	Received funds	Donation	Tempe Market Station - Smith&Rio	\$125,000
2021	N/A	Pledged funds	Pledged	Milhaus on Apache	\$150,000
2021	N/A	Pledged funds	Pledged	Price & Baseline	\$150,000
2021	N/A	Pledged funds	Pledged	Rio East	\$331,000
2021	N/A	Received funds	Donation	Viawest Final Payment	\$525,000
2022	N/A	Pledged funds	Pledged	250 Rio	\$100,000
2022	N/A	Received funds	Donation	Moderia Rio Salado	\$2 600,000

The City of Tempe has specified July 1 to June 30 as its fiscal year. All other items are listed by calendar year.



Improving the way City of Tempe government works by driving innovation.



## Prototypes & Testing

- Tempe Works Enhancements
- At-Risk Early Signals for Prevention





**CARE** &  
**HOPE Line**

**480-350-8004**



**Tempe**

**Smith Road Improvements  
Apache Blvd to Rio Salado Parkway**

**Project Design**

**CIP #5410441A**

Public Meeting

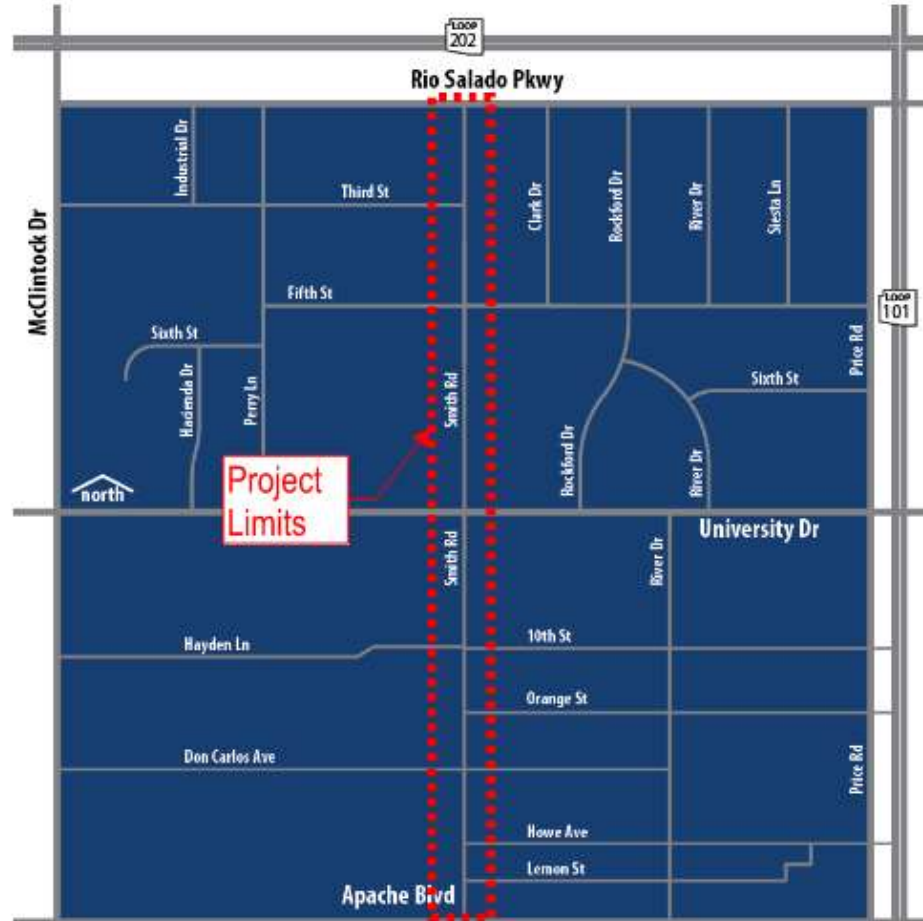
December 9, 2022



**Tempe**

Making waves in the desert

# Project Area



# Purpose



- Seek input from residents and stakeholders to support the development of the Smith Road infrastructure improvements
- To promote safety, pedestrian and bicycle comfort/accessibility, and maintain access



# Background



- Smith Innovation Hub Infrastructure Master Plan approved March 2022
  - ✓ Recommended improvements (sidewalks, lighting, bike lanes, landscape)
- Recommended improvements from the approved March 2022 master plan will extend from University Drive to Apache Boulevard

The image features a central light blue circle on a white background. The circle is surrounded by a decorative border of concentric, overlapping lines in shades of blue and yellow, creating a dynamic, swirling effect. The text "Project Design" is centered within the light blue circle in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

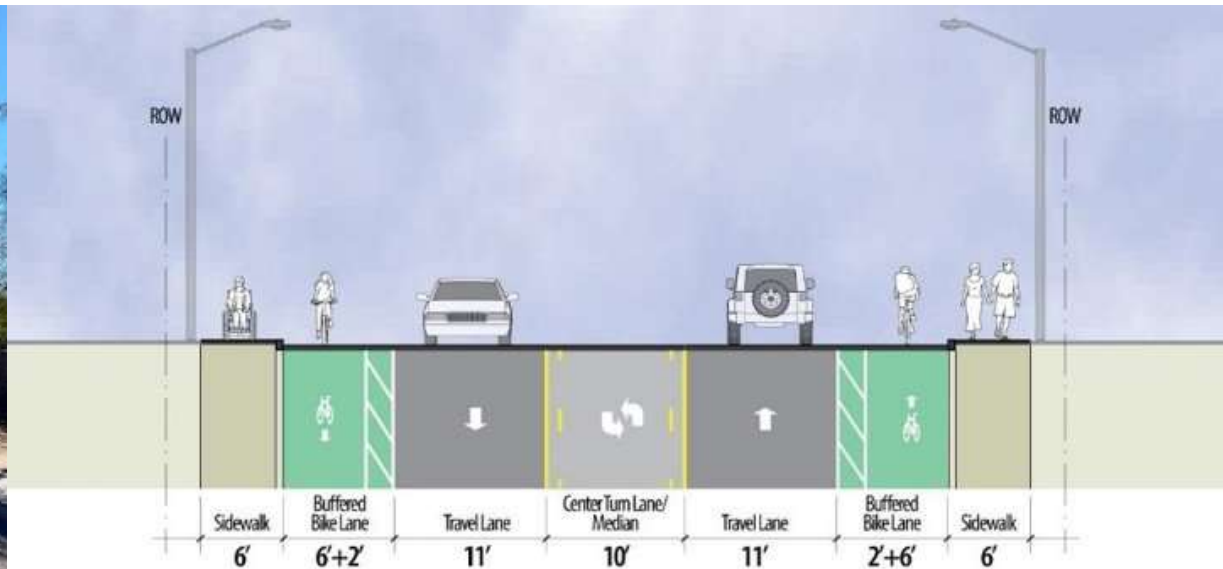
# Project Design

# Smith Road



## University Dr to Rio Salado Pkwy

- Make sidewalk improvements (ADA)
- Add striping for buffered bicycle lanes
- Improve bus stops with shelters and benches
- On-street parking Restrictions

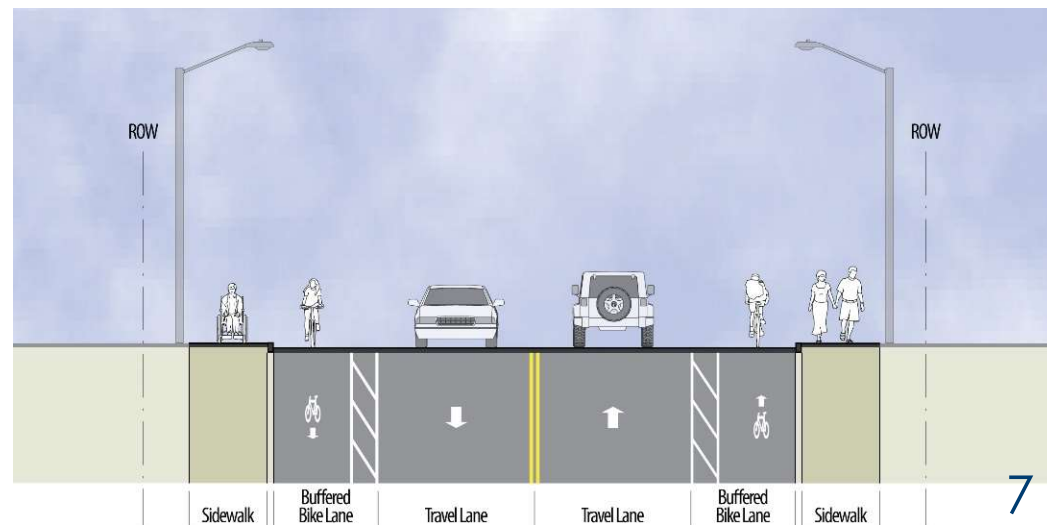
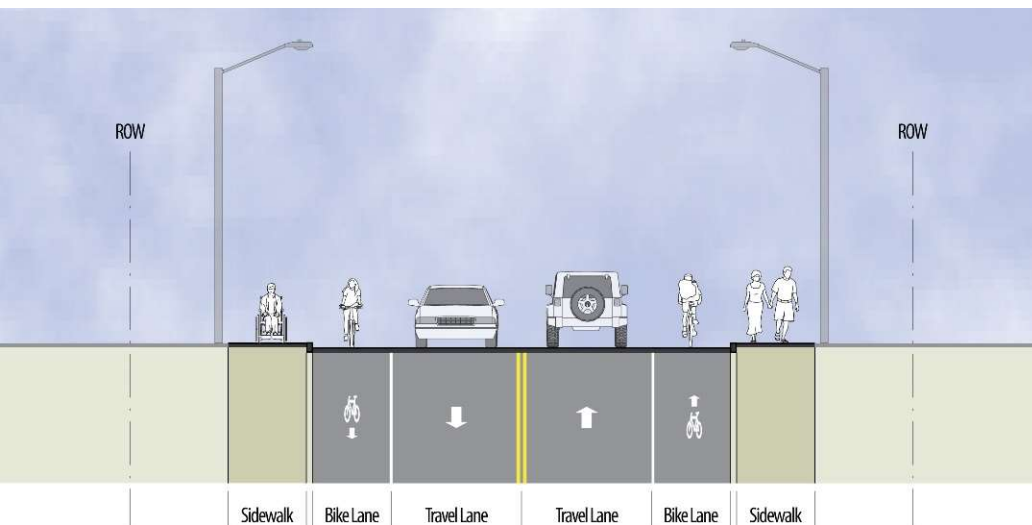


# Smith Road



## Apache Blvd to University Dr

- Make sidewalk improvements (ADA)
- Add striping for bicycle lanes
- On-street parking restrictions
- Evaluating landscape/shade options





# Streetscape Summary



## Smith Road North

- Bike lanes
- No on-street parking
- Street lighting
- Landscaping
- Low-impact development
- Attached sidewalk
- Maintains two-way left turn lane

## Smith Road South

- Bike lanes
- No on-street parking
- Street lighting
- Landscaping
- Low-impact development
- Attached/detached sidewalk

Apache Blvd

University Dr

Rio Salado Pkwy

# Smith Road Design Considerations

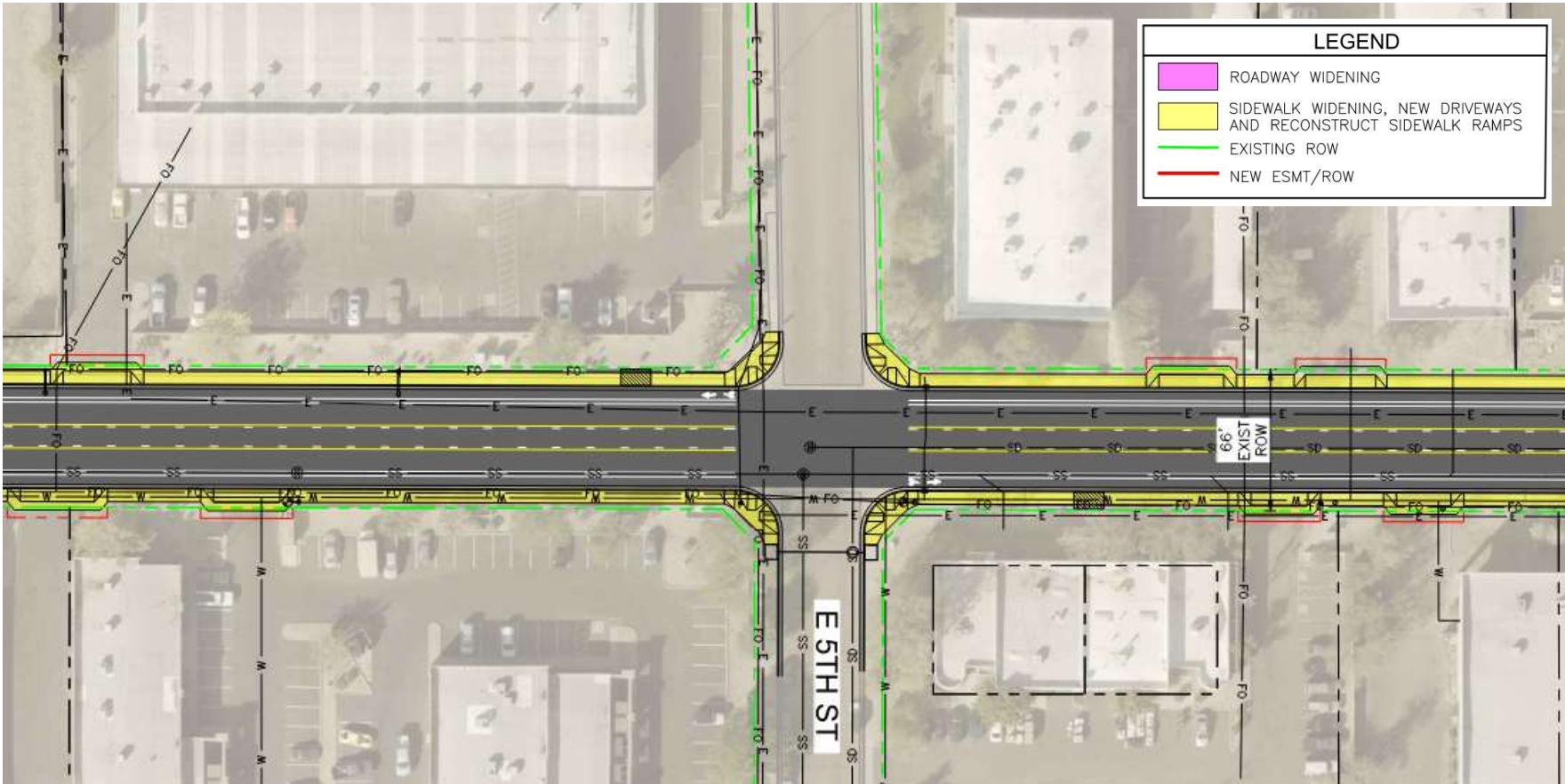


- Design Considered the Following:
  - Future planned development in the project area
  - Existing features to be removed, relocated, or protected in-place
  - Existing Right-of-Way width available
  - Maintaining existing private access

# Smith Road Roll Plot



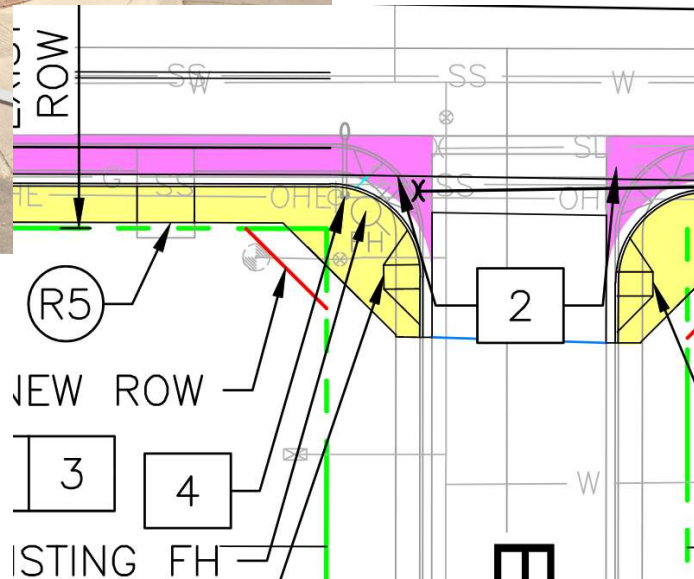
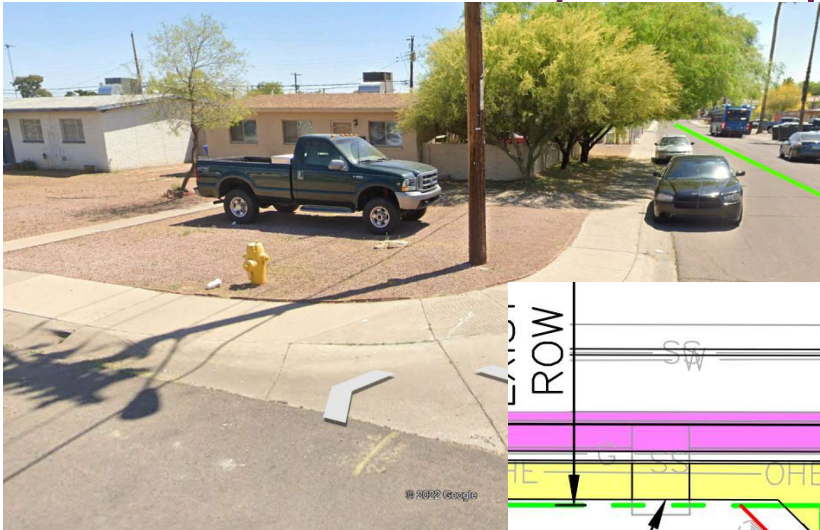
## University Dr to Rio Salado Pkwy



# Smith Road Project Considerations



## Smith Road - University Drive to Apache Blvd



### Right-of-Way Impacts

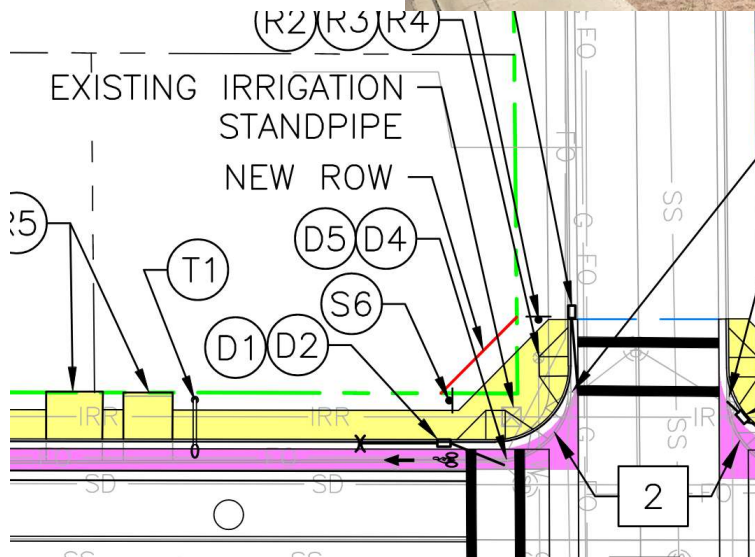
- Standard ramp configuration outside existing ROW
- TCEs for new sidewalk construction
- Utility Relocations



# Smith Road Project Considerations



## Smith Road - University Drive to Apache Blvd



### Utility Impacts



- SRP Existing Irrigation Structures Conflicts
- Potential Overhead Power Pole Relocation
- Drainage Inlet Relocations

# Next Steps



- Prepare final design plans and construction cost estimate to support the Smith Road infrastructure improvements
- Final plans and estimate to the City – Sept 2023

# Get Involved



## Public Survey/Comment

- Answer survey and provide comments at:  
[tempe.gov/SmithRoad](http://tempe.gov/SmithRoad)

# Project Contacts



**Ken Halloran, Senior Civil Engineer**

Engineering & Transportation Dept

[Ken\\_Halloran@tempe.gov](mailto:Ken_Halloran@tempe.gov)

480-350-8200

**Cathy Hollow, City Traffic Engineer**

Engineering & Transportation Dept

[Catherine\\_Hollow@tempe.gov](mailto:Catherine_Hollow@tempe.gov)

480-350-8445

**Jill Buschbacher, Economic Development Program Manager**

[Jill\\_Buschbacher@tempe.gov](mailto:Jill_Buschbacher@tempe.gov)

480-350-8812

Visit [tempe.gov/SmithRoad](http://tempe.gov/SmithRoad) to take the survey!



# SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION 2022 ANNUAL REPORT -



## Description as Defined in Ordinance:

The Tempe sustainability commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To research, advise, and recommend to the city council policies and programs that advance sustainability in Tempe, with particular attention to sustainability in the following areas:

- a. Energy management (city operations and the city as a whole);
- b. Climate-action plan with a roadmap of actions to be recommended;
- c. Local food and agriculture;
- d. Livable neighborhoods and happy communities;
- e. Land use and development;
- f. Building practices;
- g. Purchasing practices;
- h. Economic development (green jobs);
- i. Solid waste, recycling, and hazardous waste;
- j. Water and wastewater management;
- k. Transportation;
- l. Dark skies;
- m. Air quality;
- n. Environmental justice; and as of June 2015
- o. Preparedness and resiliency.

(2) Assist city departments in executing approved policies and programs;

(3) To support education and outreach related to the city's sustainability practices;

(4) To identify potential sustainability partnerships with public, private and educational entities; and

(5) To recommend for city council consideration a comprehensive sustainability plan with measurable goals and benchmarks to ensure year-to-year progress. (Ord. No. O2015.24, 6-25-15)

TCC § {City Code, Chapter 2, Article V, Division 21 }

## List of Board and Commission Members, Including Attendance and Service Dates:

<u>Board/Commission Members:</u>	<u>Service Dates:</u>	<u>Attendance Record:</u>
Kendon, Jung	12/31/2023	Attended 11 Meetings out of 11
Winburn, Morgan	12/31/2024	Attended 3 Meetings out of 3
Swisher, Shawn	12/31/2023	Attended 11 Meetings out of 11
Boyd, Erin	12/31/2024	Attended 2 Meetings out of 2
Milam-Edwards, Stephanie (vacant)	12/31/2022	Attended 2 Meetings out of 4
Burke, Barbie	12/31/2022	Attended 10 Meetings out of 11
Coon, Meaghan	12/31/2023	Attended 11 Meetings out of 11
Mendoza, Natalie	12/31/2022	Attended 11 Meetings out of 11
Brundiers, Katja	12/31/2023	Attended 10 Meetings out of 11
Swanson, Jake	12/31/2023	Attended 11 Meetings out of 11

**Name of Chair and Vice Chair:**

- Chair – Kendon Jung
- Vice Chair – Barbie Burke

**Staff Liaisons and Contact Information:**

<u>Staff Liaison:</u>	<u>Department:</u>	<u>Phone:</u>	<u>Email:</u>
Brianne Fisher	Office of Sustainability	480-350-8959	Brianne_fisher@tempe.gov

**Meeting Frequency and Location:**

Meetings in 2022 were a mix of virtual and in person meetings. Meetings are typically held the third Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at 31 E. Fifth Street, Engineering & Transportation Conference Room, Tempe, AZ 85281. In 2022, five virtual meetings were held.

**Number of Meetings Cancelled and Reason for Cancellation:**

July meeting was cancelled for summer vacation.

**Vacancies and Duration of Vacancies:**

Three vacancies occurred in 2022.

**Subcommittee and Subcommittee Activity:**

Did the Board/Commission have any subcommittees active during the reporting period?  YES  NO

**Mission Statement:**

The mission statement of the Sustainability Commission is to be a culture-catalyst to provide leadership, education, and guidance on sustainability programs and policies to City Council and for our entire community to transform Tempe into a healthy and resilient city that inspires the region, the nation and world.

**Accomplishments (Past 12 Months):**

Since the passing of Tempe's first Climate Action Plan in November 2019, the Sustainability Commission has been working with staff to guide the implementation of the highlight actions outlined in the Climate Action Plan Update including: resilient energy hubs, transportation demand management, green infrastructure standards and the adoption of the international green construction code. The Commission also accomplished the following:

- Supported the approval of the Climate Action Plan 2022 Update by Council in March of 2022. The Commission heavily participated in the planning to ensure the update allowed Tempe businesses and residents to have tangible actions to partner with the City to create a citywide movement to reduce carbon emissions and become more resilient to extreme heat. The Commission's work and creating a coalition of support including reaching out to:
  - Community based organizations,
  - Business community stakeholders,
  - Non-profits and advocacy groups,
  - Residents,
  - Letter of support from Transportation Commission, and
  - Letter of support from Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission are continuing to support the three highlight actions outlined above. More specifically, the Commission held a retreat in June and identified opportunities to advance the highlight actions as members of committee. Work plans are being built out and progress reports will become a regular agenda item for accountability and progress.

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission played a critical role in following, updating and educating members of the community about the progression of the Sustainability and Resilience Office (SRO) Budget process. SRO received historical funding levels from the Tempe City Council including four full time employees. Below summarizes the amounts approved and where the investment is intended to advance.

- Provided education and outreach to community members regarding Office of Sustainability's requests
  - Achieved historic investment into the Sustainability Office programs and personnel including:
    - Resilience and Sequestration - \$330,000
    - Climate Justice and Youth – \$125,000
    - Energy - \$60,000
    - Transportation - \$10,000

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission supported the City of Tempe Departments with advancing climate and sustainability goals by providing ideas and advice. The Commission has the opportunity to provide feedback to related department work and help integrate the principles of sustainability into every city program or project. Below is a summary of the feedback and projects that passed through the Commission:

- **Water, Wastewater, Stormwater Rate Study**
  - Commissioners provided a letter of support outlining their support for creating a line item for stormwater fee in addition to a request for an examination to determine if the city is allocating an appropriate amount of money for rebates and water conservation funding.
- **General Plan 2050**
  - A dedicated member of the Commission attends the Technical Advisory Commission for the drafting of the General Plan 2050. The Commission will also have the opportunity to review and contribute to the Chapter's SRO will be submitting to Long Range Planning Staff.
- **LEED for Cities and Community Carbon Disclosure**
  - Commission members have held staff accountable to increasing the earned rating from the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and applying to become a LEED Certified City.
- **Adaptive Streets**
  - Commissioners provided feedback and program analysis for Tempe's first ever Adaptive Streets program coming out of the Transportation Department. Commissioners offered advice on community engagement opportunities and benefits for urban design and development.
- **Hayden Flour Mill**
  - Commissioners were provided an update from the selected development and design partners to re-develop the Historic Hayden Flour Mill. The Flour Mill is at the base of the Hayden Butte Preserve which is a traditional cultural property and a known archaeological site.
- **Grass Clippings at Rolling Hills**
  - Commissioners provided accolades for the proposal to reduce the footprint of grass associated with the golf course. Commissioners provided feedback to further reduce water usage at the site and discussed possibilities for additional sustainability elements like heat relief, urban cooling, energy efficiency, and composting site.

### **Goals Related to City Council Strategic Priorities, if Applicable (Next 12 Months):**

#### **Climate Action Policy**

The Commission seeks to support Mayor, Council and city staff in passing climate action policy that moves forward the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and more specifically, focusing their efforts on progress towards the three highlight actions in the Climate Action Plan Update including:

- Resilient Energy Hubs and Resilience Hubs

- Support staff and stakeholders on heat relief and resilience messaging and communication in preparation for the opening of EnVision Tempe.
- Transportation Demand Management and Mobility Hubs
  - In partnership with business organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Tempe Authority, find private-public partnerships that help communicate and advocate the goals of improved transportation systems and policies.
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) standards and the adoption of the International Green Construction Code
  - Collaboration with the Arizona Institute for Architecture (AIA) Metro Phoenix to focus their annual design competition around GSI with the goal of helping Tempe residents, elected officials, and stakeholders visualize future projects.

### **Extreme Heat and Resilient Recovery Efforts**

The Commission will support city staff in organizing and planning for extreme heat across multiple departments. Investing in urban cooling in addition to adaptation efforts that protect the communities most vulnerable with pilots and programs including:

- Adopt a voluntary Green Construction Code for private development
- Support the development and design of the Resilient Tempe Master Plan and Utility Feasibility Study
- Adopt Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Code and Standards Amendments
- Advocate for the opening of the EnVision Resilience Hub on Apache, including opportunities to add solar, energy efficiency technology and refrigeration
- Residential Green Stormwater Infrastructure program to streamline resident efforts to build bioswales, curb cuts and bump outs
- Support and share heat relief messaging and energy equity pilot projects
- Co-create relevant chapters for the 2050 General Plan update

### **Grant Implementation**

The Commission will support city staff in guiding the implementation of existing grants including United States Department of Agriculture Grow Local Tempe, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Cool Kids, Cool Places, Cool Futures, and State Farm Century of Gold grant.

### **More consistent communication and joint activity with Council and other Commissions**

The Sustainability Commission is dedicated to more consistently coordinating with Mayor and Council and other Commissions. The Commission fully supports the creation of a Council Committee on Carbon Neutrality and Resilience that would include emissions reductions in transportation, energy, water conservation, resilience to extreme heat and urban forestry.



November 21, 2022

Kendon Jung  
Chair

Barbie Burke  
Vice Chair

Erin Boyd  
Member

Katja Brundiers  
Member

Meaghan Coon  
Member

Natalie Mendoza  
Member

Jake Swanson  
Member

Shawn Swisher  
Member

Morgan Winburn  
Member

Dear Mayor and Council,

As members of the Sustainability and Resilience Commission, made up of residents, experts, businesses, and advocates that guide and recommend climate action policy to the Tempe City Council, we are providing this letter of support for the 2022 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Study.

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission uses a set of guiding principles to help shape our advice and recommendations to Council. The 2022 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Study valued equity practices which resulted in a policy and pricing structure that supports vulnerable and low-income water users. The Commission gives accolades to using a framework that acknowledges that structural inequalities to education, income, public safety, employment, housing, transportation and other social services undermine water equity. In southwest cities, water equity issues are tied in with climate because after use imparts relief from extreme heat and urban heat island effects. The water rate analysis concluded that simplifying and consolidating the water rate tier system will allow for most single-family water users needs to be met within tier one, which allows more residents with low water use, to have lower prices. The downsizing of the tier system also keeps intact the necessary conservation signals for larger lot sizes. The Commission greatly supports the reduction of tiers for this purpose. We greatly appreciate the leadership of Tempe City Council and Municipal Utilities Department for investing in advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) that enables quality data collection and analysis which result in equitable policy recommendations.

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission also wanted to highlight the importance of this years Rate Study for including, for the first time, an acknowledgement and analysis of a stormwater fee. While this is not only good for tracking and recovery of regulatory requirements and expenses, it also provides a future opportunity for capital investments. Stormwater fees are necessary to maintain the public stormwater system and represent an equitable way for the community share the cost of a public service. The simple fee structure for stormwater will enhance transparency and public understanding while also adding valuable data to the Resilient Tempe Master Plan and Utility Feasibility Study. The Master Plan and Study is intended to discover strategies to deepen the cities investment in urban forestry and green stormwater infrastructure for the goals of urban cooling. Tempe City Council's approval of the fee sets the city up with a sustainable funding stream and the ability to explore progressive strategies to manage extreme heat and stormwater in the future.

Members of the Commission are deeply appreciative of the staff from Municipal Utilities for their comprehensive approach to developing their recommendations to Council and their deep commitment to community engagement. The approval of the recommendations in the 2022 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Study will continue the City of Tempe's trajectory as being a climate leader in the valley. Tempe City Council's approval maintains strong conservation policy and positions the city to develop innovative strategies that will advance urban cooling and create a community resilient to extreme heat.

Best regards,

Chair, Kendon Chung  
Vice Chair, Barbie Burke