



NEWS RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Community Event Release

Government needs to hear the voice of the People

On Monday, April 30th at 6pm I will be hosting what is expected to be a widely attended community conversation at the First Assembly of God Church located just west of the corner of Broadway and Campbell.

This community dialogue will be to engage RTA/TDOT in a serious discussion about re-scoping the planned \$71M Broadway expansion project. We expect this “community conversation” to form a template for discussions in other parts of the community where similar concerns exist.

The purpose of this community dialogue is to open the door to readdressing the scope of RTA projects when it can be determined that the bases on which they were presented and voted on by the voters were flawed, and/or the funding and budgets for them are in question. Simply said, with millions of taxpayer dollars at stake, engage the people paying the bills and allow for a conversation that is based on the realities of current design, funding and need.

The voters approved \$42M in RTA money for this project. We can design within that budget. The voters also approved \$25M in County Bond money. We can use that in other areas of the City when it becomes available to address the transportation needs that the citizens prioritize.

Trying to solve our transportation issues by simply expanding road capacity is costly, and unresponsive to the creative input our community can bring to the table.

In a recent memo to the County Board of Supervisors, County Administrator Chuck Huckleberry noted “*I completely agree with Councilmember Kozachik on this issue. It makes little sense to force the original scope of transportation improvements where they are clearly outdated or unnecessary. Reducing the size and scope of transportation improvements not only saves money; it is more responsive to community needs and desires.*”

I will be joined by Tucson City Council Member Richard Fimbres, Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias, Demion Clinco (Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation President), Stuart Taylor (representing the Tucson Bus Riders Union) and representatives from the Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association,



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the Sam Hughes Neighborhood Association, multiple business operators from along the Broadway corridor, numerous other Neighborhood Associations from throughout the City and concerned citizens.

I wish to thank Pastor Jim Munns and the congregation of the First Assembly of God for sharing their property with us as we work to protect their building from demolition, as well as over 100 other buildings that are sited along the north edge of Broadway from Euclid to Country Club.

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