



City of Phoenix

Street Transportation Department

February 20, 2020

Willo Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 36506
Phoenix, AZ 85067-6506

Dear Board of Directors – Willo Neighborhood Association,

The City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department appreciates the continued interest and support of the Willo Neighborhood Association and the area residents in the 3rd and 5th Avenue street improvement project from McDowell Road to Thomas Road. We reviewed your January 9, 2020 letter, compiled some additional schedule information, and are providing you this letter to respond to your request.

Until this fiscal year, which began on July 1, 2019, this project did not have funding in the Street Transportation Department (Streets) five-year capital improvement program (CIP). We were excited that when City Council approved the City's CIP last year, Streets CIP included funding to proceed with design work on this project. However, as you are aware, this was the first funding made available to build on the Maricopa Association of Governments' 3rd and 5th Avenue Mobility Assessment completed in 2018.

With the design funding in place, we worked to hire a design team for the project and they were able to begin work in November 2019. The design phase is expected to take a little more than a year and is scheduled for completion in December 2020. At this time, the Streets CIP does not include funding for construction of the project.

As we move through design, at certain intervals the project team, led by Programming and Project Delivery Division, will be engaging the community to provide updates and to seek additional input and feedback. Here is a list of tentative milestones and corresponding dates for the design phase as requested in your letter.

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| • Design consultant began work: | November 2019 |
| • Pre-design public open house: | November 2019 |
| • Alternatives evaluation (15% plans): | Spring 2020 * |
| • 60% design plans submittal: | Summer 2020 * |
| • 90% design plans submittal: | Winter 2020 * |
| • 100% complete design: | Late Winter 2020 |

* *The City plans to hold community engagement sessions at this stage of design.*

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Please know that Streets is committed to working with the Willo Neighborhood Association and area residents throughout the design process to get a solution that works. I am hopeful that the solution will support our street network grid system for our growing City, while accommodating access for all users of the right-of-way as stated in the City's Complete Streets Policy. Further, I anticipate the solution will make 3rd Avenue a key bicycle and pedestrian corridor through the middle of the city, as identified in our Downtown Transportation Plan (2014). Finally, I know our project team will work together with the community to create a balance between the City's transportation needs and the requests of the Willo Neighborhood Association in reference to the Willo Conservation Plan (1986), as reiterated in your letter.

Again, thank you for your input on this important project and we look forward to a strong partnership. Please contact me at 602-262-6137 if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Kini L.E. Knudson
Director

cc: Councilwoman Laura Pastor
Mario Paniagua, Deputy City Manager