



City of Phoenix
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

August 31, 2021

Dr. Robert L. Cannon, President
Willo Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 36506
Phoenix, Arizona 85067

RE: Unfunded 3rd and 5th Avenue Improvements in the Willo Historic District

Dear Mr. Cannon,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the 3rd and 5th Avenues north of McDowell Road Improvement Project (North). This responds to your concerns regarding the funding of the project.

I understand Streets staff recently met with Willo residents to discuss pressing issues in the Willo area and to provide current status of the street improvement project, and that the following were the main areas discussed:

- 3rd Avenue and Encanto Boulevard roundabout
- Maintaining on-street parking and installation of decomposed granite on the southwest corner 3rd Avenue and Encanto Boulevard
- Addition of a stop sign at 5th Avenue and Encanto Boulevard
- 3rd Avenue and Holly Park issues pertaining to curbing and sidewalk, storm drain maintenance, and removal of guy wire by Salt River Project
- Installation of new curbing in lieu of zebra pavement markers
- Retaining palm tree on northeast corner of 3rd Avenue and Encanto Boulevard

Each of these concerns is under review as the project design is still underway. The City is moving towards 90% design, with 100% completion anticipated by November 2021. The next public outreach opportunity on this project will be in September or October 2021.

With design nearing completion, the next step in the project development process is right of way acquisition, which can take 12-18 months to complete. The City of Phoenix is committed to funding acquisition efforts beginning in the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

The funding available for construction was directly impacted by the pandemic primarily due to reductions in gas tax collections. However, recent revenue projections are promising and provide an opportunity moving forward.

Due to the pandemic impacts on gas tax revenue, Streets reduced its 5-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget by \$39 million. Twenty previously funded programs and three capital projects were impacted including construction of the 3rd and 5th Avenues Improvement Project (North)

However, the good news is that the most recent revenue forecast provides Streets with the opportunity to restore most of the \$39 million reduction. Streets will be utilizing the latest revenue forecast to update its 5-year CIP this fall with the possibility of programming this project for construction as early the fiscal year beginning July 2022.

I appreciate your advocacy for Willo and for improving our street infrastructure to accommodate all street users, including bicyclists and pedestrians. I appreciate your understanding and patience as the City works to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on current programs, projects, and services, and as we evaluate opportunities to expand those as we are able.

It has been a great pleasure working with Willo over the course of my career, and I assure you we are listening to your concerns and stand ready to address them as they arise. This project will move forward and will provide a safe and aesthetically pleasing thoroughfare for the community to enjoy.

Sincerely,



Ed Zuercher
City Manager

Kate Gallego, Mayor
Laura Pastor, District 4 Councilwoman
Kini Knudson, Street Transportation Director
Mario Paniagua, Deputy City Manager
Brent Kleinman, President, Encanto-Palmcroft Historic Preservation Association
Jeanine Baber, President, Story Preservation Association
Ryan Tempest, President, Roosevelt Action Association