



---

November 17, 2022

Kini Knudson, Director  
City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department  
246 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Re: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues North Streets Improvement Project through Willo

Dear Kini:

I want to commend the Street Transportation Department for its continuing engagement with the Willo Neighborhood with reference to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues improvement project from McDowell to Thomas Roads through our neighborhood. On November 10, 2022, we welcomed Michael Cano, the current project manager, and Cesar Castillo of WSP USA (the City's consultant) to present their presentation of the long-anticipated 100% design update of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues improvements through Willo. While their presentation of the final updates was generally well received, several of our residents expressed strong opposition to the placement of green plastic bollards as the solution for vertical delineation of the protected multi-use cycle and pedestrian path on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue from McDowell to Thomas Roads. In reviewing the videos of previous project updates, we noted that residents expressed opposition to the plastic bollards very early on in the project (from the 30% design phase forward).

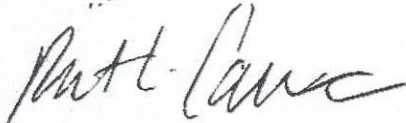
Residents questioned whether the plastic, stick-type bollards are compatible with the historic and residential character of our neighborhood – one of the oldest and largest historic districts in Phoenix. Each February, we welcome thousands of visitors to Willo who come to enjoy our historic neighborhood and we question how these prominent plastic delineators along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue support our mission to protect and preserve the historic character of Willo as mandated in our Conservation Plan. Several neighbors who regularly cycle on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue south of McDowell also questioned the efficacy of the vertical plastic delineators, since cars have been observed driving in the bike lanes in that area, knocking down and breaking the bollards, which have required repeated replacement since their installation.

At the end of Mr. Cano and Mr. Castillo's presentation, the Willo Neighborhood Association voted unanimously to request that the Streets Transportation Department design team consider other options for the vertical delineators along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. For the sake of consistency, we believe the use of a raised curb as was chosen for the protective barrier along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue seems like the obvious choice. In earlier design presentations, Chris Manno brought up the possibility of planting native-adapted trees along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to provide shade for

pedestrians and cyclists. Trees could also serve as vertical delineation of the protected multi-use path, as could low ornamental grasses. Some creative but attainable solutions suggested by our residents include a raised curb - with curb cuts for monsoonal rain - removed pavement, and installation of bioswales between McDowell and Vernon that could serve as a linear park that would benefit the entire area and support the City of Phoenix tree and shade initiatives. In addition, we request that the Streets Transportation Department consult with the City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office to see what other ideas and options may be available that are sensitive to historic preservation design principles.

Mr. Cano and Mr. Castillo both expressed that the design is still at a phase where a change could be made to the vertical delineators along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue without delaying the start of the project. We look forward to hearing back from you on what other solutions may be available. Thank you again for your continued collaborative efforts on bringing this important project to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Robert L. Cannon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Dr. Robert L. Cannon, President  
Willo Neighborhood Association

Cc: Mayor Kate Gallego  
Vice Mayor Laura Pastor  
Jeff Barton, Phoenix City Manager