

Subject: Paul Cunningham's Weekly Update
From: "Ward 2 News" <Ward2News@public.govdelivery.com>
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Paul Cunningham's Weekly Update



Paul's Note

Tucson City Council, Ward 2

In last week's newsletter, the year of Dr. King's death was given as 1963 rather than 1968. I am very sorry about the error.

A video of the speech I referenced can be found here: https://youtu.be/zgVrlx68v-0?si=78XzEa_-mdhb5UZb

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There are two transportation related items on Tuesday's agenda I want to alert you to.

Our Department of Transportation and Mobility has identified a 15 mile long corridor running from Tucson Mall to downtown and ultimately the airport. The plan is to have the first segment of that project, dubbed Tucson Rapid Transit, be a bus rapid transit (BRT) line running from the Tohono Tadaí Transit Center (near Tucson Mall) to the Ronstadt Center downtown.

Although I am supportive of expansion of our modern streetcar route, BRT has some advantages over it. BRT doesn't require tracks: it would use our current roads, although there may need to be widening. Even though the buses used in such systems are typically larger than our current SunTran buses, they are cheaper to maintain and we'd spend less on driver training. BRT systems are typically coordinated with traffic controls like stop lights to minimize the need to stop at intersections.

The vote on Tuesday would be to approve an option using Oracle or Stone Roads. This came out of a series of public meetings held last year.

The other item I'd like to highlight is a continued discussion of the Regional Transportation Authority. Funding is due to expire soon, so the talk among leaders in our region is what is being called "RTA Next," a reauthorization by the voters of the authority and the tax to continue RTA.

In Ward 2, we have benefitted from a number of RTA projects: improvement of Houghton Road and a rebuild of East Broadway, for example. I have some misgivings, however, about whether Tucson is slated to get a share of projects in RTA Next commensurate with the taxes we will be paying for it.

However, I'd rather we stay part of the discussion rather than go it alone. There have been changes in leadership, particularly at the county, that make me hopeful.

The other thing to keep in mind is that whatever list of projects is dreamed up for RTA Next, it has to go to voters county wide. I hope that as the list and structure is being put together, the decision makers keep in mind that most of the votes to get this implemented will have to come from city residents.

Community News



Mayor and Council: The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 23. There will be a study session with a regular meeting following at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at City Hall, 255 W Alameda and can be watched live or archived at <https://www.youtube.com/@cityoftucson/live>.

Plan Tucson Community Forum: Plan Tucson is the City's General Plan, a long range policy document that asks what

kind of City do we want to be and how do we get there, it's wide scope addresses where future growth is encouraged, what programs in housing, transportation, and climate action should be supported, and much more.

The Community Forums will allow members of the community to provide feedback on the draft goals for the plan that will guide policy and strategies that impact both current and future plans and developments. The Forums will also be an opportunity to provide input on updates to our future growth map, which will inform where and what kind of development is encouraged across the City. The General Plan is meant to be a reflection of the values of the community and the more feedback we receive the better the end result will be.

Ward 2 will be hosting a forum on **Saturday, January 20th from 10 am to noon**. This will be at our new office at **7280 E Broadway**.

Both events will have prizes and the in person event will have food and family friendly activities. More information can be found on our website www.plantucson.org

High School Essay Competition: 2024 marks the 70th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's 1954 landmark decision in *Brown v Board of Education*. As a part of that, the 2024 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is accepting essays on the impact of the decision from high school students in nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions. Students from public, private, parochial and charter schools as well as homeschooled students of equivalent grade status may enter.

The deadline for entries is March 8, 2024. For more information, visit <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/>.

Lead Paint Hazard Control Program: If you live in a pre-1978 home, or a child in your life frequently visits one, the city's partner SERI has a resource for you. The Lead Paint Hazard Control program offers free home repairs for qualifying participants. Call 520 222-8067 or visit seriaz.org/healthy-and-safe-homes.

Visit Tucson: Visit Tucson has created a community survey for you to share your thoughts about living, working, and playing in Pima County to help us better understand resident sentiment about tourism and community experiences. The data provided in this resident survey will help us understand what Visit Tucson and community partners can do to improve quality of life and economic prosperity. Anyone age 18 or older who lives in Pima County is encouraged to complete the survey, which is available in English and Spanish. Visit Tucson is giving away \$100 restaurant gift cards to four (4) lucky people who complete the survey by January 21. Thanks in advance for your participation and input. <https://survey.cmix.com/295A8866/810072EE/en-US>

Ready Set Rec!: Ward 2's Ready Set Rec! van will be making visits to Fort Lowell Park and Palo Verde Park. The van has equipment for all ages, including corn hole, board games, hula hoops, giant chess & checkers, giant Connect-4, giant Jenga, ladder golf, sports & toddler equipment.

The schedule for the month is below.

Proposition 411 Mini-grant Program: The Proposition 411 Neighborhood Mini-grant program

launched last week. This program offers community members the opportunity to champion projects that reduce residential speeding and improve livability through a competitive selection process for funding and implementation.

The website with all of the program information can be found here:

<https://tucsondelivers.tucsonaz.gov/pages/safe-streets-mini-grant-program>



Ready, Set, REC!

Find the Ward 2 van!

- Jan. 2, 3-5 p.m. - Jesse Owens Park
- Jan. 4, 3-5 p.m. - Udall Park
- Jan. 5, Noon-3 p.m. - Udall Park
- Jan. 8, 3-5 p.m. - Fort Lowell Park
- Jan. 9, 3-5 p.m. - Palo Verde Park
- Jan. 11, 3-5 p.m. - Terra Del Sol Park
- Jan. 16, 3-5 p.m. - Jesse Owens Park
- Jan. 18, 3-5 p.m. - Udall Park
- Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-Noon - Ward 2 Office
- Jan. 22, 3-5 p.m. - Fort Lowell Park
- Jan. 23, 3-5 p.m. - Palo Verde Park
- Jan. 25, 3-5 p.m. - Bell Wright Park
- Jan. 29, 3-5 p.m. - Palo Verde Park
- Jan. 30, 3-5 p.m. - Jesse Owens Park



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