



March 21, 2014

Honorable Mayor Rothschild and City Council
255 W Alameda St
Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: Pedestrian and Cyclist Crossing at Main Ave.

Dear Mayor Rothschild and Council --

Since the introduction in January, 2008 of the Downtown Links Alignment 3d, the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood and other affected citizens and groups have been vocal in the importance of continued connectivity between the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood and Downtown. As the Links project progresses we have repeatedly voiced the need for this connectivity and have been reassured by Mayor and Council that our access to downtown would not be severed. Of critical importance to the neighborhood is access between the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood and Downtown at Main Ave. It is vital that adequate infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists to safely and comfortably cross at Main be part of the design and final project: namely, a pedestrian and bike hawk at Main Ave.

The revitalization of downtown and improved transportation should not separate Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood from Downtown, but rather include us as a cultural and economic asset. Ensuring that Dunbar/Spring residents have appropriate access to downtown ensures that we are safely and comfortably able to travel downtown for work and recreation. Furthermore, our agreement to this project has been largely due to such promises that our neighborhood would retain safe and comfortable access to Downtown and that promise needs to be fulfilled.

We understand that there is a crossing at Granada. This *alone* is not acceptable to Dunbar/Spring residents as the car traffic is too heavy for the safe and comfortable movement of pedestrians and cyclists along Granada. Additionally, a crossing at Church *alone* is not acceptable because Church does not continue into Dunbar/Spring, but rather ends at 6th. ***What is integral is the construction of a raised landscape median and pedestrian refuge island on St. Mary's Road at the intersection of Main Avenue to allow safer pedestrian crossing of St. Mary's Road. This crossing should have a hawk crossing and differentiated surface so that safety and comfort are ensured.***

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Sky Jacobs, President
Dunbar Spring Neighborhood Assoc.

CC:

- James Glock, Director of Transportation, City of Tucson
- Citizens Advisory Committee on Downtown Links
- Ann Chanecka, Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Coordinator, City of Tucson

For progressive examples of livable streets and water harvesting, see:

Seattle, Washington - Public Utilities SEA Streets Project.

Website:

http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/About_SPU/Drainage_&_Sewer_System/Natural_Drainage_Systems/index.asp

Progressive multi-use water harvesting/beautification/flood control strategies in the public rights-of-way.

Seattle, Washington - Broadview Green Grid Natural Drainage Project

Website: <http://www2.seattle.gov/util/tours/Broadview/slide1.htm>

This slide show features the multiple, integrated benefits of this Natural Drainage Systems (NDS) project spanning 16 blocks of a residential neighborhood in northwest Seattle.

Seattle, Washington - Growing Vine Street Project.

Website: www.growingvinestreet.org

This project is a laboratory for green solutions within an urban design context. The goals are three-fold: to treat roof runoff through biofiltration, to create a refreshing green space for the community, and to reintroduce the natural hydrologic cycle into our urban lives. Includes water-harvesting public art/cisterns, community gardens, urban tree planting, cistern steps, and more.

Portland, Oregon - Sustainable Stormwater Program featuring Natural Drainage Systems and more.

Website: <http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=34598>

Progressive multi-use water harvesting/beautification/flood control strategies in the public rights-of-way and beyond. Includes permeable paving, water-harvesting curb cuts, bioremediation of toxins, urban forestry, and more.

Tucson, Arizona - The Keeling Neighborhood Greenway

Website: www.drachmaninstitute.org

This greenway has yet to be implemented, but the plan can be found at the listed website under the “portfolio” section. It includes a lot of passive water harvesting off streets and sidewalks to irrigate native shade trees.