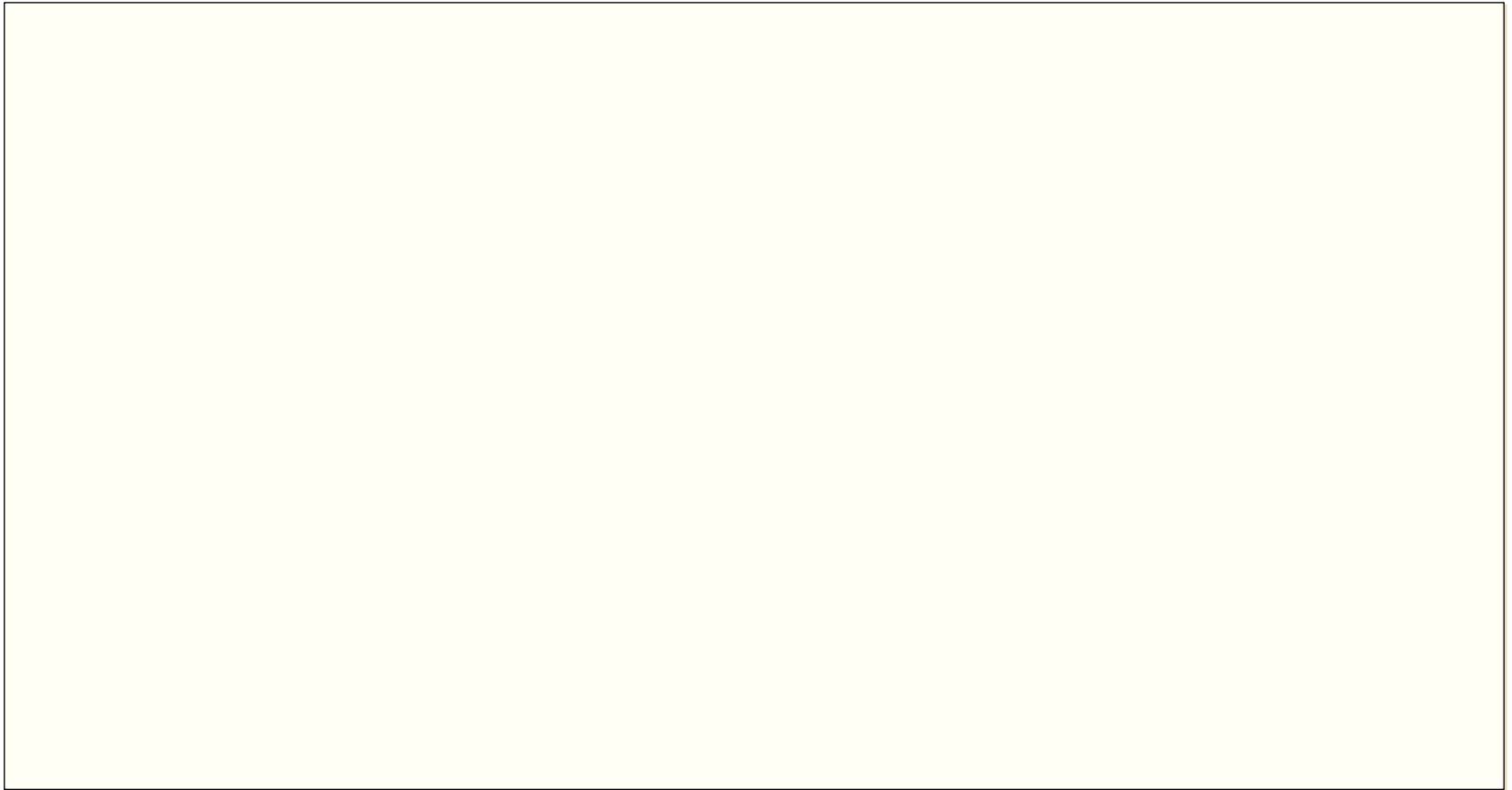


# CREATING COLLABORATION

*Weaving transit into existing communities  
through public involvement*

# The Project



# Purpose

- Develop station area plans that address Apache Boulevard's unique set of issues
  - Affordable housing
  - Retention of local businesses
  - Application of small TOD-supportive development concepts
  - Improving the pedestrian environment
  - Integrating the community vision
  - Cultural diversity
  - Proximity to ASU

# Corridor Background

- Former highway
- Business corridor that fronts the road
  - ▣ Hotels, restaurants, recreational vehicle parks
- Older, suburban neighborhoods directly behind



*Apache Boulevard - 2007*

# Corridor Background

- Arizona State University - a direct neighbor
- Transit-oriented development (TOD) guidelines recently developed for the corridor by the City
- Red Line Bus
- Light rail under construction

# Planning Process Overview

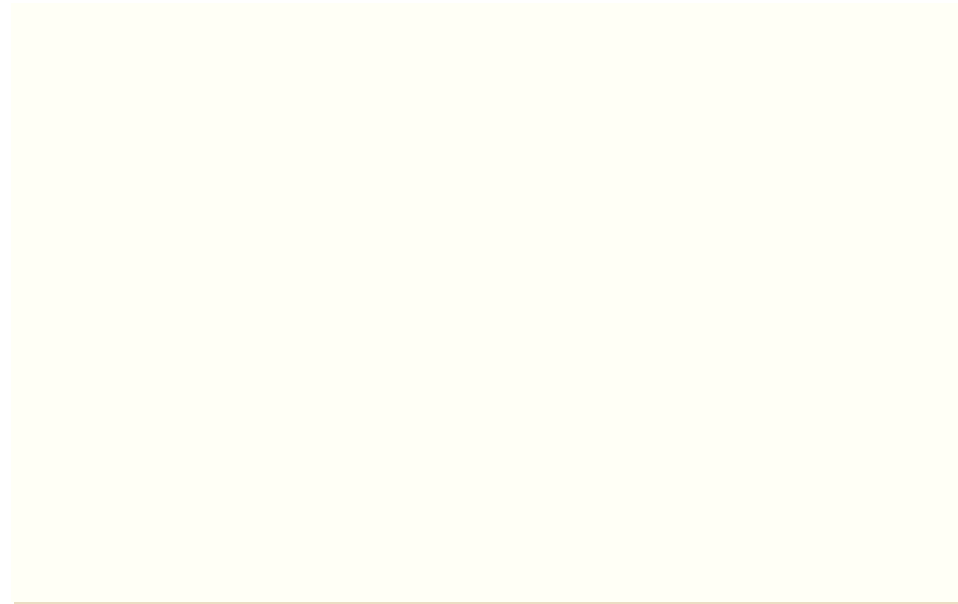
- Summer 2007 – Station Area Assets, Needs & Opportunities
  - Project Kick-Off Meeting
- Fall 2007 – Community Input
  - Public Open House
  - Stakeholder Focus Groups
  - Community Design Charrette
- Winter 2007 – Station Area Plan Documents
  - Draft document, public review

# Stakeholders

- City of Tempe
- Residents, Neighborhood Associations
- Current businesses
  - ▣ Tempe Chamber of Commerce
- Future Developers
- City Council
  - ▣ City of Tempe Development Review Commission
- Arizona State University

# Community Input - Design

- Design Concepts:
  - ▣ Transit- Oriented Development
    - Density
    - Types of developments
    - Design
  - ▣ Open space & shade
  - ▣ Pedestrian & bicycle connections
  - ▣ Civic & community amenities

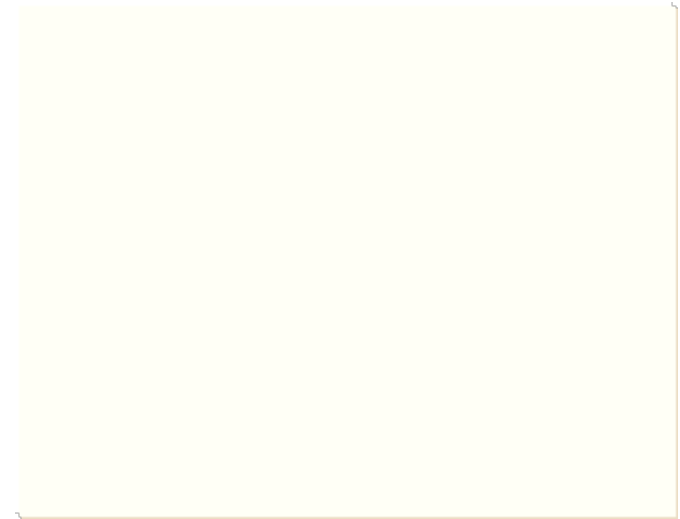


*Neighborhood connection to Dorsey station*



# Concerns

- Sense of community to remain
  - ▣ Uniqueness of the corridor
  - ▣ Mixed demographic of residents, businesses
- Business retention
- Lower density developments
- Connectivity from neighborhoods to light rail stations



# Needs and Opportunities

- Better pedestrian and bicycle connections to stations
  - ▣ Within the neighborhoods
  - ▣ Shading along sidewalks
  - ▣ Lighting
- Creation of zoning requirements which encourage developers
- Creation of mixed-used developments
- Investment in new businesses
  - ▣ Grocery store
  - ▣ Restaurants
  - ▣ Retail
  - ▣ Services
- Creation of art program

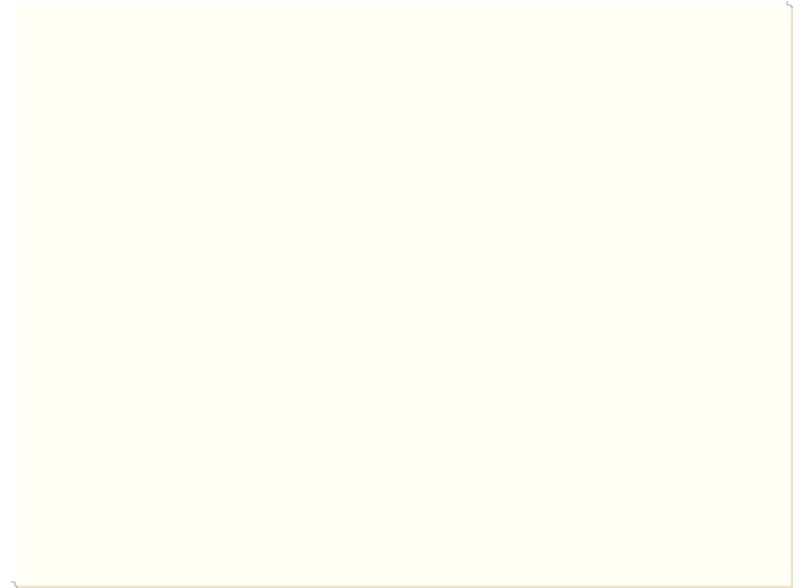
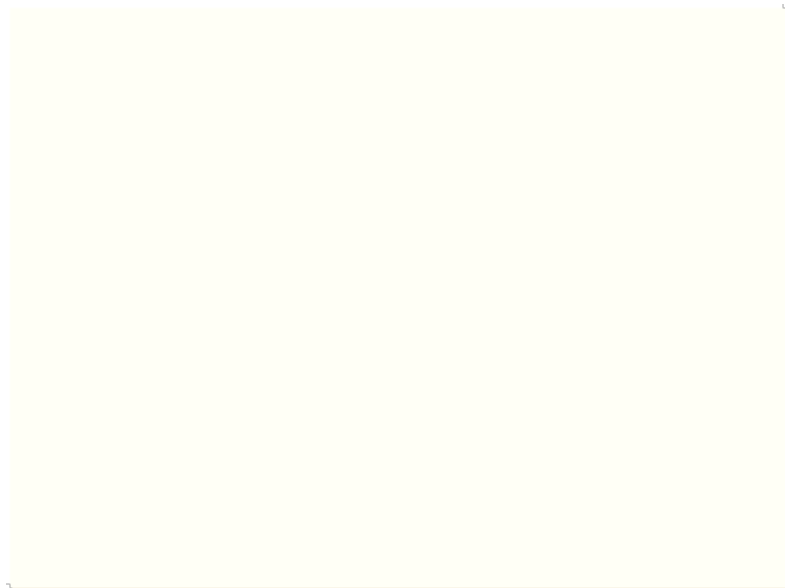
# Community Participation

- 87 attendees at public meetings
- Presentations:
  - ▣ City of Tempe Development Review Commission
  - ▣ Apache Boulevard Project Area Committee
- 38 comment forms received



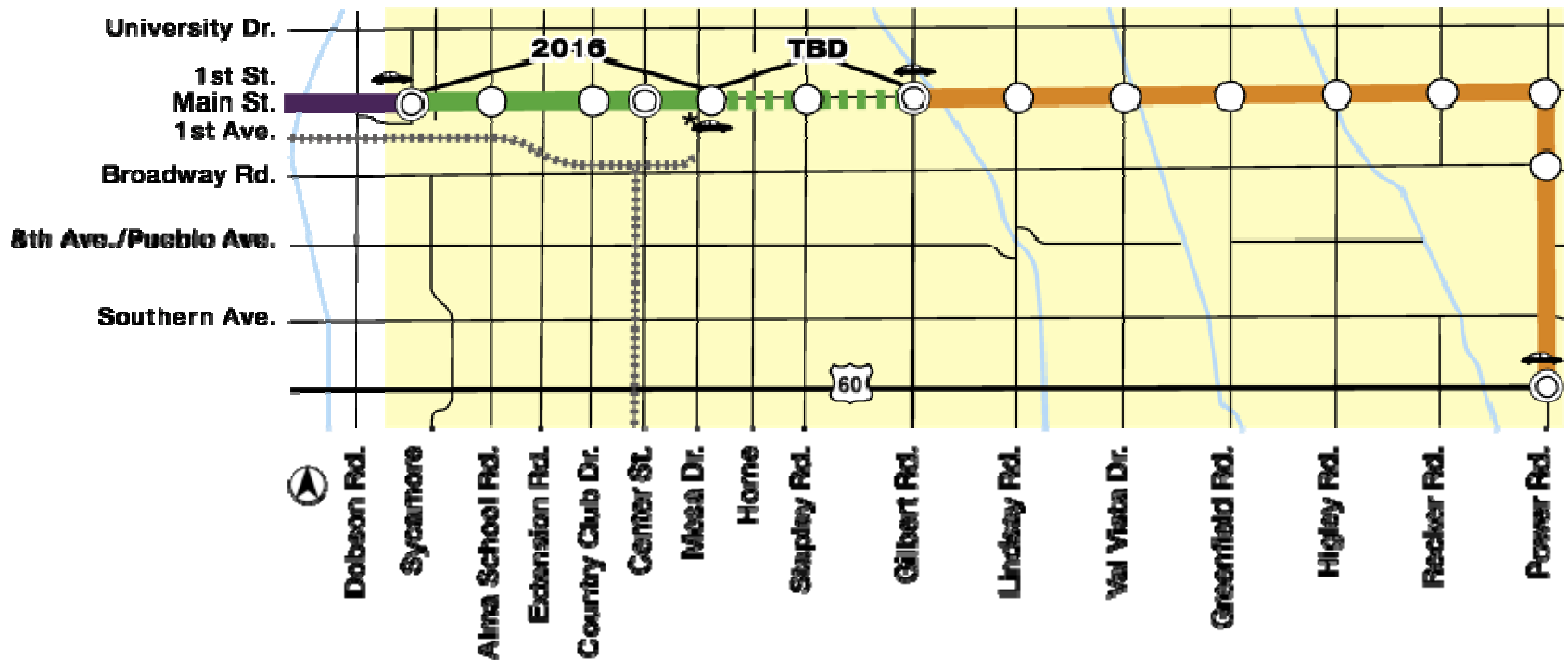
*Design Charrette*

# Community Impact



- ▣ Building height & neighborhood integration
- ▣ Transportation linkages
- ▣ Affordable housing
- ▣ Mixed-use providing employment & services

# The Project



## LEGEND

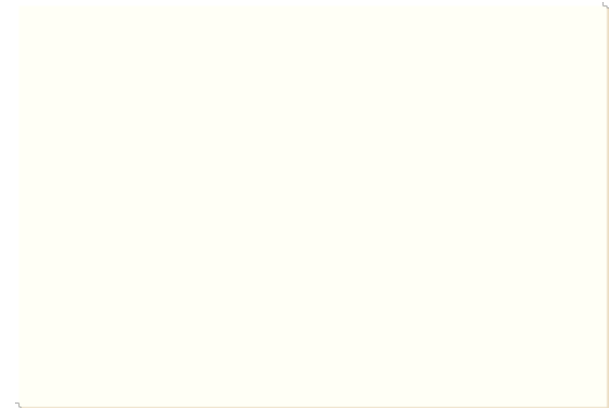
- |            |                           |  |
|------------|---------------------------|--|
| Study Area | Light Rail Line / Station | Central Mesa Phase 1 - 2016            |
| Canal      | Transit Center            | Central Mesa Phase 2 - TBD             |
| Railroad   | Park-and-Ride             | Valley Metro LINK BRT Alignment / Stop |

\* Mesa Dr. Park-and-Ride lot would be interim until the extension to Gilbert Rd is complete.

11/11/09

# Corridor Background

- Mesa has one mile of rail – opened December 2008
- Historic properties
- Local businesses, no chains
- Residential neighborhoods
- Arts & Culture
  - ▣ Mesa Arts Center
  - ▣ Public art program
- Civic Plaza



*Long time local business*

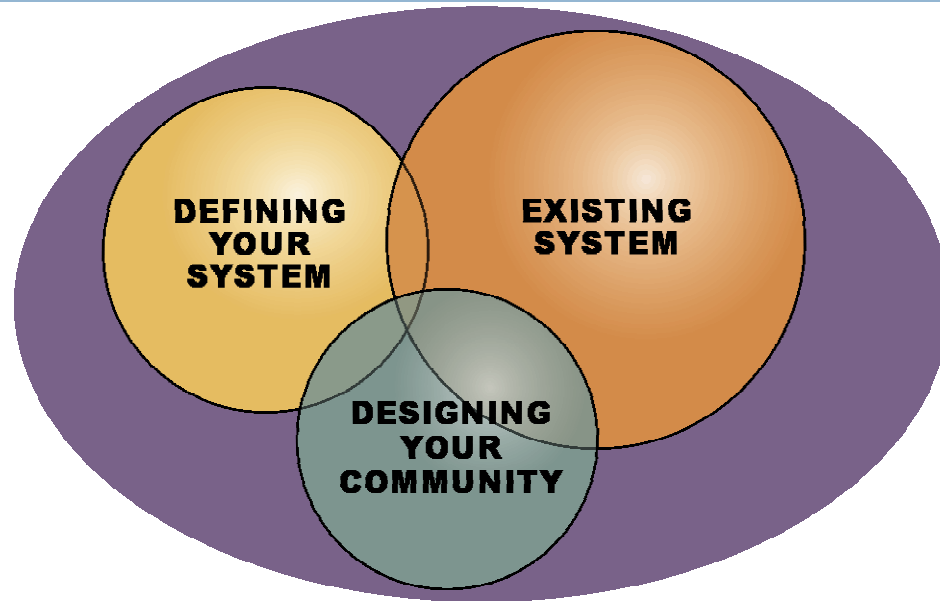


*Streetscape*

# Public Involvement Efforts

- Stakeholder Advisory Committee
  - 43 members
  - Appointed by City Council
  - Comprised of business and property owners, residents, members at large
  - Input on design criteria, engineering aspects

# Spheres of Influence



## **DEFINING YOUR SYSTEM**

- Station locations & configuration
- Auto/ped/bicycle circulation
- Park-and-ride locations
- Bus facilities
- Guideway safety

## **DESIGNING YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Station design
- Public art
- System elements
- Landscape
- Business support strategies
- Construction

## **EXISTING SYSTEM**

- Overhead catenary system
- Vehicles
- Operations
- Safety
- Trackway
- Budget
- Main street alignment
- FTA requirements



# Public Involvement Efforts

- Store front space on Main Street to hold office hours
  - ▣ Weekly, during downtown Mesa events
- E-Newsletter
- Speaker's Bureau
- Participation at events
- Public Meeting

| Hours of Operation |    |    |    |    |    |    |                              |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------------------------|
| NOVEMBER           |    |    |    |    |    |    |                              |
| S                  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |                              |
| 1                  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | Wednesdays<br>11 a.m.-2 p.m. |
| 8                  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 2nd Friday<br>6-8:30 p.m.    |
| 15                 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | One Saturday<br>10-2 p.m.    |
| 22                 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |                              |
| 29                 | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |                              |

Space provided courtesy of:  
A New Leaf

Legend:  Open for business

METRO | mesa-az

# Creating Collaboration

- *Public involvement is key in gaining consensus as an urban landscape sprouts from established neighborhood borders*
- *By incorporating community input, suburban communities are able to provide their vision on their new urban landscape.*
- *Public involvement must be apart of the planning process if we want to create greener, denser and more livable communities.*