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
Community Impact

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

Office Hours Calendar
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.