

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA



JOINT MEETING OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION AND SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

MEETING LOCATIONS

Microsoft Teams Option

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 262 256 787 316

Passcode: 2A964b

Dial in by phone

[+1 480-498-8745](tel:+14804988745), [144027105#](tel:+144027105) United States, Phoenix

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 144 027 105#

In-Person Attendance

Tempe Transportation Center

Don Cassano Community Room

200 E. Fifth Street, 2nd floor

Tempe, Arizona, 85281

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment – The Neighborhood Advisory Commission and Sustainability & Resilience Commission welcome public comment for items listed on this agenda. A three (3)-minute time limit per person will be in effect.
3. Presentation on Rio East-Dobson Streetcar Extension – Brian Pessaro, Valley Metro*
4. Sustainability Elements of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) – Shawn Swisher, Sustainability and Resilience Commission Chair*
5. Rain to Roots Initiative, Maddie Mercer, Sustainability and Resilience Office – Transportation and Sustainability Department and Richard Adkins, Urban Forester - Parks and Recreation*
6. Adjournment

The City of Tempe endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. With 48 hours advance notice, special assistance is available at public meetings for sight and/or hearing-impaired persons. Please call 350-4311 (voice) or 350-8400 (TDD) to request an accommodation to participate in a public meeting.

*Background Materials Included in Meeting Packet

Rio East-Dobson Streetcar Extension

Joint meeting of the Tempe Sustainability and Resilience Commission
and Neighborhood Advisory Commission
Wednesday, June 5, 2024



Agenda

- High-capacity Transit System
- Streetcar and Study Overview
- Study Purpose and Need
- Evaluation Criteria
- Track Location Options
- Stop Area Locations
- Next Steps / Study Timeline
- Questions

High-Capacity Transit System



- 30 miles in the cities of Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa
- Light rail system began operations in 2008
- Streetcar system began operations in 2022

Streetcar Overview

- Designed to run on tracks embedded in streets or in dedicated rail corridors
- Operates in urban areas, providing a convenient and efficient mode of transportation for short to medium distances
- Had been a vision in the East Valley for more than a decade before opening in central Tempe on May 20, 2022



Study Overview

Tempe/Mesa Streetcar Feasibility Study

- Conducted spring 2018 through summer 2020
- Identified the route (the red line shown in the map)

Rio East-Dobson Streetcar Extension (REDE)

- Will analyze how streetcar most effectively operates along the route
 - Where streetcar will operate in the street
 - Identifying areas where stops could be located



Study Purpose

- Improve mobility and accessibility by providing a dependable and efficient high-capacity transit option that serves employment, activity centers, educational facilities and residential areas in and around
 - Downtown Tempe
 - Marina Heights
 - Arizona State University and the Novus Innovation District
 - Tempe Marketplace
 - Sloan Park
 - Riverview Park
 - Mesa Riverview Mall
 - The Asian District
- Extend the streetcar system from downtown Tempe into Mesa and add another connection to the light rail system



Study Need

Based on data from the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), the study area is predicted by 2050 to have:



55%

Increase in residents



45%

Increase in workers

Based on data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey, the study area currently has:



79%

Zero or one-car households

Study Need



- Improving access, mobility and connectivity to employment and activity centers in north Tempe and west Mesa along Rio Salado Parkway and Dobson Road
- Supporting the projected growth in area population and employment as well as the projected increase in transportation demand along the corridor
- Supporting current and future land-use planning for economic and transit-oriented development
- Improving access and mobility for low income, minority, and transit dependent populations

Evaluation Criteria

The below factors are included in evaluating track locations and stop areas.



Access to transit connections and adjacent land uses (existing and planned)



Cost



Ridership potential

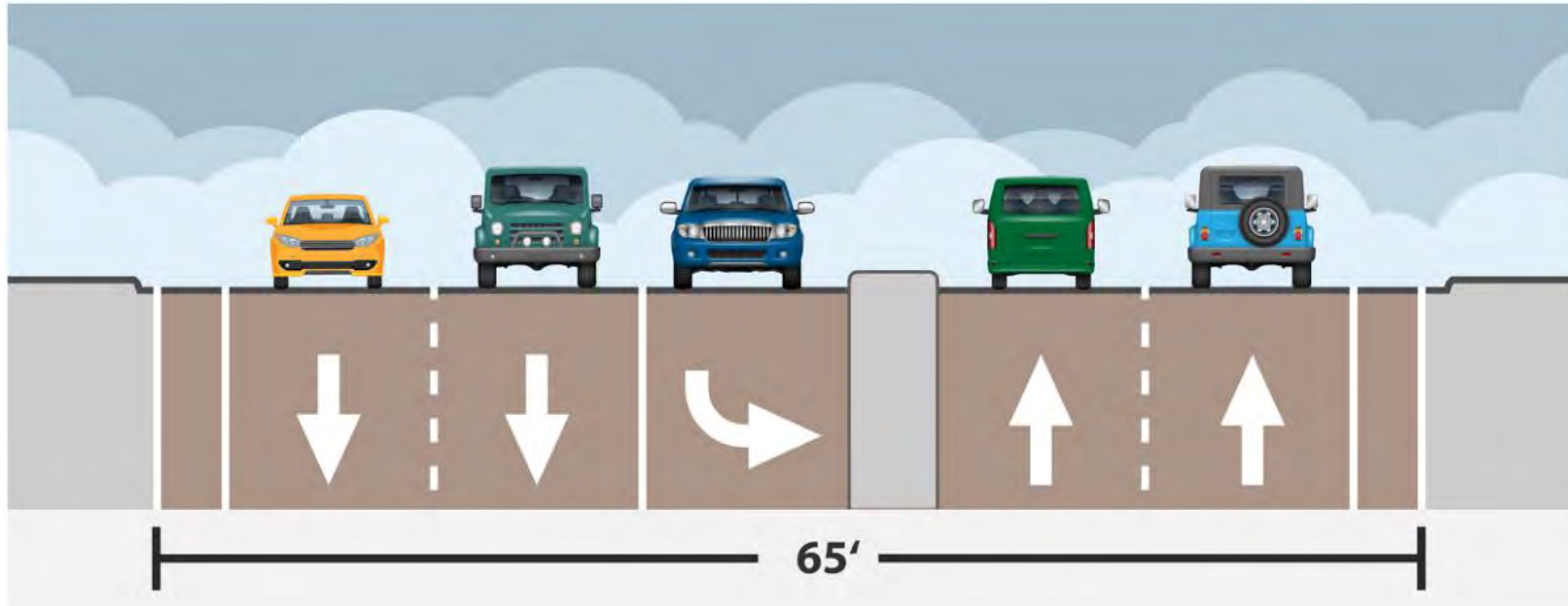


Right-of-way needs



Potential impacts to environment and existing infrastructure

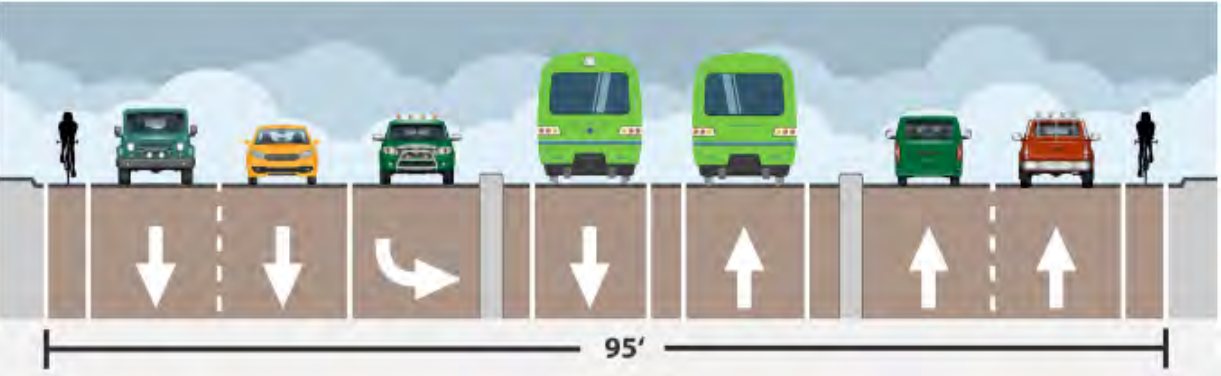
Rio Salado Parkway – Existing Roadway



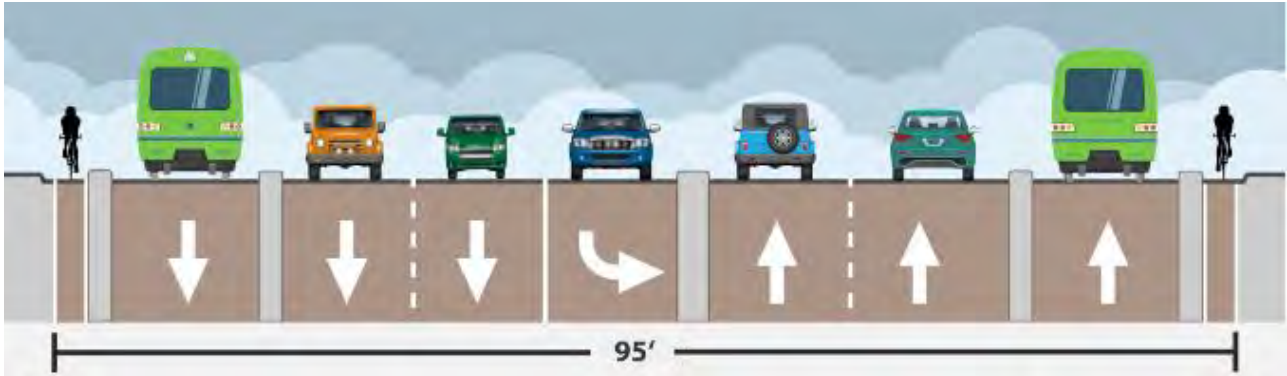
Streetcar could operate along either side of Rio Salado Parkway. It could also operate in a streetcar-only lane (dedicated) or in a shared lane with traffic (mixed flow).

Existing transit easements along portions of Rio Salado allow roadway widening to accommodate streetcar lanes without impacting property or traffic lanes.

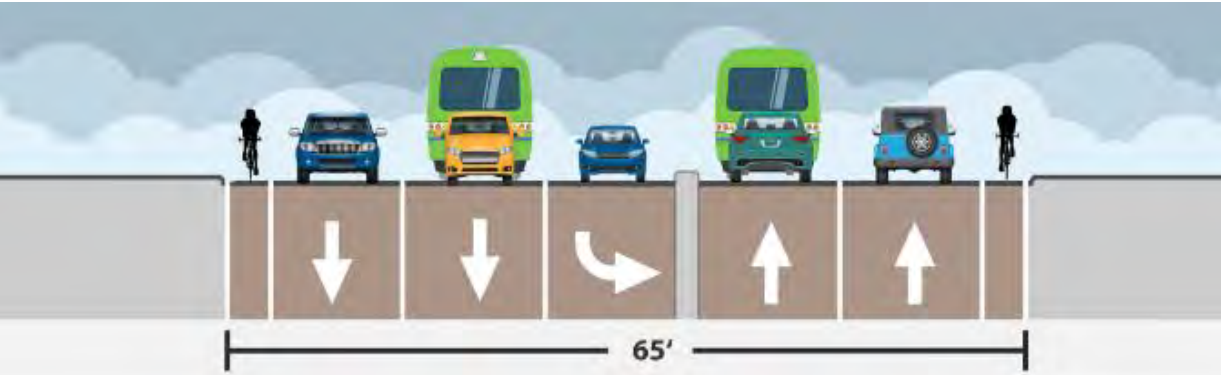
Rio Salado Parkway – Track Location Options



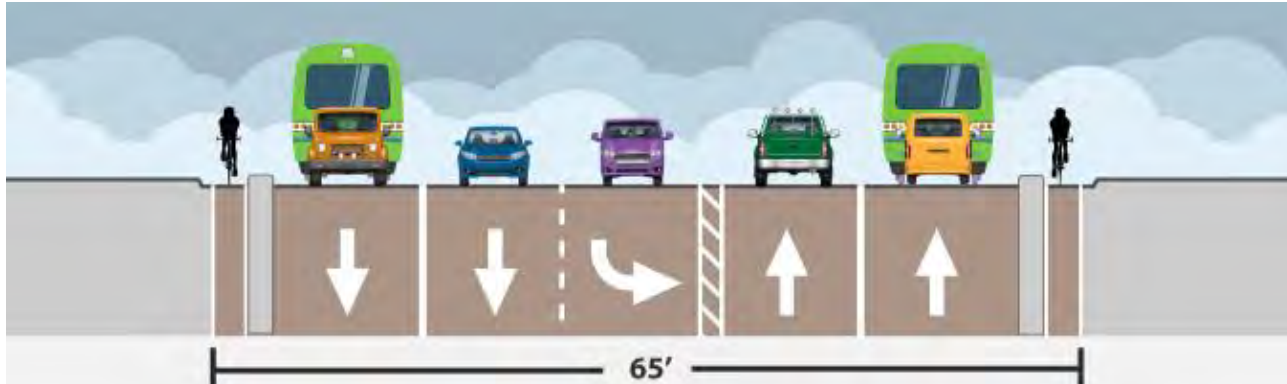
Option 1. Center-Running, Dedicated



Option 3. Side-Running, Dedicated

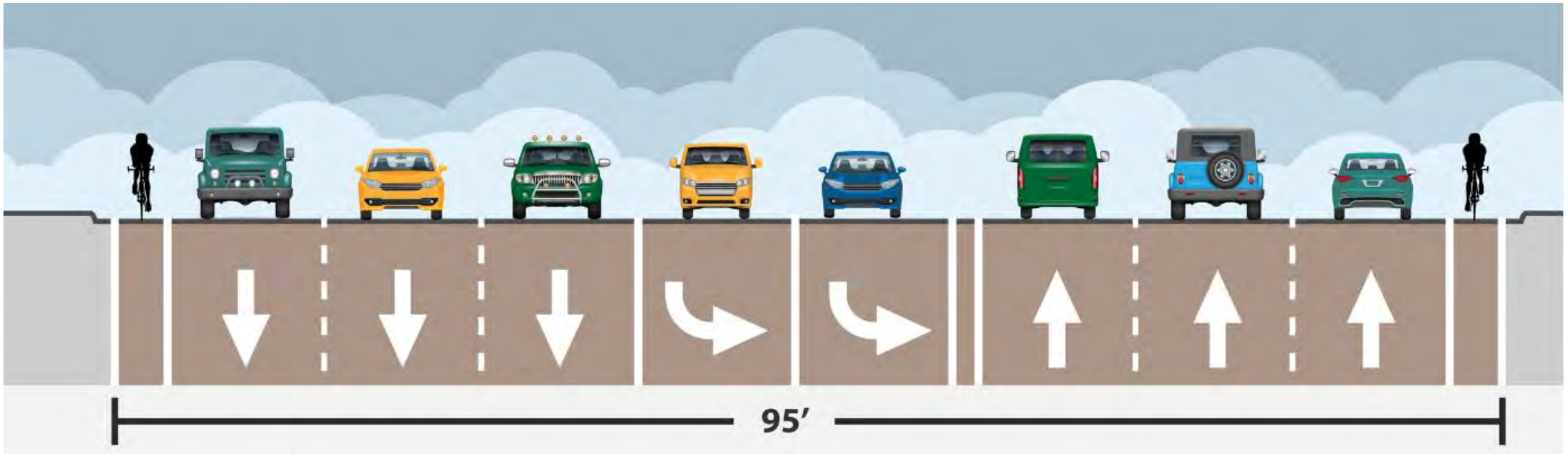


Option 2. Center-Running, Mixed Flow



Option 4. Side-Running, Mixed Flow

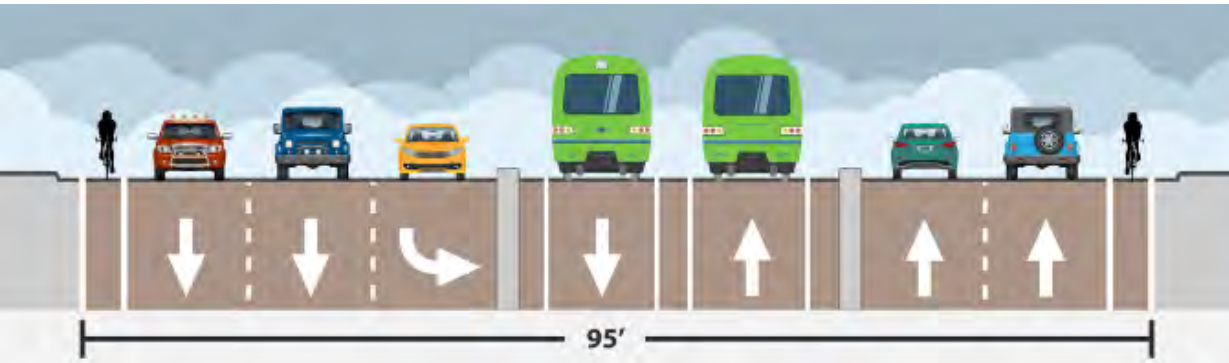
Dobson Road – Existing Roadway



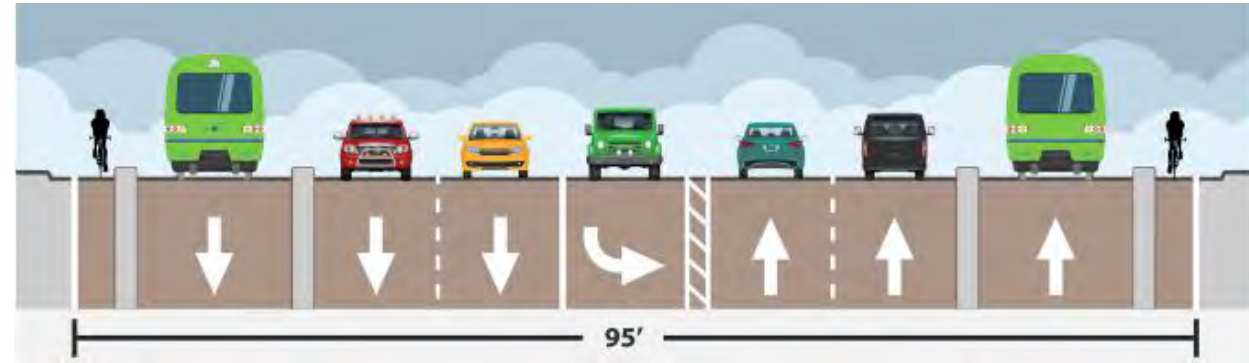
Streetcar could operate in the center or on either side of Dobson Road. It could also operate in a streetcar-only lane (dedicated) or shared lane with vehicle traffic (mixed flow).

Transit easements do not exist on Dobson Road so Options 1 and 3 would require removal of traffic lanes.

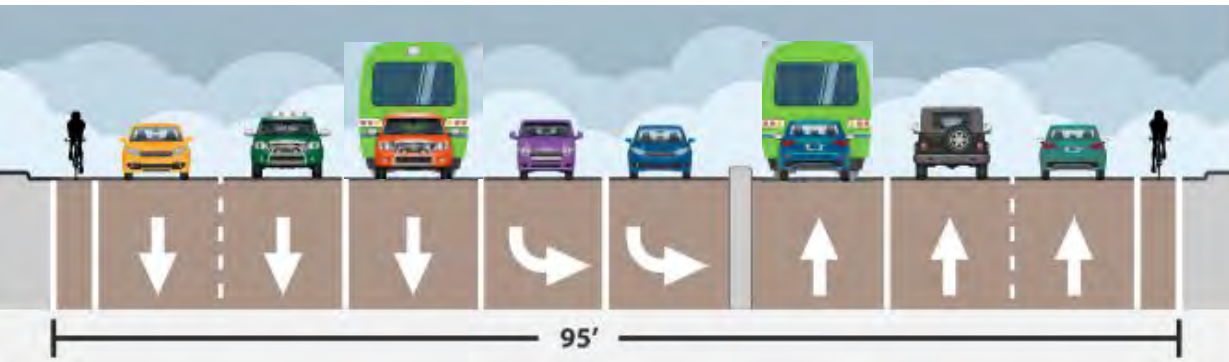
Dobson Road – Track Location Options



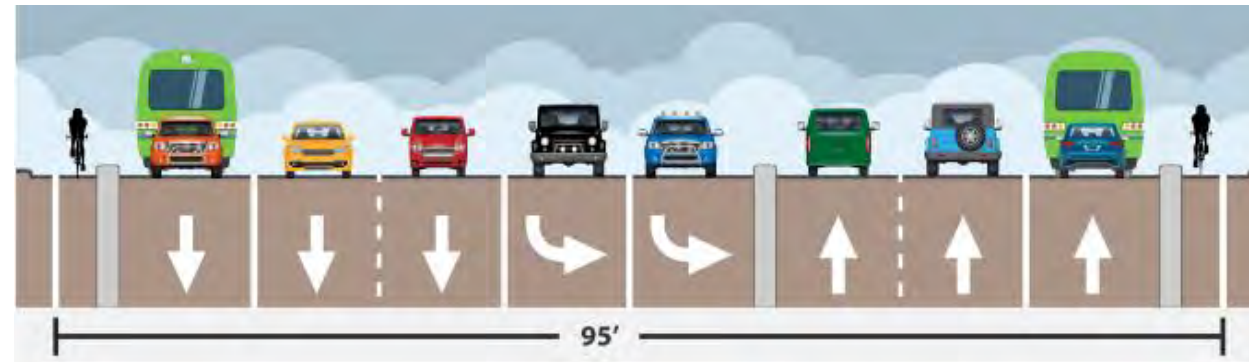
Option 1. Center-Running, Dedicated



Option 3. Side-Running, Dedicated

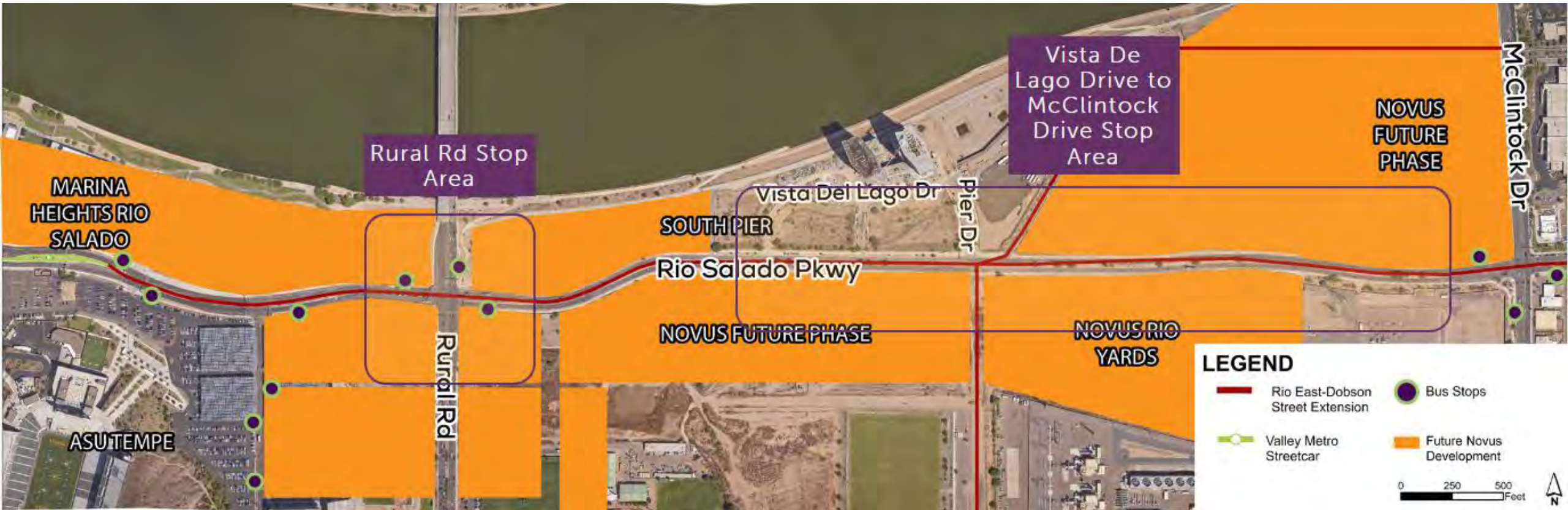


Option 2. Center-Running, Mixed Flow



Option 4. Side-Running, Mixed Flow

Marina Heights/Rio Salado to McClintock Drive – Stop Area Options



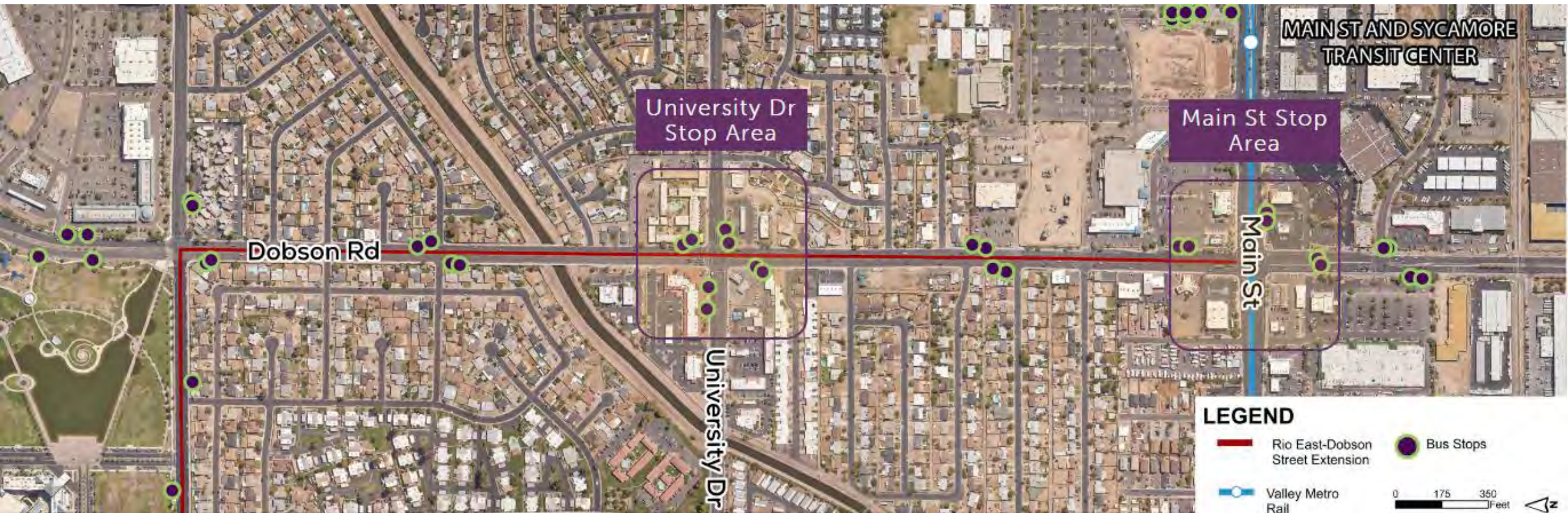
McClintock Drive to Loop 101 – Stop Area Options



Loop 101 to Dobson Road – Stop Area Options



Dobson Road (south to Main Street) – Stop Area Options



Next Steps

YOU'RE INVITED!

Open Houses

Monday, June 10, 2024 | 6–8 p.m.

Escalante Community Center, Senior Center
2150 E. Orange St., Tempe

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 | 6–8 p.m.

Adelante Healthcare, Community Room
1705 W. Main St., Mesa

Virtual Option

You can participate virtually and provide feedback at the Virtual Open House from Tuesday, May 28 through Friday, June 28, 2024, at www.redestreetcar.com.

Please stay connected throughout the study at valleymetro.org/rede.

Study Timeline



- Community outreach and engagement will continue through the study.
- At the completion, the team will develop and present a final recommendation to the cities of Mesa and Tempe for consideration and possible adoption in early 2025.

Questions?



Thank you!
valleymetro.org/rede

Brian Pessaro, Principal Planner
bpessaro@valleymetro.org
602.495.8266



May 20, 2024



City of Tempe
P.O. Box 5002
31 East Fifth Street
Tempe, AZ 85280
480-350-8225

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Sustainability & Resilience Commission is writing to express support for the development of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) within the Zoning and Development Code. Our Commission has recently agendized and reviewed the ADU code proposal and we feel it demonstrates a significant step forward in shaping a more sustainable and inclusive future for our city. We recognize the State Legislature has moved a bill forward that will heavily dictate how the city implements our code. While we do not support the states preemptive approach on this legislation, the Sustainability and Resilience Commission believe it is important to communicate the potential of how ADU's can encourage a more resilient, diverse, and beautiful built environment. Specifically, point No. 2 becomes even more important to provide residents options that match the neighborhood character and architectural compatibility. We believe the two points below are worth emphasizing during the development and implementation of this policy:

1. **Additional and Diverse, Appropriately Scaled Density:** We support Council's commitment to the integrity of Tempe's neighborhoods. We also recognize Council's intention for additional and diverse housing stock. ADU's can serve a variety of incomes and household sizes. ADU's can support aging in place and providing families affordable opportunities to support an aging population. Additionally, preferences are changing, shifting away from the traditional car-centric suburban lifestyle towards more walkable communities. ADU's help to fulfill this gap of "missing middle" housing, while maintaining density appropriate for the neighborhood scale.
2. **Pre-Approved Plans and Sustainable Built Environment:** We are encouraged to see the interest from Tempe City Council about use of pre-approved plans for ADU's. This approach is proven to make implementation more affordable and an easier process for applicants. We believe pre-approved plans also have the opportunity to model sustainability in the built environment by ensuring elements of the voluntary International Green Construction Code (IgCC) are part of the design of the pre-approved plans. For instance, the Energy Efficiency Chapter within the IgCC could be incorporated into a pre-approved plan which ensures affordable utility bills and supports Council performance measure 4.18 Community Carbon Neutrality. Holding a competition with local architect firms can tap into the expertise and engagement from the professional community. This would allow the City of Tempe to have visuals to communicate with residents on what ADU's could look like and how they can function, for the betterment of their neighborhood.

The adoption of ADU's is a clear strategy for Tempe's sustainable development. We understand there is pending State legislation that may dictate specific aspects of this policy, however we believe it is important to remember that ADU's provide for additional density, appropriate for the neighborhood scale. There is a strong opportunity to enhance the benefits of ADU's especially when encouraging pre-approved plans with sustainability elements embedded. For these reasons, the Sustainability & Resilience Commission urges you to adopt the ADU code adoption.

We are grateful for past and current decision makers that have created such a desirable place for people to live. It is upon current decision makers to continue to manage the growth of this community.

We thank you for your dedication to the well-being of our city and its residents, and are confident that, with the implementation of ADU's, our city will continue to be a beacon of sustainable, innovative, and resilient development in the Southwest.

Sincerely,

Sustainability and Resilience Commission

Shawn Swisher, *Chair*

Kendon Jung, *Vice Chair*

Rain to Roots Master Plan

Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager
Sustainability and Resilience Division



Sustainability & Resilience Office

The City of Tempe Sustainability & Resilience Office (SRO) advances community-driven climate action strategies to mitigate the drivers of climate change and adapt to its impacts.



Eric Iwersen
Sustainability &
Resilience
Director



Brianne Fisher
Climate Action
Manager



Maddie Mercer
Neighborhood
Resilience
Coordinator



Andy Escobar
Climate Justice &
Energy Equity
Coordinator



Evelyn Brumfield
Youth Climate
Action
Coordinator



Carissa Fowler
Heat Mitigation &
Resilience
Coordinator



Helene Tack
Policy & Grants
Coordinator



Grace Kelly
Energy
Manager



Sustainability & Resilience Office

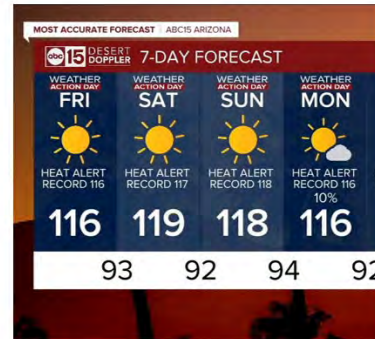
Mitigation

Reduction in GHG emissions by investing in public transportation, renewable energy, supporting the transition to EVs.



Adaptation

Addressing the CURRENT conditions caused by climate change.



Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update

- Adopted by Tempe City Council in March 2022.
- Centers residents' voices & community partnerships.
- Outlines climate action strategies in 4 agendas:
 - Youth
 - Business
 - Climate Justice
 - **Neighborhoods**

Highlight Actions Update

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission identified immediate highlight actions in the first plan that still need policy adoption and investment:



Green Codes and Standards (Green Stormwater Infrastructure and International Green Construction Code adoption):
To establish resilience to extreme heat in new construction 16



Transportation Demand Management and Mobility Hubs:
To increase convenience of low carbon transportations options 19



Resilient Energy Hubs and Resilience Hubs:
To increase community connections and the ability to support survival during disasters 21

Why Green Stormwater Infrastructure?

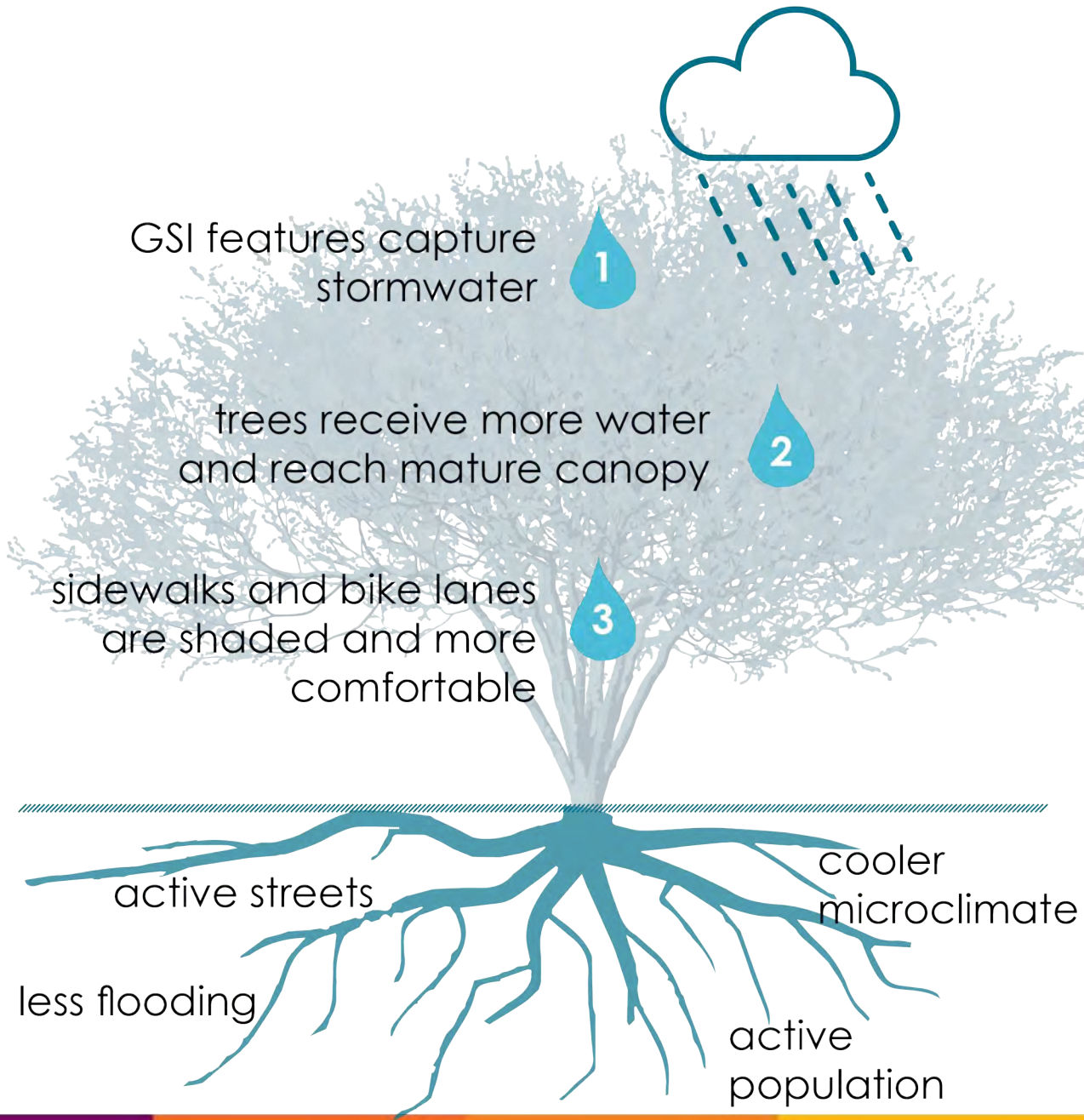
Benefits of GSI:

- Supports tree canopy
- Reduces temperatures
- Reduces potable water use
- Mitigates flooding
- Promotes cleaner waterways
- Creates wildlife habitat



Learn more about GSI and its benefits at Sustainable Tempe – [Green Stormwater Infrastructure](#).

5 S. COLLEGE AVENUE



Rain to Roots Master Plan

- Project Purpose
 - Expand green infrastructure & urban cooling initiatives.
 - Promote cross-departmental integration & planning.
 - Identify opportunities for long-term funding.
- Areas of Opportunity
 - Streetscapes / Public ROW
 - Multi-Use Paths
 - Parks
 - Neighborhoods / Residential Properties
 - Private Development



Project Partners

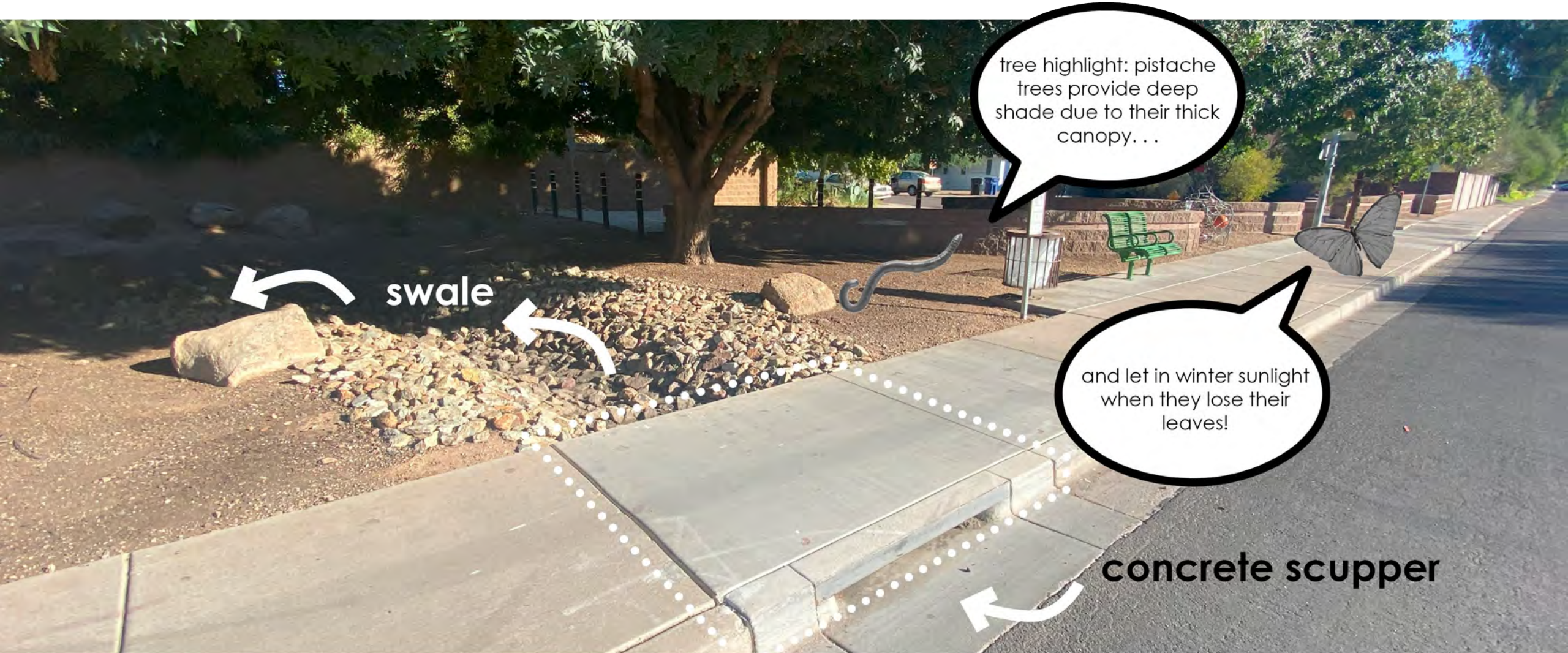
Internal Partners

- Sustainability and Resilience Office
- Municipal Utilities Department
 - Water Conservation
 - Environmental Services
- Community Services Department
 - Parks & Recreation
- Engineering and Transportation Department
 - Transportation Planning
 - Streets Maintenance
 - Engineering
- Community Development Department

External Partners

- Consultants – Greeley & Hansen, WERK | Urban Design, & Raftelis
- Tempe Residents
- Private Businesses
- Sustainability and Resilience Commission
- ...And More!

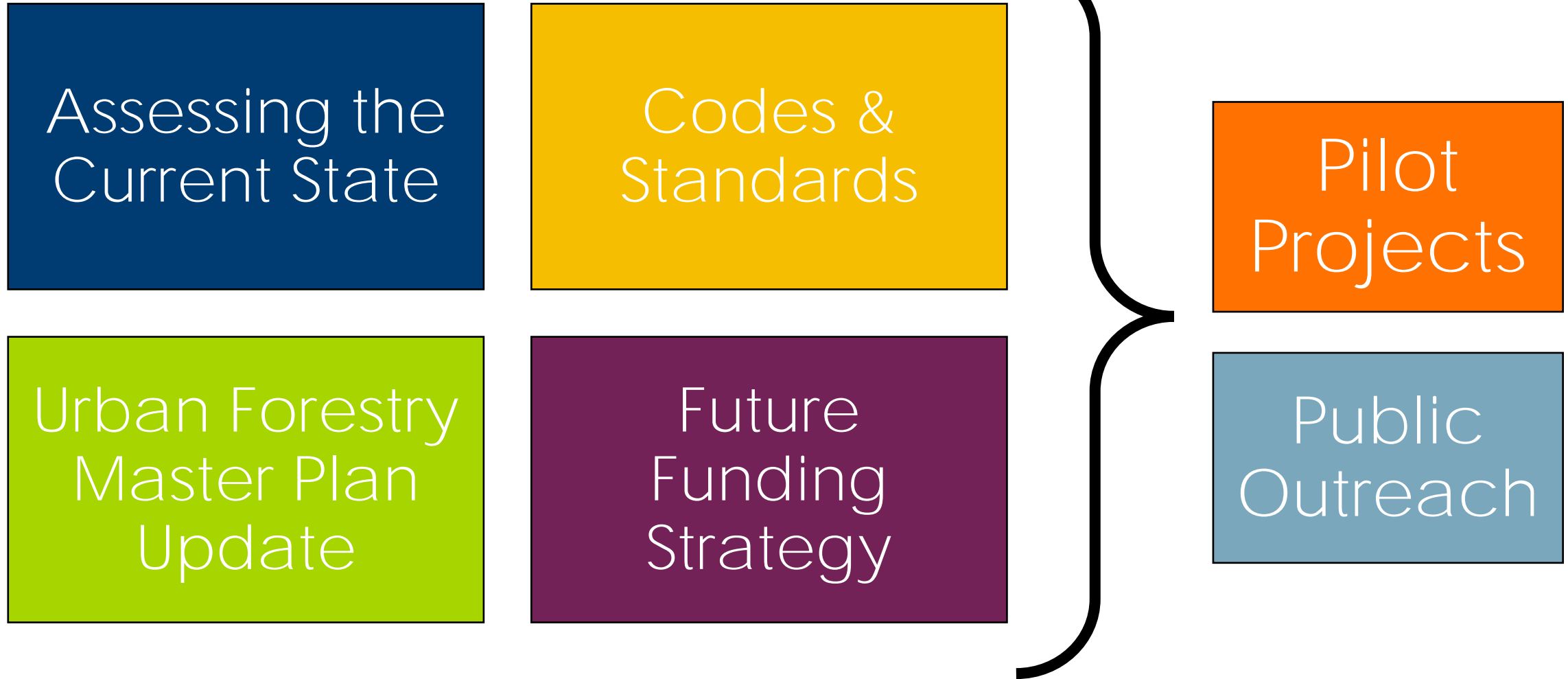
3 LEMON ST. & DORSEY LN. POCKET PARK



tree highlight: pistache trees provide deep shade due to their thick canopy. . .

and let in winter sunlight when they lose their leaves!

Project Overview



Assessing the Current State

Data

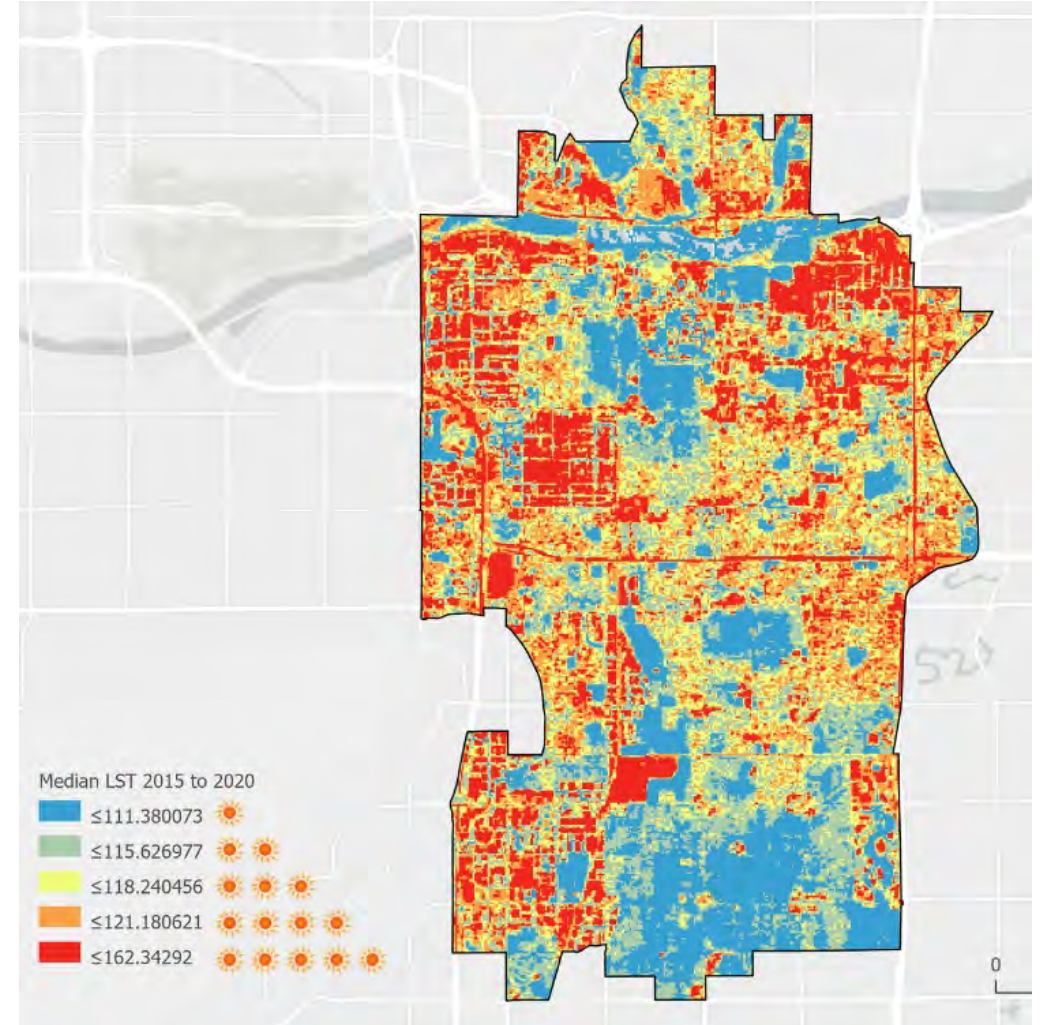
- Review of stormwater, urban forestry, equity, & heat vulnerability data.

Policies & Programs

- Assessment of existing city codes and engineering standards.

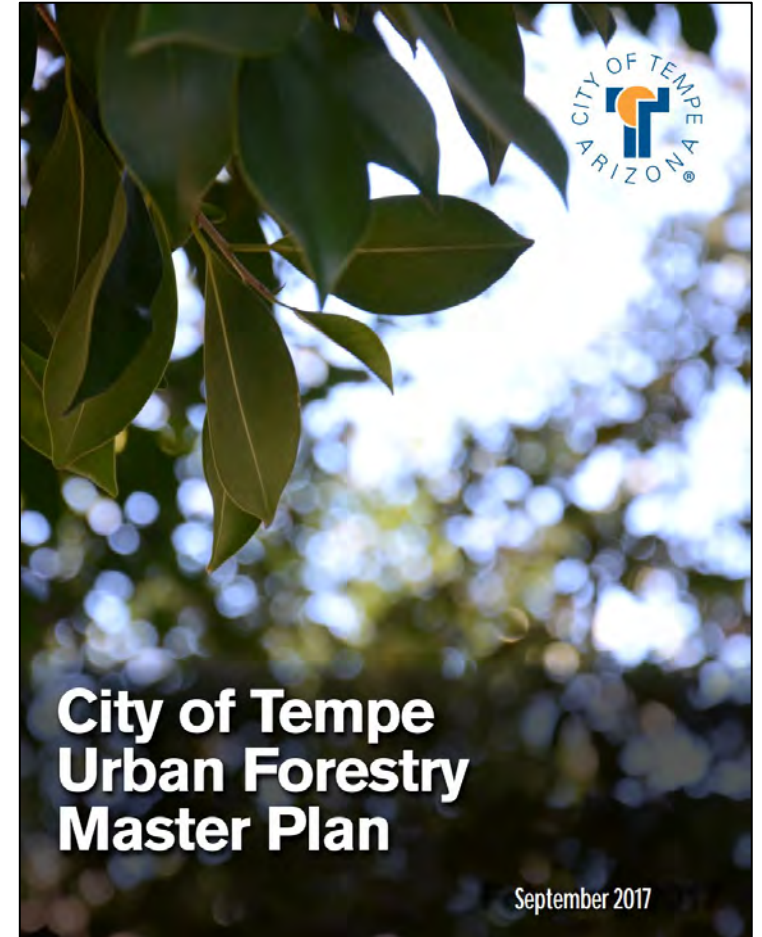
Infrastructure

- Identification of opportunities for GSI within new and existing projects.



Urban Forestry Master Plan Update

- Updated Master Plan w/ recommendations for new programs & polices.
 - Ex: Tree banking system, code updates, community forestry initiatives, etc.
- Updated tree canopy maps & assessment of canopy goals.



Codes & Standards

GSI Standards

- Revisions to CoT Engineering Design Standards for city projects.
 - GSI standards.
 - Plant palette & maintenance support.

GSI Codes

- New GSI codes & resources for private development.



Future Funding Strategy

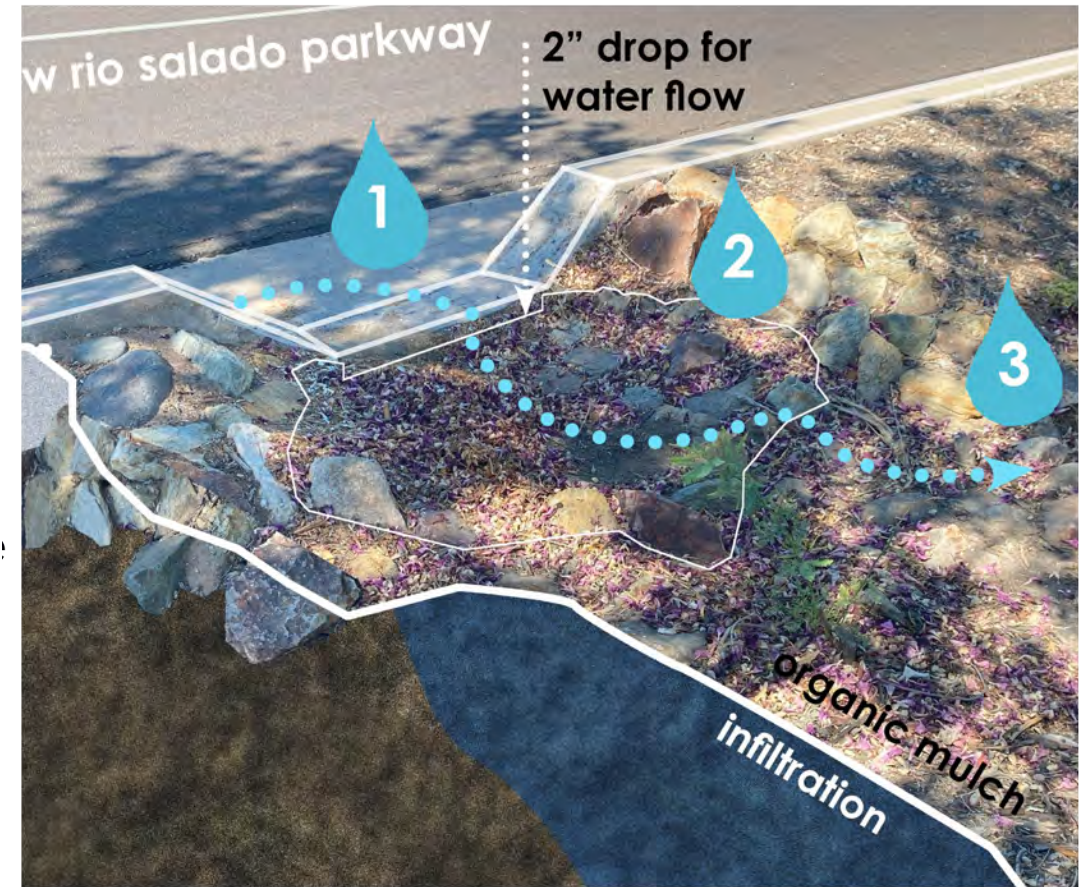
Utility Feasibility Study

- Identification of alternative funding solutions, such as an Urban Cooling and Stormwater Utility.
- Development of a phased approach for developing utility over time.
 - Coordinate with Water Rate Study by Municipal Utilities.



Pilot Projects

- *Pilot projects will...*
 - Demonstrate how GSI can be integrated in different types of projects.
 - Test new codes and standards.



Your Voice, Your Future City

Rain to Roots Ambassador Program

- Advise on direction of programs and policy recommendations for Tempe City Council.
- Learn more about CoT's stormwater and urban cooling initiatives.
- Participate in site visits for pilot projects.


Hybrid meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 5:30 – 6:30 PM.



Neighborhood Grants Announcement

New Neighborhood Grants Category!

- Projects focused on rainwater harvesting (GSI)
- *Projects can integrate GSI into...*
 - Neighborhood & collector streets
 - HOA streets
 - Parks
 - Alleys
 - Transit stops
 - Traffic circles & chicanes
 - Other public right-of-way areas



Water Harvesting Guidelines

The City of Tempe Sustainability & Resilience Office (SRO) is developing a city-wide water harvesting program, "Rain to Roots", that will implement [green stormwater infrastructure](#) that channels all rainfall and drainage into existing and new planting areas. Rather than sending rainfall and drainage away to the stormwater system, this program aims to capture and infiltrate the water into the landscape, helping to reduce water consumption while expanding our urban forestry canopy. The Rain to Roots program will provide new plant material, tree canopy and urban forest enhancements, and built infrastructure to maximize rain and drainage collection while addressing the increasing challenge of extreme heat.

Potential projects would include:

- Neighborhood and collector streets
- HOA streets, parks, alleys
- Transit stops
- Other public rights of way that have the ability to create new water harvesting and planting areas.

Rain to Roots projects can be partnered with traffic calming or water conservation projects:

- Traffic circles or chicanes that can capture rain
- Turf conversion projects that include rain capture infrastructure.

Coordination with partner teams at the city may be required (e.g. Transportation) for project affecting a street or other infrastructure. Long term maintenance of any potential project implemented would need to be identified before project funding.

Process:

1. Meet with Sustainability & Resilience Office (SRO) staff to discuss ideas
2. SRO will recommend specific achievable projects
3. Neighborhoods and HOA's host their area meetings to determine project support
4. Project sponsors ensure support from any property immediately adjacent to the new project idea
5. All projects must have licensed contractors for construction and landscape installs
6. Identify long term project maintenance responsibilities.
7. If you are an HOA and are awarded a grant, your project will be processed through Community Development to amend your HOA's existing landscape plan. Your award letter will cover next steps.

Program Contact: Maddie Mercer, Sustainability & Resilience Program Coordinator
480-350-8864 or Maddie_mercer@tempe.gov

Next Steps

- Next Phase
 - Initial Program Recommendations
 - Utility Feasibility Funding Scenarios
- Project Outcomes
 - Pilot Project Designs
 - City Codes and Standards
 - Urban Forestry Master Plan Update
 - Sustainable Funding Strategy



Questions?

Project Contact:

Brianne Fisher

Sustainability & Resilience Office

Brianne_fisher@tempe.gov

(480) 350-8959



Tempe

Making waves in the desert