



**Friday, January 28, 2005**

## **Bike/pedestrian master plan will be presented Feb. 3**

By Philip Franchine

GREEN VALLEY--The draft master plan for bicycle and pedestrian lanes in the Green Valley area will be unveiled Thursday afternoon, but it may already be getting some results.

After years of requests from residents, Pima County officials appear close to announcing a plan to construct multi-use lanes along Continental Road from Abrego Drive to White House Canyon Road, Bill Adamson said.

Adamson is chair of the Green Valley Community Coordinating Council (GVCCC) Bike and Pedestrian Committee and spearheaded the drive to get multi-use lanes on a section of Camino del Sol.

In addition, committee members, working with their counterparts in Sahuarita and Tucson, on Wednesday met with Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry to discuss using county bond money to construct bike lanes along Sahuarita Road.

The Continental bike lanes had been the top priority of the committee up to this point and the Sahuarita Road lanes are the next priority, Adamson said.

La Posada at Park Centre has pledged \$25,000 toward the Continental project and local activists have been told the county could start work as soon as this spring.

County Transportation Engineering Manager Rick Ellis said in an e-mail about Continental "at this point in time we don't have any of the details worked out. We are actually looking into several of the elements... such as timing, better cost estimates, overall approach, and hope to have that info developed very soon. Once we do, we will make sure we let you know and can get it out to the Green Valley citizens."

### **Public comment sought**

The Master Plan will be presented for public comment at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, in the Saguaro Room of the Canoa Hills Center, 3660 S. Camino del Sol.

Handouts will be available summarizing the plan, and will include color-coded maps that show existing and needed multi-use lanes and gaps as well as spread sheets that include

potential funding sources and other project data.

Part of "Vision 2020"

"This draft master plan is being developed by the GVCCC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee as part of the GVCCC 'Vision 2020' project. Its objective is to identify the lanes and trails needed now and to guide future planning.

Community input is needed to finalize the Master Plan," GVCCC president Dick Roberts wrote in a letter to the Green Valley News and Sun.

"A major goal of our plan is to connect existing multi-use lanes throughout Green Valley and adjacent communities to achieve safe bicycle routes from Tucson to Tubac and Arivaca.

"Therefore, this draft master plan includes our interests in the jurisdictions of Pima County, Districts 2, 3 and 4, and the Town of Sahuarita. We have, thus, been coordinating our planning efforts with Pima County and the Town of Sahuarita, and appreciate the cooperation of all parties."

Adamson said the county's intention to build multi-use lanes on Continental "was the top priority in our master plan. It just shows how important this master plan is to identify the needs we have out here to the county and to guide our efforts.

"We are not only going to the county to ask for help, we also are applying for grants and we're looking at other avenues obtaining funds," including funding from developers and other local businesses, Adamson said.

Pledged \$25,000

La Posada CEO Lisa Israel said "We feel it's appropriate for La Posada to be involved because we view the bike/multi-lane project as a community need as well as a safety issue for Green Valley and La Posada residents. La Posada has pledged \$25,000 if that would serve as a catalyst for the county to move the bike lane project forward. We are pleased to be part of the solution."

Adamson said "the purpose of the meeting is to present that draft plan to the community. We also hope people from Sahuarita and the county will come so we can get comments from them on the plan. After we get public input, we're going to finalize the plan and make a report. It will be submitted to the county so they'll be aware of our immediate concerns as well as our long-range concerns."

Adamson noted that planning for multi-use improvements is a continuing process that changes with population and traffic changes, but said the plan gives guidance to advocates and to public officials.

One of the goals of developing a master plan is to coordinate efforts in Green Valley and Sahuarita, especially with the growth of Quail Creek and the Madera Highlands area, and to coordinate efforts between the town and the county along, for example, Sahuarita Road.

The master planning process has been under way for almost a year, and Adamson hopes to get a final draft prepared by this spring, before the winter visitors leave town.

### **Safety concerns**

The plan includes a map that depicts "urgent safety" concerns that are not yet being addressed, including a 0.2 mile gap in the bike lanes on Abrego Drive just south of the town limits.

Also, a stretch of Camino del Sol that still lacks bike lanes and Old Nogales Highway, which is getting increasing bike traffic and would connect Continental with existing multi-use lanes on Nogales Highway.

Concerns that are getting attention include La Canada Drive in Sahuarita, where the town is building bike lanes, and Sahuarita Road, the subject of the recent meeting with Huckelberry.

Adamson said the county bond project calls for bike lanes within the town of Sahuarita, but said the committee is asking for the lanes to be extended another mile and half to Alvernon Way.

Future growth multi-use lane projects include Canoa Road; Continental from Portillo to Duval Mine Road; Calle Tres; White House Canyon Road from Old Nogales Highway to Continental School; Mission Road and Helmet Peak Road.

There also is a map showing pedestrian trails.

Adamson noted that "Green Valley was developed and is still being developed to include multi-use lanes, trails and sidewalks. This is an important reason most of us were attracted to Green Valley to retire. Let's be sure to keep these standards as our population grows."

For more information, contact Adamson at 648-6340 or the GVCCC office at 648-1936.

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