ROADWAY ELEMENTS: COMPLETED PROJECTS

RTA Ballot No. 11
La Cañada Drive: Calle Concordia to River Road
Project Scope:

- Widen La Cañada Drive to a four-lane arterial between Calle Concordia and River Road, with a raised, landscaped median; multi-use lanes in both directions, and an equestrian trail on the east side of the roadway.
- New turn lanes and traffic signals as needed at intersections with Orange Grove Road, Ina Road, Magee Road and Hardy Road.
- New box culverts at the Pegler Wash, Carmack Wash, Garfield South Wash, Roller Coaster Wash, Casas Adobes Wash and Nanini Wash to convey 100-year peak discharge under the road.

Project Costs:

Minimum RTA Revenue Allocation: $27,665,000
Other Revenues:
  - Pima County: 4,700,000
  - Federal/Regional: 9,366,000

Other Revenues Total: 14,066,000
Total Revenues: $41,731,000

Construction Schedule: Implementation Period 1

Benefits:

- Doubles roadway capacity from Calle Concordia to River Road and relieves major current capacity problems by continuing and connecting to La Cañada Drive in the Town of Oro Valley to the north and Flowing Wells Road in the City of Tucson to the south.
- Provides an alternative north-south route to Oracle Road and an additional connecting route for the Rancho Vistoso area.
- Improves operation and connection with recently constructed River Road intersection.
- Improves safety and access by eliminating dip crossings that are subject to road closures during heavy rainfall.
- Improves safety at numerous school crossings. Sidewalks improve pedestrian safety and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility to transit stops.
La Cañada Drive: Calle Concordia to River Road Maps:
Project Site Plan, Phase 1 – La Cañada Drive, Ina Road to Calle Concordia

Project Site Plan, Phase 2 – La Cañada Drive, River Road to Ina Road
Project Management:

Jurisdictions affiliated with the administration of this project include:

- Pima County

Project History:

La Cañada Drive, from Ina Road to Lambert Lane, was originally approved by the voters in 1997 as part of a Transportation Bond Package (DOT-10), with $12.0 million in bond funding committed to the project. The first phase of the project (Calle Concordia to Lambert Lane) was completed by the Town of Oro Valley in 2005 at a cost of $8.35 million, with the remaining bond funds used to initiate the planning and design of the roadway from Calle Concordia to Ina Road, which was commenced in 1999.

In 2001, the Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT) and HDR Engineering prepared the Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report (EAMR), which was approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in 2002, providing mitigation for 13 locations with noise walls from Ina Road to Calle Concordia. In April of 2002, the county received a petition requesting continuous noise-mitigation and visual screening walls on La Cañada Drive from Ina Road to Magee Road. Shortly after, in 2002, the southern portion of the project was placed on hold, and the Town of Oro Valley took over the project administration of La Cañada Drive from Calle Concordia north to Lambert Lane.

In May 2006, the voters approved the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) plan (half-cent sales tax) that included supplemental funding for the La Cañada Drive: Ina Road to Calle Concordia project and funding for the La Cañada Drive: Ina Road to River Road project. Prior to the RTA plan, the County began seeking federal funding to begin the planning stages for the portion south of Ina Road, and ultimately obtained nearly $15.4 million in federal funding for the project.

Usage Statistics:

Prior to widening, La Cañada Drive was observed conveying as much as 21,000 vehicles per day (vpd) south of Ina Road and over 23,000 vpd north of Ina. These traffic volumes reduced substantially during roadway construction and because of declining economic activity due to the Great Recession. Traffic volumes have since recovered to pre-construction traffic volumes, despite the substantially reduced land development activity in the area, which had previously contributed greatly to traffic volumes. As renewed interest in development begins, traffic volumes are expected to exceed preconstruction rates.

The widening of La Cañada Drive to a four-lane arterial between Calle Concordia and River Road addresses safety concerns by making improvements to vertical deficiencies that existed in the roadway profile which limit stopping sight distances for motorists. Additionally, there is improved drainage that addresses stormwater problems in the right-of-way. Raised medians, left-turn lanes and a frontage road to concentrate turning movements have improved traffic operations and reduced the number of potential collision points along the corridor. Mobility has increased through the provision of bike lanes, sidewalks and a public use trail.
Construction History:
The widening of La Cañada Drive was constructed in two major phases of work, both of which were managed by the Pima County Department of Transportation. The first phase, from Ina to Calle Concordia, was bid on Sept. 22, 2009. The construction contract was awarded to K.E. & G. Construction Co. The low bid was $13,199,885, 41.33 percent under the engineer’s estimate of $22,500,000. The phase 1 project completion was celebrated on Sept. 29, 2011.
The second phase of the project, from River Road to Ina Road, was bid on Dec. 21, 2011. The low bid was submitted by Select Contractors in the amount of $18,750,747, 4.25 percent above the engineer’s estimate. The second phase of work was completed in the spring of 2015.

Economic Benefits:
Economic benefits associated with this project include providing additional capacity and efficient intersection operation to accommodate population growth and the related increase in travel demand and the reduction of traffic congestion on La Cañada Drive.

Budget Performance:
During project development, additional funding sources (beyond those identified in the RTA plan) were obtained, and the scope of the project was expanded, most notably for water main improvements and relocations.

Final Project Funding Sources:

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Construction Timeline:
The La Cañada Drive: Ina Road to Calle Concordia segment was bid in September 2009 and completed in November 2011. The La Cañada Drive: River Road to Ina Road segment was bid in December 2011 and completed in spring 2015. Construction of the River Road to Ina Road segment experienced contractor-related delays.

Multimodal Transportation Benefits:
Bike lanes, sidewalks and a public use trail

Site-Specific Design Benefits:
Convert the existing two-lane road on La Cañada Drive into a four-lane arterial street between River Road and Calle Concordia.
• Addresses vertical deficiencies in the existing roadway profile that limit stopping sight distances.
• Culvert installation at washes pass the 100-year flood line beneath the roadway.
• Reconstructing this road to current standards increased traffic capacity, improved stopping sight distance and created an all-weather roadway.
• While the roadway reconstruction occurred, utility providers such as Metro Water upgraded facilities to improve the capacity and reliability of their systems.
Ina Road/La Cañada Drive prior to project construction (2005)

Ina Road/La Cañada Drive after construction (2016)