

Dan,

Thanks again for your input at the meeting and via email. I have forwarded your email to the project team for inclusion and consideration as a final recommendation is prepared for the corridor.

Doug

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From: Dan Heim [mailto:dan@heimhenge.com]

Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2008 11:42 PM

To: McCants, Douglas M

Cc: Jim Conley; Ken Reeves; Jo Ellen McCall; Bob Biegler; Bill Whitlow; Howard Grodsky; Jay Chatzkel; Jim Renn; Robert Reisener; Roger Serrato; Ron Walker; Scott Loucks; Bob Doerzbacher; Lloyd Horton

Subject: feedback

Douglas,

Thanks for taking the time to speak with me at the MCDOT forum at NRES last Thursday. I would like to provide some additional input on the New River Road Corridor plans. My interest, as President of the Desert Foothills Astronomy Club, is primarily in the area of light pollution mitigation. I've already provided this input via the survey available at the public meeting, but wanted to reiterate two points.

1. Many of our members live along the defined corridor. Some of us have astronomical observatories. All of us value the dark night sky we moved here to enjoy. We understand the argument in favor of high-pressure sodium vapor lights for controlled intersections and area lighting. Even though there are no professional astronomy institutions along the corridor, as there are in Tucson and Flagstaff, we would argue that the benefits of using low-pressure sodium vapor lights (LPS), or the new "white light" LED systems now being tested by the City of Phoenix, are justified to preserve the environment we desire. LPS or LED lighting is "astronomy friendly," and would preserve the dark rural nature of this area.

2. We are concerned about the possibility if a large development around Gavilan Peak, a prominent mountain in this area, and its impact on light pollution. The proposed development would be above the horizon (bad for light pollution) for most of this area, and a zoning variance is being considered to increase the housing density above the R43 we all bought into years ago. In terms of the corridor, this would create a major traffic load impact at the intersection of New River Road and 27th Avenue. Your plan does not address this possibility. Although the Gavilan Peaks Estates project is still in the early planning stages, I fear this may be a significant impact on your traffic study. To learn more about this project, you can visit our website at:

www.dfacaz.org/news.html

and scroll down to the Gavilan Peak Estates entries. Although there is a good chance that this variance will be denied, if it isn't, there will be a traffic control problem you have not anticipated at that intersection.

I appreciate this opportunity for input, and thank you for your time.

Dan Heim
President
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