# <u>Downtown Links Corridor Project</u> Tucson, Arizona

## Border Green Infrastructure Forum May 2015

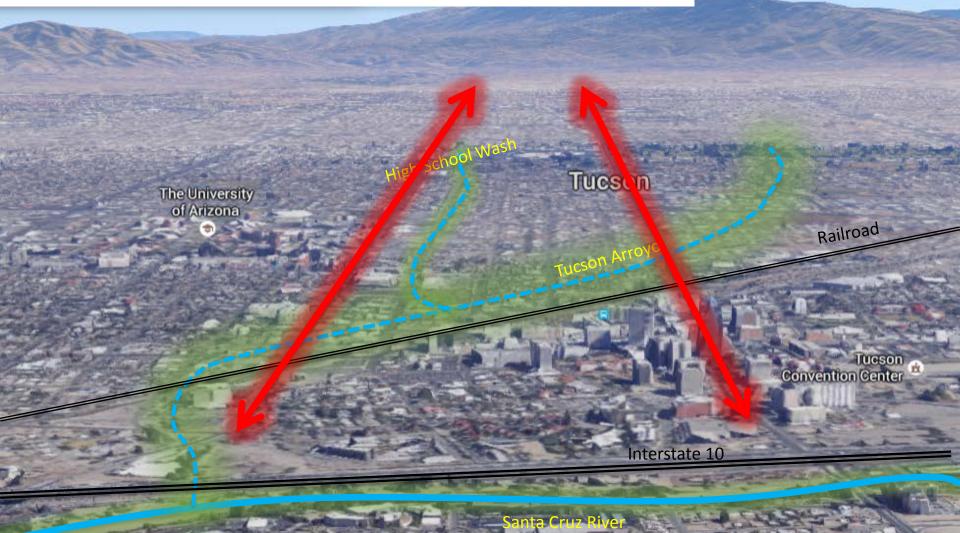








950,000 people in the region/525,000 in the city



## Downtown Tucson view looking west

Downtown is only 10 x 8 blocks



# Challenges



45 trains each day delays & fatalities

flooding & emergencies





old industrial zone/ soil contamination

traffic circulation/ bike & ped safety



# **Project Goals**

**1980s to 2000s: there a major shift in transportation planning** *not just about roads, but also creating livable communities* 

#### Improve Multi-modal Capacity, Connectivity, and Safety

- roadway improvements, but no freeway design
- bike lanes and sidewalks
- rail crossing improvements for all modes

## Improve the Drainage System to Reduce Flooding

• Tucson Arroyo, High School Wash, and others

#### Improve the Image of the Corridor

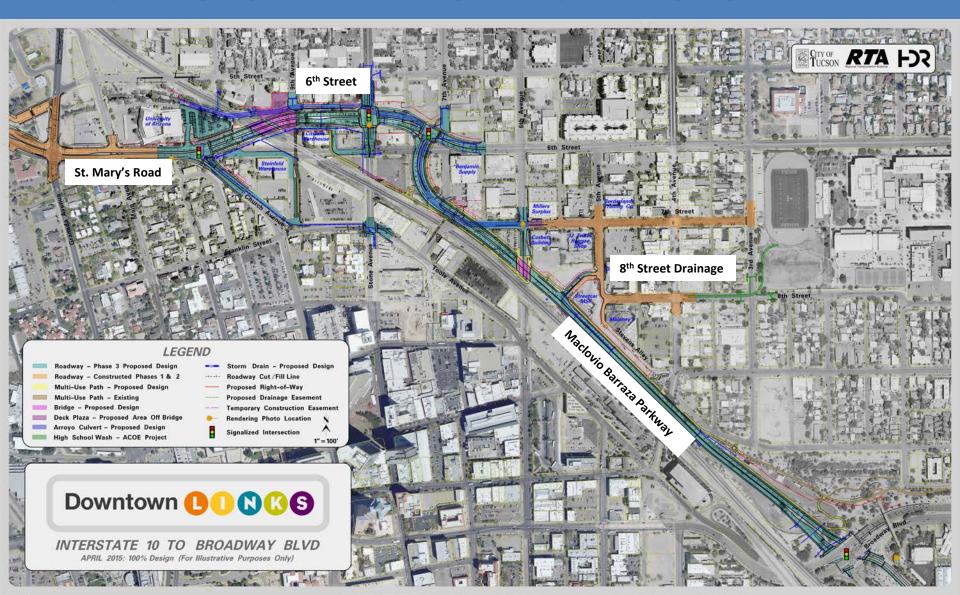
- native desert landscaping
- environmental clean-up of industrial properties
- sustainable design: reduce, re-use, recycle
- public art

## Encourage Good Land Use Redevelopment

• Historic preservation, revitalization, housing, shops



## "Downtown Links" Corridor Alignment 2005- planning began. 2008- final alignment approved by Mayor and Council.



# Scope and Budget

#### Scope for Design: (HDR Inc., and consultant team)

The project is in the 20-year Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) plan approved by voters in 2006. A 1.3 mile long multi-modal roadway corridor linking I-10 and Broadway.

- New roadway corridor with 4 vehicle lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, separated bike path
- Drainage improvements: new Tucson Arroyo culvert
- 6th Street Underpass at the Union Pacific Railroad
- Rail-crossing improvements to establish a federal Quiet Zone
- 9th Avenue Deck Plaza with public space, landscaping, public art
- Native desert landscaping and passive water harvesting
- Public art 6 total artists for corridor

#### Budget: \$84.6M

- \$76.1M RTA funds
- \$8.5M HURF funds



# FEMA Floodplain



# Phase I: 8th Street Drainage

Completed in May 2012







# Phase II: St. Mary's Road

## Completed in May 2014



- Re-use of concrete
- Re-use of asphalt
- Sonoran plants
- Water-harvesting
- LED lighting
- Protected bike lanes





## Phase II: St. Mary's Road Completed in May 2014



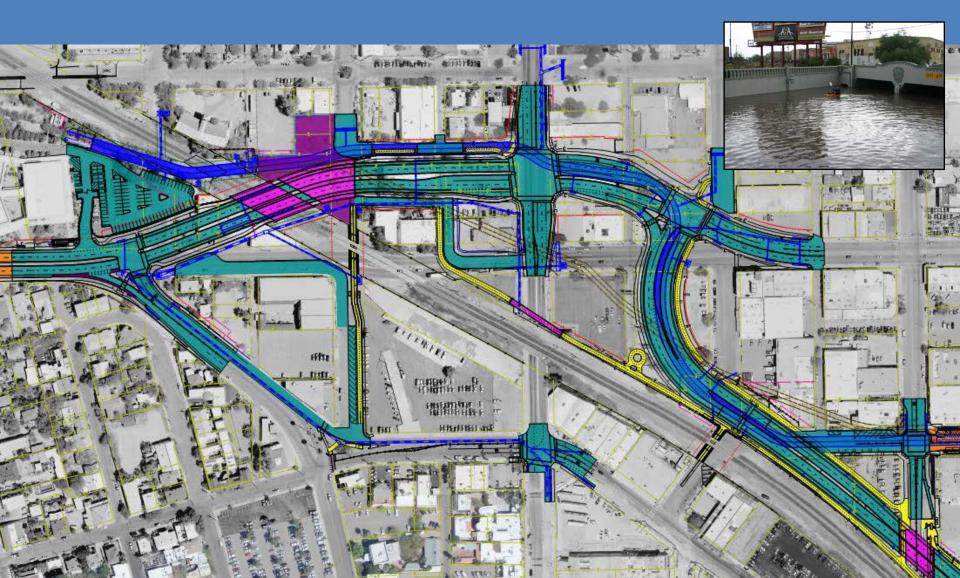






# Phase III: Church Ave. to Broadway

Drainage, Connectivity, Reduce Congestion, Lighting, etc...



# Phase III: Church Ave. to Broadway

**Demolition, Reuse and Recycle** 









## 6<sup>th</sup> Street Underpass Looking east from Church Ave. Intersection





## 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Deck Plaza Looking west from future 6<sup>th</sup> Street Underpass



# 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Deck Plaza



## Stone Ave. Bike/Ped Bridge Looking south from future 6<sup>th</sup> Street intersection



## Maclovio Barraza Parkway Bridge Looking south along 6th Avenue



## Future Maclovio Barraza Parkway Looking northwest from Broadway



# Next Steps

#### Phase III Design

- Finalize 100% Plans in June 2015
- Work with artists to finalize project art

#### Property Acquisitions

Complete acquisitions and demolitions in 2015

#### Utility Relocations

- Private Utility (power, phone/com, other...)
- Tucson Water
- Pima County Sewer

#### Phase III Construction

Begin mid 2016 and finish late 2018







# **More Information**

Downtown Links Website <u>www.downtownlinks.info</u>

Tom Fisher, Project Manager (Planning) City of Tucson Department of Transportation tom.fisher@tucsonaz.gov

Brent Kirkman, Project Engineer HDR Inc. Brent.Kirkman@hdrinc.com



