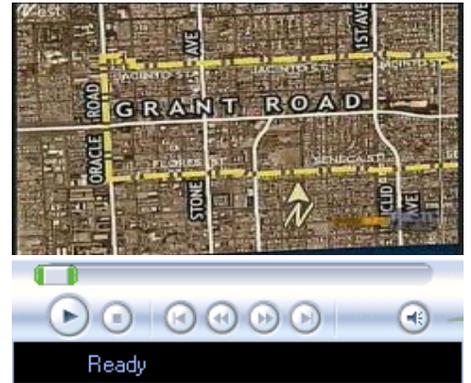


Top Stories

Grant Road Improvement Plan frustrating for some

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By Delane Cleveland, Fox 11 News



Delane Cleveland's report

It is one of Tucson's major east-west thoroughfares and we know a long stretch of it will go from four to six lanes in the near future.

Nevertheless, people and businesses along Grant Road say the uncertainty of just what will go and what will stay is now a problem.

That uncertainty is a huge source of frustration to most who live and work along the five mile stretch of Grant Road the city plans to expand.

This now has people asking the city for more concrete information.

Thousands of cars whiz their way down Grant Road on a daily basis, making it one of the busiest streets in Tucson.

"We can deal with the traffic the way it is," Marion Leonard, a Grant Road resident, said. "It doesn't pose us any problem."

Leonard says he has lived here for four years but the Regional Transportation Authority says otherwise.

The road will expand from four to six lanes by 2013. That much we do know.

Nevertheless, not knowing whether the city will destroy Leonard's home to make way for the expansion has his thinking the communication aspect has gone to the birds.

He says, "Even if we want to sell the house, we, any buyer would say, well, why would I want to buy it when I don't know? And we don't."

It is that frustration that brings him and dozens of others to Councilmember Nina Trasoff's office tonight for yet another conversation about the Grant Road Improvement Plan.

Tonight only offers a forum for suggestions, which is something that has even business owners frustrated.

"We wish we had something more concrete by now cause, I mean, right now in terms of any sort of business you're

trying to do on Grant Road, you kind of put it at a hold as to what could happen within the next year,” explains business owner Pedraic Finan.



Ruben Fuentes, Fox 11
News

Those who live and work along Grant Road, from Oracle to Swan, are left to wonder whether their lives will one day be paved over by concrete and asphalt.

Until the task force makes the recommendation as to what stays and what goes, people such as Leonard can only sit and wait. “I love Tucson. I love this area and, as far as I’m concerned, the whole project could go away.”

The mayor and city council will adopt the final decision on the Grant Road alignment in either late 2008 or early 2009.