

# Cactus Blvd: a neighborhood proposal

- City of Tucson's Treat Ave Bicycle Boulevard Project
- Cactus Boulevard a neighborhood "Linear Zócalo"





...to protect and enhance our special Tucson neighborhood with its rich artistic heritage and unique riparian environment.

#### Cactus Boulevard – An Introduction

Cactus Boulevard is a dead-end lane—despite its Boulevard name—that connects the Treat Ave Bicycle Boulevard to the Rillito River and the Loop. It serves as a major entrance to the RillitoBend Neighborhood and to the City of Tucson's Rio Vista Natural Resources Park. While Cactus also serves as the vehicular access road for many residential properties along its path, it is a very popular pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle corridor for its short length.

This Proposal summarizes the issues and goals of the RillitoBend Neighborhood's vision for Cactus Blvd. It includes some current detail of the City of Tucson's Bicycle Boulevard project and a concept plan for Cactus Blvd.

Since we and our residents are responsible for the Right-of-way improvements on our neighborhood Roads, we hope this Proposal will help guide planning conversations and future improvements to make Cactus and other neighborhood roads "livable streets" for our neighborhood.



Map of RillitoBend Neighborhood (Eastern section) showing the Cactus Blvd corridor

### RillitoBend Neighborhood Vision Themes

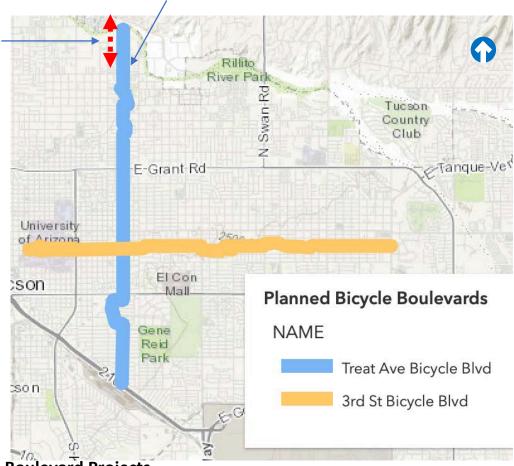
These interconnected themes are intended to help prioritize neighborhood projects and are included here for reference for the subject project.

- 1. Enhance the livability of our streets
- 2. Manage our precious watershed resources
- Restore our former riparian environment
- Showcase our unique artistic heritage and spirit
- 5. Support our *recreational and cultural destinations*



There is a pedestrian/bicycle crossing on Prince Road where Treat Avenue crosses and becomes Cactus Blvd.

Cactus Blvd, part of the Treat Ave Bicycle Blvd, in RillitoBend



Tucson's Bicycle Boulevard Projects

See <a href="https://3rd-treat-bike-boulevards-cotgis.hub.arcgis.com">https://3rd-treat-bike-boulevards-cotgis.hub.arcgis.com</a> and City of Tucson <a href="Bicycle Boulevard">Bicycle Boulevard</a> Master Plan

Using exclusively neighborhood streets, the City of Tucson has developed two Bicycle Boulevard projects in our area—3rd Street and Treat Avenue—to expand our citywide low-stress biking network by creating east/west and north/south routes, respectively, to jobs, neighborhood destinations, schools, and parks.

These projects are funded by <u>Proposition 407</u>, a bond package approved by voters to fund improvements to parks and construction of new bicycle and pedestrian routes. Construction is scheduled to start Fall 2020.

The **Treat Avenue Bicycle Boulevard** is the project that intersects the RillitoBend Neighborhood and extends from the Rillito River to the Aviation Bikeway (6 miles), connecting to 5 parks, 3 greenways, and 6 schools. **NOTE: Cactus Blvd is part of the Treat Bicycle Boulevard. See map.** 



Cactus Boulevard Part of the Treat Ave Bicycle Blvd Project

RillitoBend Neighborhood Mural

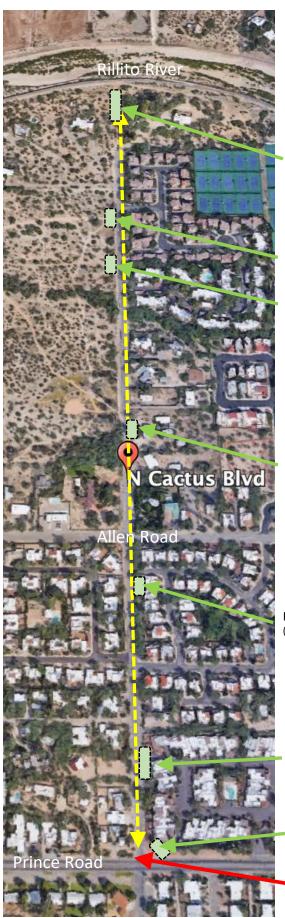
Map showing Cactus Blvd, the most northern section of the Treat Avenue Bicycle Boulevard

#### **GOALS** – for RillitoBend's vision for Cactus Blvd to be a safe, "livable" and "complete" street.

- 1. To ensure that the project addresses several grading and safety issues at the Prince Road crossing.
- 2. To ensure safe pedestrian access and crossing at Prince and Cactus, especially during the special events in the nearby Winterhaven Historic Neighborhood.
- 3. To protect and to provide safe access to the new RillitoBend Neighborhood mural at the NE corner of Prince and Cactus.
- 4. To integrate the City's project with the RillitoBend Cactus Boulevard planning described further in this document.

#### PRINCIPAL ISSUES – for Cactus Blvd as a shared-use roadway

- **1.** The width of Cactus Blvd the roadway has no sidewalks and no center lane stripping. It is too narrow for dedicated travel lanes so all solutions should be based on shared-use paths.
- 2. The condition of the right-of-way (ROW) the pavement is substandard and often full of potholes due to initial poor roadway design, inconsistent maintenance, and significant stormwater flows. The ROW edges are unsafe in certain stretches with deep trenches for stormwater, and they lack landscape improvements other than from volunteer efforts and individual homeowner association sections.
- **3. Significant stormwater drainage issues** these are largely due to improper enforcement of development standards and lack of engineering/planning upstream.
- **4.** Lack of effective traffic calming practices & methods The neighborhood needs the City Transportation Department to recommend solutions to improve safety for the multi-use nature of the lane. Some efforts have been made (a traffic circle at Cactus and Allen, for example), but more needs to be done.



## Cactus Boulevard: The "Linear Zócalo"

Proposed "Zócalet" #7 (Cactus and Loop intersection)

Proposed "Zócalet" #6 (Rio Vista entry gate)

Proposed "Zócalet" #5 (Rio Vista entry gate)

Proposed "Zócalet" #4 (Rio Vista entry gate)

Proposed "Zócalet" #3 (Rancho Morado Homes gate)

Proposed "Zócalet" #2 (Winterhaven Village Townhomes gate)

Proposed "Zócalet" #1 (RillitoBend Mural Plaza)

The "Linear Zócalo": Prince to Rillito River

## PLANNING GOALS & GLOSSARY:

#### **GOALS:**

- Support the dynamic "Living" street interactions between neighbors.
- Correct deficiencies related to drainage, pavement and rights-ofway conditions.
- Enhance road edge landscaping and aesthetics.

#### **GLOSSARY:**

**Zócalo**: a public square or plaza typically in Mexico which is often the central gathering place of a community.

"Linear Zócalo": A term developed by the RillitoBend Neighborhood for a central community space that supports safe pedestrian interactions within a livable street framework while managing stormwater toward landscape, detention, and habitat areas.

"Zócalet": A term invented for the "Linear Zócalo" for specific gathering places along the road - similar to COT "Parklet".

Cactus Boulevard: proposed as the neighborhood's "Linear Zócalo" where many residents currently gather, walk, bike, and drive between the Rillito River and their homes along the way.



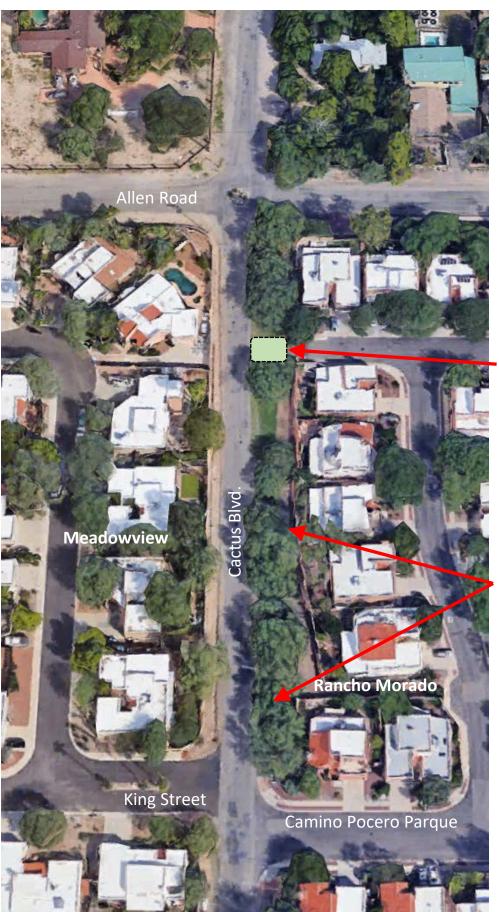
Proposed Winterhaven Village "Zócalet" #2

Zocalet #1 RBNA

Neighborhood Mural plaza –
see sketch on page 12

H.A.W.K bike boulevard/pedestrian crossing improvements

Prince Road to Rancho Morado / Meadowview



Proposed Rancho Morado "Zócalet" #3 at the pedestrian gate – see page 11

Rancho Morado "Rain Garden"

Rancho Morado / Meadowview to Allen Road



Proposed "Zócalet" #4 at Rio Vista Park pedestrian entry



Proposed "Zócalet" #5 at Rio Vista second pedestrian entry



Proposed "Zócalet" #7 at the end of Cactus where it intersects the Loop

Proposed "Zócalet" #6 at Rio Vista third pedestrian entry

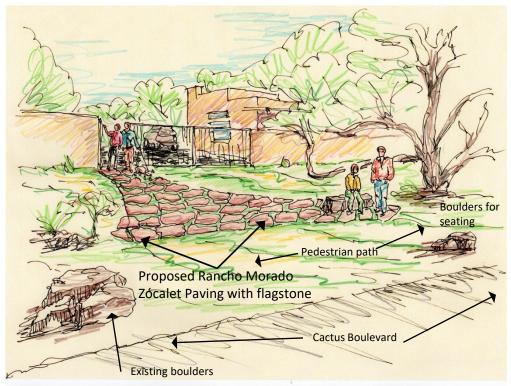
Proposed "Zócalet" #5



Park "Zócalet" example (for illustrative purposes)

## RANCHO MORADO - Cactus Boulevard "Zocalet"

Part of the Cactus Boulevard "Linear Zócalo"





Total recommended budget:

- Flagstone material and delivery = \$1,000
- o Flagstone installation = \$1,500
- o Contingency = \$500
- Total recommended budget = \$3,000

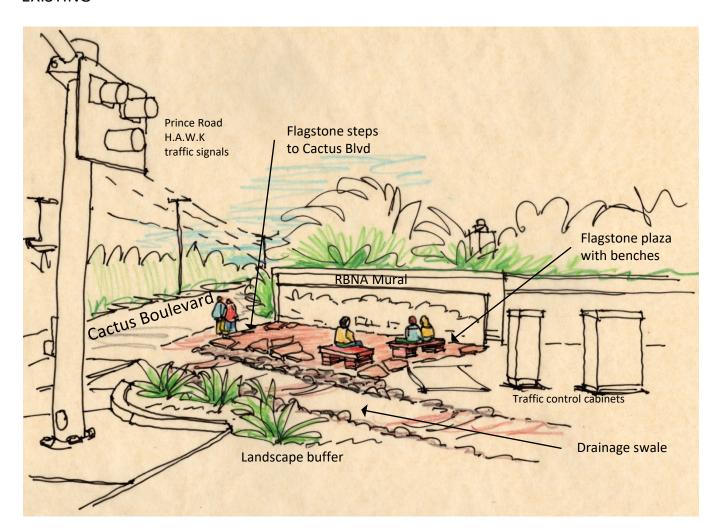
Rancho Morado gate access path with flagstone paving

## RillitoBend Mural Plaza"Zocalet"

Part of the Cactus Boulevard "Linear Zócalo"



**EXISTING** 



#### **Proposed RBNA Mural Plaza Zocalet**

Total recommended budget:

- Flagstone material and delivery = \$1,000
- Flagstone installation = \$1,500 0
- Contingency = \$500 0
- Total recommended budget = \$3,000