

Poets Square Case Study

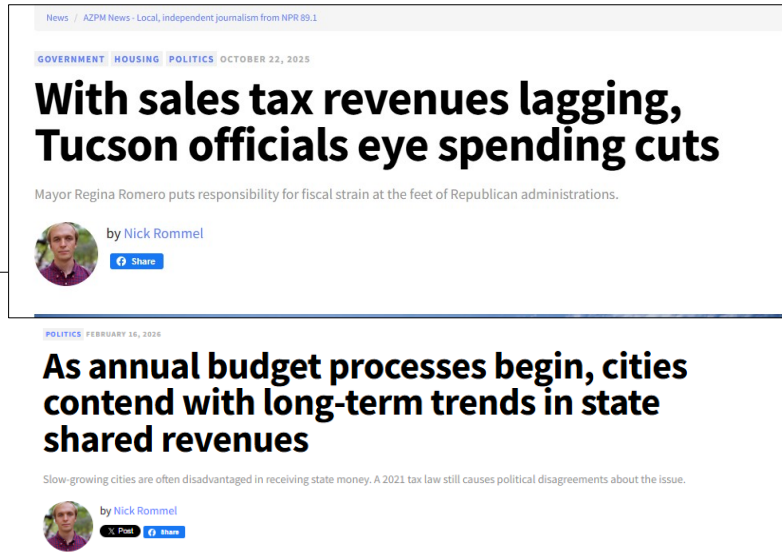
September 24, 2026
Todd Bonham, PSNA Chair

Why Implement Traffic Mitigations?

- Dangerous by Design 2026
 - *Tucson ranks #4 most deadly place for pedestrians*



Major Constraints?



Need to do More with Less

Our Response as a City – Vision Zero

TRADITIONAL APPROACH

Traffic deaths are **INEVITABLE**

PERFECT human behaviour

Prevent **COLLISIONS**

INDIVIDUAL responsibility

Saving lives is **EXPENSIVE**

VS

VISION ZERO

Traffic deaths are **PREVENTABLE**

Integrate **HUMAN FAILING** in approach

Prevent **FATAL AND SEVERE CRASHES**

SYSTEMS approach

Saving lives is **NOT EXPENSIVE**

Our Response as Citizens

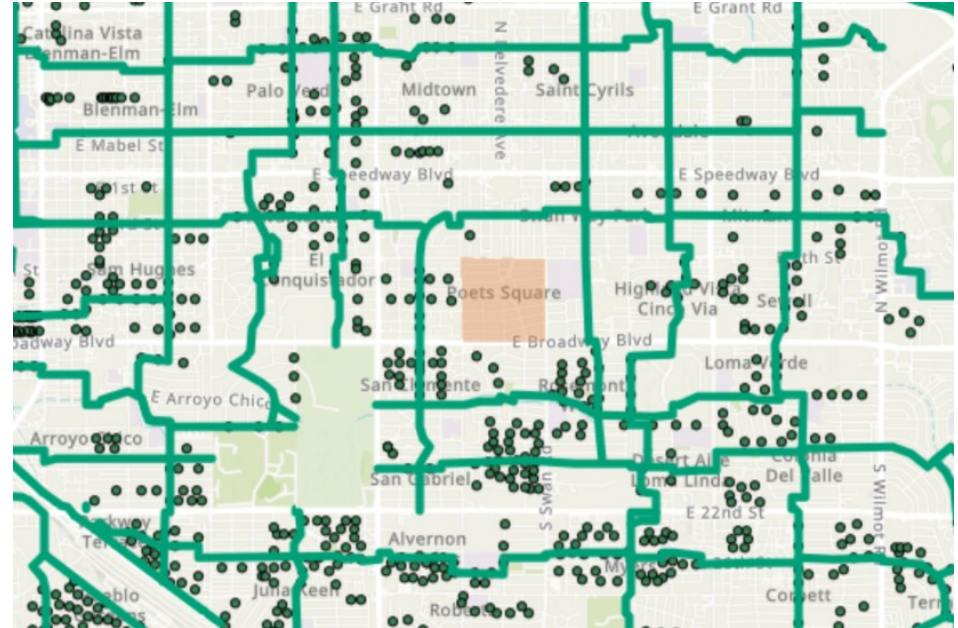
- **Tactical Urbanism** – citizen led approach to neighborhood building using short-term low-cost, and scalable interventions

“Tactical Urbanism is kind of a way to say, oh, you want something done? Well, here’s a chance for you to do something.” – Chris Brown City Engineer, City of Fayetteville, AR

- **Four Steps** (from StrongTowns.org)
 - 1) Humbly observe what is not working in your community
 - 2) What's the smallest change to address that struggle
 - 3) Do that thing. Do it right now.
 - 4) Repeat

Poets Square Traffic

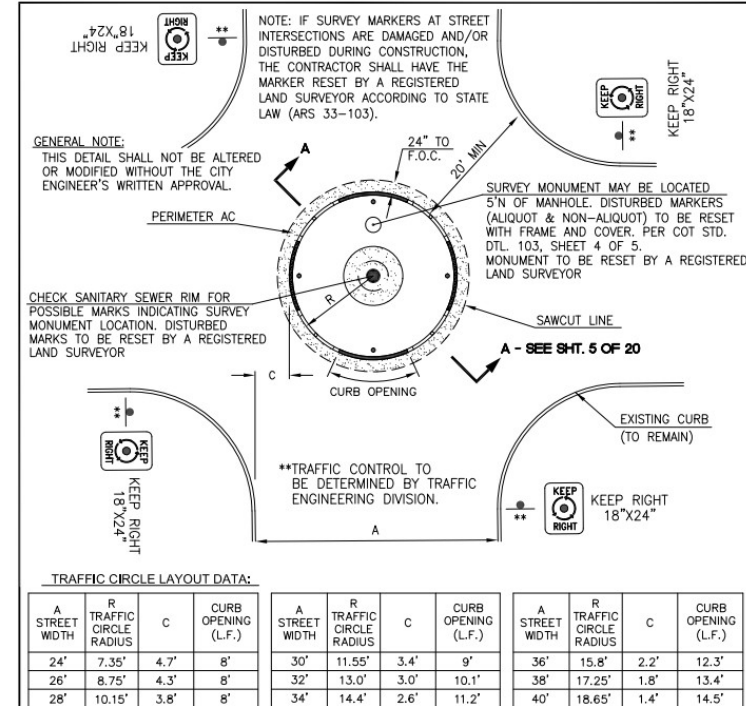
- Poets Square Neighborhood has no traffic mitigations, bike boulevards, or mid-block pedestrian crossings as well as:
 - Frequent cut-through traffic from Broadway
 - Lots of pedestrians in the neighborhood
- No funding available to implement traffic calming beyond what neighborhood can fund raise



Poets Square, an Island in Midtown

Poets Square – Cost Baseline

- A traffic circle built to city of Tucson standard detail costs over **\$30,000**
- Poets Square Traffic committee took on challenge of looking for ways to implement a traffic circle with limited funding



City of Tucson, Standard Detail, Typical
Traffic Circle Detail

Innovate the Constraints

QUICK-BUILD TRAFFIC CIRCLE



Similar Project from Living
Streets Alliance

- What if we used quick build materials?
- Cost lowered to **\$10,000**

Traffic Circle Prep & Installation		
Traffic Circle Supplies	ColorTop Paint	\$400
Professional Services	Striping, flex post install, traffic control signage	\$4,500
	Engineering Drawings	\$3,000
	Barricading, Permitting, Review	\$2,500
Planters	4 Planters*	Ranges
	Plants, Soil, Mulch*	Ranges
Total		\$10,400
Block Painting Party		
Painting supplies	Latex gloves, paint brushes, buckets, strainer, tarps	\$250
Total		\$250
GRAND TOTAL		\$10,650

Refine the Cost Estimates

QUICK-BUILD TRAFFIC CIRCLE



Similar Project from Living
Streets Alliance

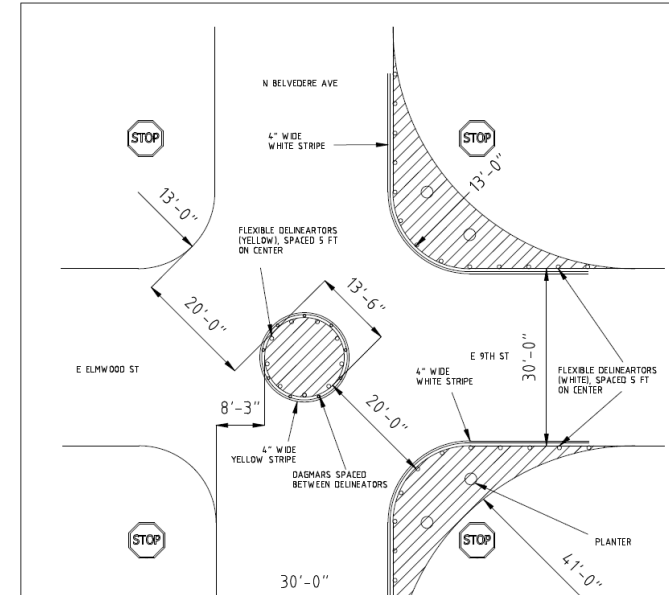
- Costs still too high.

Engineering and permitting
costs drive over 50% of
overall project cost

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Draft Your Own Quick Build Design

- Used LibreCAD to draft traffic circle design
 - <https://librecad.org/>
 - Other formats likely acceptable, talk to NTMP office
- NTMP will review draft and provide comments on the design



Part Number	Part Desc	Qty	UOM	Unit Price	Total	Link
H-4465W	Flexible Delineator Round Post with Base - 36", White	26	Each	\$41.00	\$1,066.00	https://www.uline.com/Product
H-4465Y	Flexible Delineator Round Post with Base - 36", Yellow	9	Each	\$41.00	\$369.00	https://www.uline.com/Product
PAVEMENTMARKER6INCERAMICW	Ceramic Channel Markers, 6" (Dagmars)	9	Each	\$25.50	\$229.50	https://www.orange-traffic.com
H-4467	Adhesive Butyl Pad - 8"	35	Each	\$8.00	\$280.00	https://www.uline.com/Product
B97WD2434	PRO-PARK Waterborne Traffic Marking Paint (White)	10	Gallon	\$73.19	\$731.90	https://www.sherwin-williams.com
B97YD2467	PRO-PARK Waterborne Traffic Marking Paint (Yellow)	1	Gallon	\$73.19	\$73.19	https://www.sherwin-williams.com
HL6642	Planters	4	Each	\$49.97	\$199.88	https://www.homedepot.com/
687	Raised Bed and Potting Mix, Premium Soil	16	Each	\$9.97	\$159.52	https://www.homedepot.com/
Varies	Plants	Varies	Each	Donated	Donated	
					\$3,108.99	

Success! (Partially)

[REDACTED]@tucsonaz.gov>

May 27, 2026, 3:11 PM ☆ 😊 ↩ ⋮

to me, [REDACTED]

Good Afternoon Mr. Bonham,

Thank you for your request regarding a quick build traffic circle with a roadway narrowing project in the Poet Square Neighborhood. We appreciate the time and effort you and y

After review, your request for a quick b
9th St., has received a pending approval
proposed location of the quick build tra

After review, your request for a quick build traffic circle
9th St., has received a pending approval. Enclosed is y
proposed location of the quick build traffic circle.

This pending approval indicates that the
completed. Thank you again for your commitment to enhancing safety in your neighborhood.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

What Are The Costs Now?

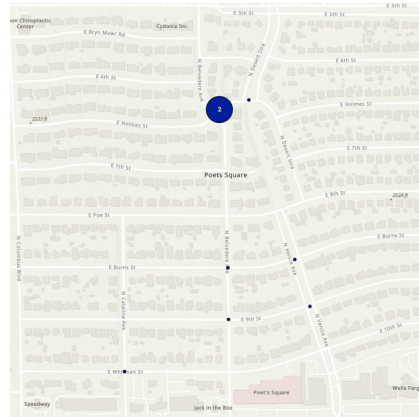
- Received quotes back from two contractors
 - Contractor #1: \$6,685
 - Contractor #2: \$5,861
- Driving costs are the number of flexible delineators
- Significant cost reduction **\$30,000 → \$6,000**

Other Traffic Projects You Can Do

Conduct a traffic study to identify the greatest needs in your neighborhood

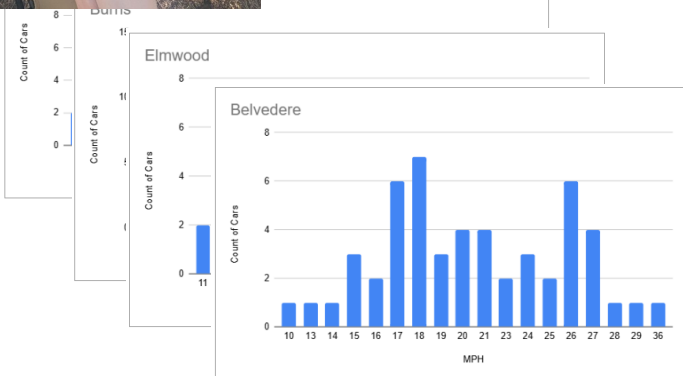


Study traffic data on
ArcGIS



Submit 311 Tickets

- Changed yield signs to stop signs.
- Changed two-way stop intersection to four-way.



Questions?

- Contact:
 - Todd Bonham, toddjbonham@gmail.com