



# CITY OF ELOY

## PUBLIC NOTICE REVITALIZATION COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

3:00 PM

ELOY CITY EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

595 North C Street Suite 104

Eloy, Arizona 85131

### AGENDA

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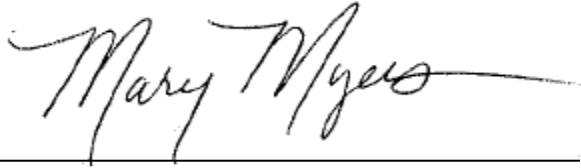
- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Call to the Public**
- IV. Motion to approve the October 10, 2022 meeting minutes of the Revitalization Commission**
  - A. Meeting Minutes
- V. Old Business: Possible discussion and/or action on the following:**
  - A. Staff to update the Commission on the conduct of a Technical Assistance Panel by the Arizona Chapter of the Urban Land Institute on April 18, 2023 (tentative).
  - B. Staff to provide an update on the completion of the painting of the building columns on both sides of Main Street, from Frontier Street to 5th Street.
- VI. New Business: Possible discussion and/or action on the following:**
  - A. Staff will present a framework for the establishment of a volunteer committee of the Eloy Revitalization Commission for the Commission's consideration and approval.
  - B. Commission to consider and nominate one of its members to serve as the inaugural volunteer committee leader.
  - C. Commission to accept Staff's support for the involuntary resignation of Ms. George Hargis and conduct a subsequent search for a new Revitalization Commission member.
  - D. Commission to nominate and elect a Chairperson for Calendar Year 2023
  - E. Commission to nominate and elect a Vice Chairperson for Calendar Year 2023
- VII. Communications:**
  - A. Ex Officio Member Announcements

B. Community Development Director Announcements

VIII. Good of the Order

IX. Motion to Adjourn

**POSTED BY 5 PM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023 AT ELOY CITY HALL, ELOY POST OFFICE, TROY THOMAS COMMUNITY CENTER, TOLTEC COMMUNITY/SENIOR CENTER AND CITY WEBSITE: [www.loyaz.gov](http://www.loyaz.gov)**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Myers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Mary Myers, MMC, CPM  
City Clerk

INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS MAY CONTACT LORENA LaSALDE-RIOS, ADA COORDINATOR FOR THE CITY OF ELOY AT 520-466-9201 OR 520-466-7455 (TDD). IF POSSIBLE, SUCH REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE. ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND/OR STAFF MAY PARTICIPATE BY TELEPHONIC OR VIDEO MEANS.

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES OF  
THE CITY OF ELOY  
REVITALIZATION COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 12, 2022  
3:00 p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Morales called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

\*One or more members of the Revitalization Commission may attend by telephonic means.

**Members present:**

- Chairperson Isabel Morales
- Vice-Chairperson Eddie Peters
- Commissioner David Christenson (arrived at 3:05 p.m.)
- Commissioner Jeana Capel-Jones
- Ex-Officio Daniel Snyder

**Members Absent:**

- Commissioner Allen Crawford (excused)
- Commissioner Ralph Varela
- Commissioner George Hargis

**Staff present:**

- Jon Vlaming, Community Development Director (left at 4:00 p.m.)
- Jeff Fairman, Economic Development Specialist
- Belinda Cota, Planner
- David Malewitz, City Manager
- Kazi Haque, Assistant City Manager (left at 4:16 p.m.)

**Others present:**

- Andrew Rodriguez, Eloy Chamber of Commerce Representative/Eloy City Council

**III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

**IV. MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 27, 2022 MEETING MINUTES OF THE REVITALIZATION COMMISSION.**

Commissioner Morales asked for a motion to approve the April 27, 2022 meeting minutes. Vice Chairperson Peters made the motion to approve, Commissioner Capel-Jones seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

**V. OLD BUSINESS: POSSIBLE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

**A. REVIEW THE DRAFT MARKET ANALYSIS AND VISION PLAN FOR DOWNTOWN AS A COMPONENT OF THE DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN.**

Mr. Vlaming gave a brief overview of the progress thus far on the Eloy Downtown Master Plan and then answered questions from the Commission. The conversation centered on the draft market analysis and vision components and plans to go forward. Mr. Vlaming also commented that these would be foundational components for the upcoming ULI Technical Assistance Panel scheduled for late January or February 2023.

**B. REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE RECENT APPRAISALS PREPARED FOR THE DUSTBOWL THEATRE, VETERANS CENTER AND A VACANT LAND SCENARIO.**

Mr. Fairman commented that the City engaged a professional appraiser to conduct an appraisal for the Dust Bowl Theatre, Veterans Center and vacant land and stated it has a negative value in that the Dust Bowl has zero market value and to redevelop the site will include the cost of demolition. According to the appraiser, the Veteran's Center does not share a common wall with the Dust Bowl Theater. The stand-alone value of the Veterans Center is listed at \$70,000, the balance of the site minus the Theater building is \$20,000 although the anticipated cost of demolishing the Theater is anticipated at \$120,000. The site itself would be worth \$20K, the estimate to demolish is \$110,000. The determination of the Dust Bowl Theater is expected to be on the Monday, October 24, 2022 City Council agenda for consideration.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS: POSSIBLE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

**A. STAFF TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK APPROACH TO STANDING UP A VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE OF THE REVITALIZATION COMMISSION.**

Mr. Fairman presented several documents developed to facilitate the establishment of a Volunteer component of the Revitalization Commission which will have the ability and resources to undertake various projects developed and approved by the Commission. It was unanimously decided to move forward, staff will present the information for consideration and approval at the November meeting.

**B. STAFF TO UPDATE THE COMMISSION ON THE COUNCIL APPROVED EX-OFFICIO POSITION, TO SERVE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ELOY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ACTING IN THE CAPACITY OF A NON-VOTING MEMBER, ON THE REVITALIZATION COMMISSION.**

Commission Chair Morales introduced and welcomed Eloy Chamber Director Andrew Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez gave an update on recent Chamber activities and the upcoming Balloon Glow to be held November 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 9:00 on Main Street in downtown Eloy. They are expecting a big crowd of over 5,000 attendees. There are anticipated to be 8-9 static balloons and several tethered balloons offering rides for a set fee. There will also be food trucks and other vendors with bouncy houses and face painting for the kids.

**C. STAFF TO BRIEF COMMISSION ON THE CONDUCT OF A FUTURE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PANEL BY THE ARIZONA CHAPTER OF THE URBAN LAND INSTITUTE.**

Mr. Vlaming identified that the Urban Land Institute conducted a Technical Assistance Panel in 2015. A document was prepared to memorialize the work and directions expressed during this day long event. With the preparation of the upcoming Downtown Master Plan and work on the Downtown Vision Plan, staff would like to utilize this event again to update the work done in 2015, identify the inroads that the City has made during that time, and utilize their expertise to underpin directions in the Master Planning process. The 2015 document was included in the packet for this meeting. There were no questions or comments from the Commission on this topic.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Chamber Director Rodriguez mentioned that the next Eloy Farmer's Market is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2022 at the Main Street Park.
- Eloy Glow and Festival is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Vice-Chair Snyder communicated that Council member Georges Reuter will fill the vacancy for Council member Rodriguez and that Michelle McKinley-Tarango will be a new City Council member.

**VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Vice-Chair Peters commented he is the Secretary of the Support Our Troops-AZ, a Robson Ranch AZ Service Club and recognized Federal 501 (c) (3) Charity. They are dedicated to support our military members at home and abroad. On November 5, 2022 there will be a Silent/Live Auction and he is looking for donations.

- Ex Officio member Rodriguez mentioned that the 2022 Chamber Golf Tournament is set for Veteran's Day, November 11<sup>th</sup> at Dave White Park in Casa Grande (this event is now scheduled for the Spring of 2023)

No date was set for the next Revitalization Commission meeting.

## **IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Commissioner Morales asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Capel-Jones made a motion to adjourn, Vice-Chairperson Peters seconded. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

**CITY OF ELOY**  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

**Agenda Item: V.A.**

**Date: 3/22/2023**

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**Date submitted:**  
03/20/2023

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**Action:** Other

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**Subject: Staff to update the Commission on the conduct of a Technical Assistance Panel by the Arizona Chapter of the Urban Land Institute on April 18, 2023 (tentative).**

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**Date requested:**  
3/22/2023

**TO:** Downtown Advisory Commission

**FROM:** Jon Vlaming

**RECOMMENDATION:**

There is not a recommendation at this time.

**DISCUSSION:**

In 2015, the Urban Land Institute conducted a technical assistance panel (TAP) focused on Downtown Eloy. This panel was memorialized in a report prepared at that time (which is attached). Staff has been working closely with the ULI Staff and its Technical Advisory Panel to organize and hold an updated panel day on April 18, 2023 (tentative) to review the implementation of actions in the original report and to determine appropriate next steps for the Downtown Area in the near future.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is not a direct fiscal impact associated with this discussion.



# Urban Land Institute

Arizona



# CITY OF ELOY



ULI Arizona Technical Assistance Panel  
April 30th, 2015

Funding for the ULI Arizona and City of Eloy Arizona Technical Assistance Panel was  
generously provided by the Union Pacific Building America Foundation





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# Acknowledgements

## City of Eloy Mayor and City Council

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**The Honorable Joel G. Belloc**, Mayor

**Micah Powell**, Vice Mayor

**J.W. Tidwell**, Councilmember

**Augustine Saucedo**, Councilmember

**Joseph R. Nagy**, Councilmember

**Andrew Rodriguez**, Councilmember

**JoAnne Galindo**, Councilmember



## City of Eloy Staff

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**Harvey Krauss, AICP**, City Manager

**Jon Vlaming**, Community Development Director

**Belinda Cruz**, Planner

**Jill Sherwood**, GIS Analyst

## ULI Arizona Technical Assistance Panel Committee Leadership

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**Lance C. Ross, SIOR**, ULI AzTAP Chair  
President, Ross Property Advisors

**Amy Malloy**, ULI AzTAP Vice-Chair  
Assistant Vice President, Development, Macerich

## AzTAP Committee

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**Dan Alpers**, Analyst  
VIZZDA

**K.C. Brandon**, President  
Oridian Construction Services

**Cameron Carter**, Partner  
Rose Law Group pc

**George T. Cole**, Director  
Fennemore Craig, P.C.

**Mark Davis**, Partner  
Davis Enterprises

**Susan Demmitt**, Member  
Gammage & Burnham

**Leslie Dornfeld, FAICP**, Principal  
Plan-et

**Daniel “Buzz” Gosnell**, President  
DWG Phoenix, LLC

**Tom Hester**, Urban Design Practice Leader  
Parsons Brinckerhoff

**Don Keuth**, President  
Phoenix Community Alliance

**Kyle Mieras, AICP**, Development Services  
Director  
Town of Gilbert

**Todd Severson**, Development Manager  
Walton International Group

**Mitchell Rosen**, Development Manager  
Papago Park Center, Salt River Project

**Jon Vlaming**, Community Development Director  
City of Eloy

**Judie Scalise**, Principal  
ESI Corporation

**Jacob E. Zonn**, Senior Planner  
Tiffany & Bosco

## AzTAP Panelists

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**Mark Stapp**, AzTAP Moderator,  
Executive Director, Master of Real Estate  
Development Program, the Fred E. Taylor  
Professor of Real Estate, W.P. Carey School of  
Business, Arizona State University

**Lani Lott**, President  
L.L Consulting

**Joe McClure**, Principal  
McClure Consulting

**Trevor Barger**, President  
Espiritu Loci

**Silvia Urrutia**, Director of Housing & Healthcare  
Raza Development Fund

**Dana Belknap**, Shareholder  
Gallagher & Kennedy

**Keith Watkins**, Senior Vice President  
Arizona Commerce Authority

**Susan Demmitt**, Member  
Gammage & Burnham

## Special Acknowledgement

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The Urban Land Institute Arizona District Council (ULI Arizona) would like to thank the **Union Pacific Building America Foundation** for underwriting costs of the ULI Arizona / City of Eloy AzTAP. This funding enables smaller Arizona communities and nonprofits to benefit from this unique resource.

## ULI Arizona Staff

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**Debra Z. Sydenham, FAICP**  
Executive Director

**Carrie Martin**  
Manager

**Kristen Busby, AICP**  
Director

**Stacey Haggerson**  
Associate



## Introduction and Overview

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### About ULI

The Urban Land Institute is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit research and education organization supported by its members. Founded in 1936, the Institute has members in 95 countries worldwide, representing the entire spectrum of land use and real estate development disciplines working in private enterprise and public service. The mission of the Urban Land Institute is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide.

The ULI Arizona District Council was formed in the early 1980s, as a direct response to the need for educational forums and events at a local level. ULI Arizona boasts over 1000 members, and has one of the highest member participation rates of any ULI District Council. Known as the industry gold standard, ULI Arizona is at the forefront of real estate trends in Arizona. ULI Arizona is a trusted neutral convener, educator, and advisor positioned for high impact. ULI Arizona brings public and private sector leaders together to share and exchange ideas, information, and experiences to shape the way communities grow. For additional information, please visit: [www.arizona.uli.org](http://www.arizona.uli.org).

### About ULI Arizona TAPs

The ULI Arizona Technical Assistance Panel (AzTAP) Program is a service offered by ULI Arizona to assist Arizona municipalities, counties, regions, and nonprofits in the preliminary study of complex land use planning, development, and redevelopment issues. Drawing from a seasoned professional membership base, TAPs provide objective and responsible guidance on a variety of land use and real estate issues ranging from site-specific projects to public policy questions.

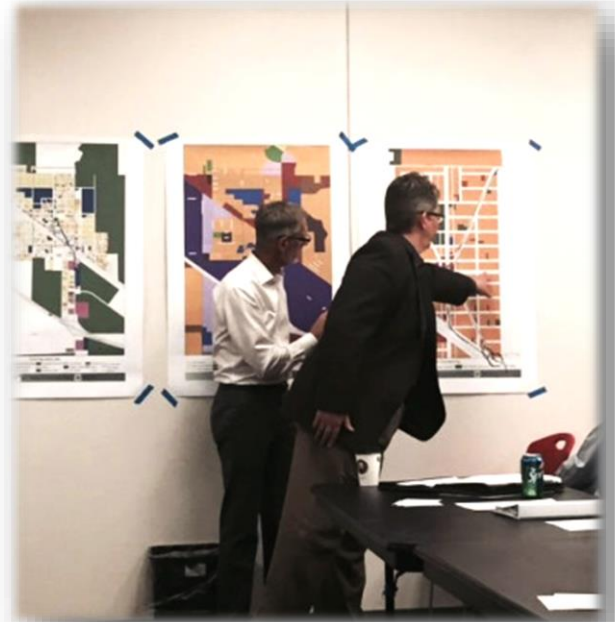
AzTAP was initiated by the ULI Arizona District Council in 2003 as an extension of the time-tested national ULI Advisory Services Program that was established in 1947 with proven success for its comprehensive, pragmatic approach to solving land use challenges. TAP interdisciplinary panel teams are carefully chosen for their specific knowledge and the holistic examination that they provide to help resolve local issues.

Communities gain valuable insight and ideas from highly qualified industry professionals who volunteer their time. Professionals who bring their expertise to bear also get a better understanding of the unique development challenges facing communities. The interaction between panel experts, local communities, and residents strengthens the community fabric and builds opportunities for strong public and private sector collaboration to promote thriving Arizona communities. The focus and scope of issues defined by the local sponsoring community make each TAP unique. Past ULI Arizona TAP reports are available to view and download at [www.arizona.uli.org](http://www.arizona.uli.org).

## Eloy TAP Process

ULI Arizona and the City of Eloy undertook the AzTAP process to discuss the long-term future of the City's Downtown Area.

1. The City submitted an application in August 2014 to the ULI Arizona District Council requesting a Technical Assistance Panel be conducted, focusing on revitalizing the City's Downtown core.
2. The ULI AzTAP Committee evaluated the City's goals for the TAP and gathered additional insight from the City regarding the scope of development issues to be addressed.
3. Members of the ULI AzTAP Committee and ULI Arizona staff met with City Officials in Eloy to review the TAP process and refine questions pertaining to revitalizing the City's Main Street and Downtown Area.
4. The ULI AzTAP Committee selected Panel members with expertise specific to the City's key questions. The City prepared and delivered Briefing Book materials summarizing the City's history, demographics, economics, and other pertinent community data to the Panel members. An additional in-person meeting was held with the Panel one week prior to the TAP to thoroughly review background information.
5. The Eloy AzTAP took place on April 30, 2015 at the Eloy Santa Cruz Library. This day-long event began with a study area tour narrated by the Eloy City Manager and Community Development Director. The TAP meeting was attended by City Council Members, City staff, and interested stakeholders. For specific details refer to the AzTAP Agenda in the Appendix.
6. A draft report was prepared, capturing the Panel's recommendations and conclusions and transmitted to the Panel and the City for review. The final report was presented to the City Council (with members of the City's Planning and Zoning Commission invited) for consideration and potential implementation.



# Executive Summary

## Overview

The City of Eloy is one of six incorporated cities (i.e. Eloy, Maricopa, Coolidge, Casa Grande, Florence, Apache Junction) located in Pinal County. The TAP study area encompasses the historic Downtown, bounded by Battaglia Drive on the north, Alsdorf Road on the south, ½ mile to the east of Sunshine Boulevard on the east and Eleven Mile Corner Road on the west. The Downtown Area is approximately 320 acres or one-half of a square mile (see Figure 1 Eloy AzTAP Study Area, pg. 12).

The City's Downtown was once a vibrant area within the community. Fifty years ago, the community had a population of nearly 5,000 and Main Street and the Downtown Area were lively zones of activity and commerce for the City and region. Since that time, Eloy has experienced years of marginal population increases resulting in the erosion of retail and businesses along Main Street. The City is working hard to restore, improve and enhance the area, demolish dilapidated structures, clean up private properties, and repave and resurface many Downtown streets. Major assets that encompass the area include the Union-Pacific Railroad, Eloy Municipal Airport, Central (Main Street) Park, Interstate I-10 and I-8, and a substantial stock of historic buildings and residential housing.

The ULI Arizona Eloy Technical Assistance Panel (Eloy AzTAP) was convened to examine the opportunities and challenges associated with Eloy's Downtown Area with regard to market potential, branding, design, infrastructure, and finance. The goal was to position the City to develop a Downtown Area strategic plan which documents the best use of the land uses the near and mid-term market will support, and provides recommendations for implementation.



## Process

In Fall of 2014, ULI Arizona and City Officials met to discuss the AzTAP process and desired goals. Dialogue continued in the Spring of 2015 and culminated with the AzTAP that took place on April 30, 2015 focusing on five key questions. The Panel discussion set forth a series of strategies for the City to consider, including the top five to move the City's Downtown Area revitalization efforts forward.

## AzTAP Panel Questions



**Market Potential:** What is the market potential for Downtown – viable uses, location, etc.? What steps should the City take to increase the market for retail, office and other compatible uses on Main Street?



**Planning and Design:** What character improvements need to occur to attract or influence the market potential?



**Investment Strategies:** Is the City appropriately investing in its infrastructure to create a vibrant Main Street? Should the City acquire land along and proximate to Main Street? What other investment strategies should be considered?



**Finance Strategies:** How do we finance – public private partnerships and other sources? What entities could or should assist?



**Incentive Strategies:** How do we use community resources effectively to help create desired outcomes?

## Strategies for Consideration

### Question 1. Market Potential:

- ✓ **Develop an anchor** that will be a central activity center to lure people Downtown, become a source of resident pride, create demand and spur additional commercial activity.
- ✓ **Map and connect existing community assets** to create a network of regional and local businesses, schools, and service institutions that can assist with economic and community development efforts.
- ✓ **Survey area employers** to gather information regarding: 1) how to bring more people and businesses into the Downtown Area; 2) the amenities desired by employees; 3) the specific employer workforce training needs; and 4) possible business expansion or Downtown location opportunities.
- ✓ **Convert vacant space to incubator workspaces** and create opportunities for start-up and small businesses. Offering incubator, accelerator and co-working spaces to small businesses in Eloy's Downtown Area will transform the underutilized and vacant commercial spaces and build capacity for businesses to grow and expand.

### Question 2. Planning and Design:

- ✓ **Cultivate a brand** that tells the unique story of Eloy's deep family roots, diversity, cultural pride, agricultural history, and skydiving appeal. Own the community's important historical elements and curate an experience through physical design elements and infrastructure, and social and educational programming.
- ✓ **Activate Main Street and its connections** to foster revitalization and to move people to the Downtown expeditiously from Interstate 10.
- ✓ **Develop design guidelines** to build Eloy's distinct character and brand. Incorporate consistent characteristics and attributes in guidelines that will foster cohesion and will provoke discovery experiences from residents and visitors (i.e. "the ability to go from little shop to little shop").

### Question 3. Investment Strategies:

- ✓ **Critically evaluate alternative "Main Streets"** under consideration in the Downtown Area and identify where key design elements and development concentrations are strategically located. Focus public and private energy and investments on the preferred corridor.

- ✓ **Acquire and assemble land** in the Downtown Area. It is prudent for the City to control as much property as possible both north and south of Frontier Street for strategic opportunities.
- ✓ **Devote public and private monies and other resources judiciously** since they are limited. Be careful not to create competition between the Downtown Area and other activity centers.
- ✓ **Build financial partnerships**, such as, but not limited to, Great Western Bank and Pinal County Federal Credit Union. Look for opportunities where mutual objectives can be realized through their financial participation in implementation efforts. .

#### Question 4. Finance Strategies:

- ✓ **Enhance grant writing capacity** to know which agencies and organizations have money, the timing of submission/grant awards, and how to submit (and resubmit) compelling grant applications for Downtown Area development.
- ✓ **Develop a capital inventory of available financial resources**, including debt and equity resources to support community development and related infrastructure activities.
- ✓ **Create a Downtown Advisory Committee** to review specific recommendations and actions to improve the Downtown Area, monitor grant efforts, and navigate the many issues which need to be addressed by the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

#### Question 5. Incentive Strategies:

- ✓ **Consider forming a Special District** to assist Downtown Area redevelopment and public infrastructure improvements through statutorily authorized finance mechanisms (e.g. Improvement, Revitalization, Community Facilities, etc.) that are intended to enhance public services and neighborhood amenities in designated areas.
- ✓ **Explore Public-Private-Partnership (P3) opportunities** to help the City advance Downtown Area priorities through private projects that leverage public investment dollars.

## Going Forward: Top 5 Priorities

**Create A Downtown Advisory Committee** comprised of major public, private, nonprofit stakeholders whose mission is to drive actions and Downtown planning efforts.

**Survey Local Businesses and Employers** to find out what services they are lacking or would like to have so that they remain and expand their companies in the City, especially in the Downtown Area.

**Establish a Recognizable Identity, Community Brand, and Market** to bring people to live, work, and play in Eloy. Make sure infrastructure design concepts and projects support the image.

**Prioritize the Alternative "Main Streets"**, pick one, and invest in pursuits that bring people to Main Street. Use the Main Street Area as a stage for every major activity and celebration that takes place in Eloy.

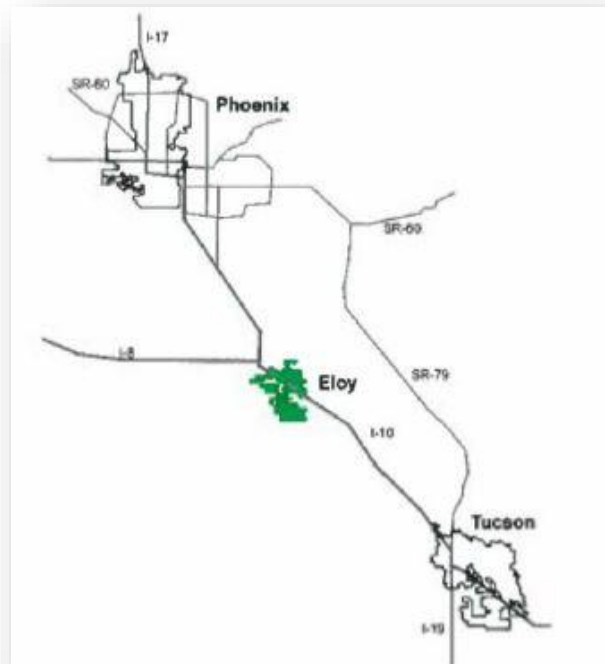
**Develop the Overall Plan** that promotes Eloy's brand/identity, has specific goals, and coalesces stakeholders. Strike while the iron is hot and find the smallest tangible successful outcome(s) to stimulate momentum. Celebrate each successful outcome and market it through various mediums.

# Overview of Eloy

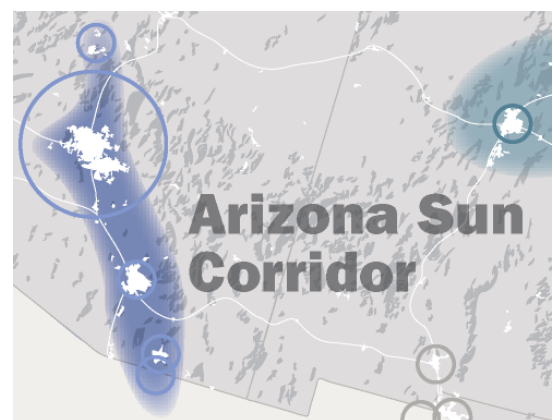
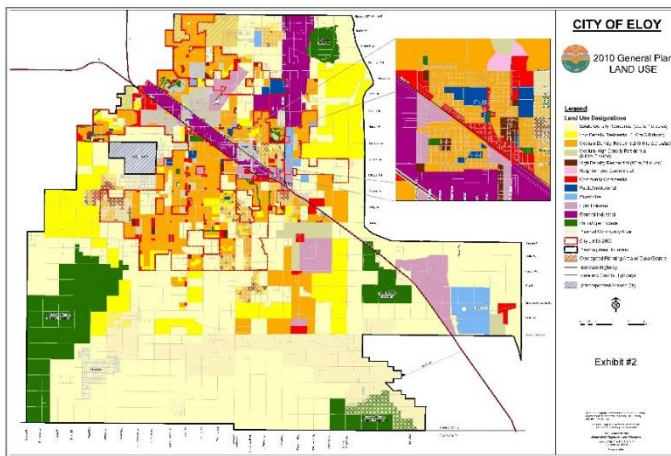
The following is a synopsis of the City’s demographic, economic, infrastructure, and development conditions.

## Context

**Location** The City of Eloy is located in the emerging Arizona Sun Corridor, nearly equidistant from Phoenix (56 miles south) and Tucson (54 miles north), in west central Pinal County. The City is a transportation hub strategically located at the crossroads of Interstates 8 and 10. The Sun Corridor is the vortex for manufacturing and major distribution firms. Another key transportation corridor is the Union Pacific Sunset Line (Long Beach to El Paso). Located approximately 40 miles to the north of Eloy, Phoenix Gateway International Airport (in Mesa) provides commercial aviation services to the East Valley and Central Pinal County.



The City’s planning area consists of an irregularly shaped polygon bounded by SR 287 on the north, Pinal/Pima County boundary on the south, Marylynne Lane on the east and Burris Road on the west. The total planning area is approximately 500 square miles. The planning area contains both incorporated and county lands within its boundaries. The City’s incorporated area includes approximately 113 square miles.



**Downtown Area** The Study Area encompasses the historic Downtown Area of Eloy, bounded by Battaglia Drive on the north, Alsdorf Road on the south, Sunshine Boulevard on the east and Curiel Street on the west. The Downtown Study Area is approximately 320 acres or one-half of a square mile. The existing land uses consist of a mix of low density and medium density residential, specialty commercial, office, public/semi-public and open spaces. The majority of the land is owned by private interests. However, semi-public ownership consists of schools, churches and nonprofit agencies; city and county owned parcels.

**Figure 1, Eloy AzTAP Study Area Map**



**History** The area surrounding the City began to carry the name of Eloy when a railroad switchyard was constructed by the Southern Pacific Railroad to connect Tucson to Casa Grande in 1902. In 1918, several developers laid out the foundations for a community they called Cotton City, and for agricultural tracts to raise cotton. The City of Eloy, incorporated in 1949, historically is an agricultural community and is part of the Santa Cruz River Basin, which is one of Arizona's most fertile soil and agricultural areas with more than 100,000 irrigable acres.



There are three developed areas which make up the current City of Eloy. The first is the original town site, which has functioned historically as the Downtown Area. The second area is Toltec, which was annexed in 1965 and increased the City's incorporated area to 11 square miles. The third is Robson Ranch, an age restricted community which was annexed in 2006. As agriculture began to contract and neighboring towns expanded and diversified their economies, Eloy's downtown area began to decline. Today, few businesses on Main Street remain and many of the storefronts are vacant or filled with service uses and County or City governmental agencies.



Today, few businesses on Main Street remain and many of the storefronts are vacant or filled with service uses and County or City governmental agencies.

## Development Conditions

**Existing Study Area Land Use** The existing land uses consist of a mix of low density and medium density residential, specialty commercial, office, public/semi-public and open space. The majority of the area is developed, but pockets of vacant and underutilized lands exist throughout the area. The Main Street frontage (south of 6th Street) is approximately 80 percent vacant (including both vacant lots and vacant buildings).

**Study Area Land Ownership** The existing pattern of land ownership includes private lands, which comprise the majority of the ownership; semi-public owners, consisting of schools, churches and nonprofit agencies; city owned parcels and public owned (Pinal County) parcels.

**Commercial Development** The only new retail or office construction that took place in 2014 was for a Family Dollar Store (located on Frontier Street, approximately four miles from the Downtown Study Area). The existing inventory of commercial uses is scattered throughout the corridor and there are many buildings available for retail and office use.

Historically, Main Street was a vibrant retail and services corridor for the City, in conjunction with Frontier Street. Now, the corridor is underutilized with many existing buildings currently vacant due to a lack of market strength. Many of the lots fronting on Main Street are also vacant. The following retail, office and other establishments are located on Main Street:

**Retail**

Nicos Mexican Restaurant  
Fashion J  
Circle K  
Eloy Family Laundry  
Isabel’s Flowers and Gifts  
Pablo’s Main Cuts  
Eloy Home and Auto  
Watermill Express

**Office**

Paglia Law Firm  
Pinal Hispanic Council  
Century Link  
Great Western Bank  
Eloy Enterprise

**Other**

US Post Office  
Masons Building  
Chapel of Hope  
Eloy Veterans Center  
Eloy Church of Christ  
Pinal County Justice Court  
Santa Cruz High School  
Eloy/Santa Cruz Library  
Eloy City Hall  
Main Street Park

**Eloy General Plan** Adopted in 2011, the general plan contains 11 elements: Land Use, Circulation, Growth, Parks, Open Space and Trails, Housing, Environmental Planning, Water Resources, Public Facilities, Downtown Development and Neighborhood Preservation, Economic Development, and Cost of Development. The vision of the general plan consists of the following:

*By implementing the Eloy General Plan, the City hopes to create a forward thinking, culturally diverse, and sustainable community that creates and preserves parks, open space, trails and open vistas while providing a variety of employment opportunities, entertainment and recreational activities, shopping and other commercial or retail services and a variety of residential opportunities.*

## Demographics

**Population** The City of Eloy is estimated to contain nearly 16,600 residents. A portion of its population (approximately 7,000) is incarcerated within a complex administered by Corrections Corporation of America (CCA). Historically, the City’s population has only grown half as much as Pinal County, but slightly more than the State. The effect of the Great Recession has slightly eroded the population from its 2010 level.

Population Growth, 1980-2014						
Jurisdiction	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014	Percent Change
Eloy	6,240	7,211	10,375	16,631	16,531	165%
Pinal County	90,918	116,379	179,727	375,770	396,237	335%
Arizona	2,716,546	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,392,017	6,731,4784	148%

Source: US Census, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010; 2014; CAAG, 2014

**Population Forecast**-The forecast for future population may be somewhat aggressive for the City for the year 2020, but with the strengthening of the economy and location, land and water attributes, the City may catch up to its forecast by 2025 or 2030. The State Demographers’ medium series forecast has the City growing twice as fast as Pinal County and four times as much as the State.

Population Projections, 2020-2030				
Jurisdiction	2020	2025	2030	Percent Change
Eloy	27,798	37,472	48,742	75%
Pinal County	493,200	580,200	681,600	38%
Arizona	7,485,000	8,168,200	8,852,800	18%

Sources: Central Arizona Association of Governments and Arizona State Demographer (Medium Series), 2015

**Age** In terms of age, the City’s juvenile residents are older than the County and State, exhibit a higher number of residents that could participate in the labor force, and contain a lower segment of those residents potentially retired.

Age, 2009-2013			
Age Range	Eloy	Pinal County	Arizona
Persons under 5 years	5.4%	6.4%	7.1%
Persons under 18 years	17.9%	25.0%	25.5%
Persons between 18-65 years	70.2%	51.6%	53.6%
Persons over 65 years	6.5%	17.0%	13.8%

Source: US Census/Quickfacts, 2015

**Ethnicity** The City is culturally diverse, with higher proportions of Asian, Black, Hispanic and Pacific Islander than either the County or the State.

**Household Size** The City exhibits the highest level of persons per household in the region, as well as the County and State. This may be attributed to larger families as well as multi-generational relatives living together. This condition may indicate the existing demand for more multi-bedroom units for both rental and owner occupied housing.

**Income** Eloy exhibits lower median household and per capita incomes than both Pinal County and the State of Arizona. On average, Eloy residents receive lower wages and their incomes along with the City's economy rely on agricultural and other "blue-collar" employment. Few new units have been added over the last few years to the housing supply to meet the needs of the City's low/moderate-income households. Approximately 38 percent of the City’s residents (6,200) were identified as below the poverty level by the 2010 US Census.

**Educational Attainment** The City’s residents significantly lag the educational attainment of both the State and the County. This condition may provide the basis to continue efforts to enhance associate’s degree attainment as well as technical and vocational training to respond to employment demands in these types of sectors. In addition, it may also provide the impetus to enhance the retention of students in high school and the foundations to continue their educational pursuits at four year institutions.

**Housing** The most recent housing construction in Eloy has focused on Robson Ranch; an age restricted community located approximately four miles northwest of the Downtown Study Area. In 2014, approximately 90 new home permits were approved for new housing construction in this age restricted community. Homes in this community range from \$250,000 to \$400,000-significantly higher than any other neighborhood in the City.

The Downtown Study Area consists of a full range of housing types and conditions. While some housing is well maintained, other properties require substantial rehabilitation or redevelopment. The City has demolished eight homes in the Downtown over the past two years. This decline is largely related to the lack of new housing, inadequate maintenance of existing housing, and the decrease in agricultural jobs and other resource industry jobs-the demand that fostered the construction of housing in this area in the 1940's and 1950's-which turned bust in the 1970's.

## Economics

The majority of City revenue accrues from the truck stops (i.e. Love's, TA, Flying J, Pilot, Petrol, Circle K) along Interstate 10 and the privately operated prison -Corrections Corporation of America (CCA). There are several other revenue sources that augment local revenue sources such as state and federal transfers. In fiscal year 2014-2015, the City of Eloy's total budget was approximately \$78 million.

**Major Employers** The City contains the following major employers as shown below:

Large Eloy Employers	Employees
Corrections Corporation of America	1,600
Schuff Steel	150
City of Eloy	126
Education (Eloy Elementary School District#11 and Santa Cruz Valley Union High School District # 840)	75
Otto Environmental Systems, Inc.	70

Source: Access Arizona and City of Eloy, 2015

## Strategies and Actions for Consideration

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A series of five questions were posed to the ULI AzTAP Panel to facilitate structured dialogue and ideas to address development challenges in the City's Downtown. Through the discussion, the Panelists identified strategies for the City to consider in its efforts to revitalize the Downtown and return the Central Business District to the bustling activity center of prior years.



**Question 1. Market Potential:** What is the market potential for Downtown – viable uses, location, etc.? What steps should the City take to increase the market for retail, office and other compatible uses on Main Street?

**Develop an anchor** that will be a central activity center to lure people Downtown, become a source of resident pride, create demand and spur additional commercial activity.

### Panel Discussion:

The Panel discussed how to create market potential and the necessary demand in the Downtown Area. Currently consumer demand in Eloy concentrates on nonprofit social support systems. However, the City would like to activate robust commercial market demand. To do this, it is necessary to focus on the creation of Downtown destinations. “For profit” is currently doing well along Interstate 10, but the Downtown Area lacks vibrancy because of significant stretches of vacant buildings and lots, and a weakening housing stock. Eloy has attractive land pricing, so this is a good opportunity since population growth is expected to dramatically increase in the Sun Corridor over the next 20 years. As the City considers ways to locate retail uses and repurpose housing in the Downtown Area, developing an anchor is a huge piece of the puzzle. A downtown anchor might include specialty restaurants, small shops, or entertainment. The right anchor will be the catalyst to induce additional activity and define the community brand. People crave liveliness in a downtown activity center with dining and housing options. Market trends have revealed that both younger and older demographic groups desire the quality of life and livability of smaller, walkable communities.

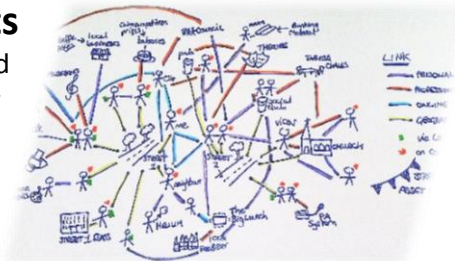
### Strategies/Implementation Actions:

- Develop a “flagship” restaurant/retail center with the necessary dining options to demonstrate confidence in other business operations opening Downtown.

- Offer truckers healthier dining options through van shuttles between truck stops to Downtown. Initiatives are underway in the trucking industry to focus on healthier choices, such as creating systems for physical activity and having access to nutritious food along trips.
- Attract professionals who have community roots, especially Millennials, back as residents in essential service occupations, i.e. finance, insurance, real estate, tax, legal, etc.

## Map and connect existing community assets

to create a network of regional and local businesses, schools, and service institutions that can assist with economic and community development efforts.



### Panel Discussion:

The Panel discussed how the relationships among community assets lead to innovative ideas, resources, and build capacities for stronger economic health, workforce training, and education. Mapping what assets currently exist is a good first step towards organizing the people in the region to take active roles in building a more vibrant Eloy. When the region's existing support organizations are identified, they will reveal interconnections and lead to different opportunities to combine and leverage resources, spurring collective action to address important community development issues. A strong, active Eloy will be built on the foundation of assets already in place. Schools, hospitals, churches, libraries, social and service clubs, and health care centers are assets that improve Eloy's livability and quality of community life.

### Strategies/Implementation Actions:

- Collaborate with Sun Life Health Center. They focus on community redevelopment and bring in grants and funding resources. They likely have a particular interest in Downtown revitalization due to their close proximity to the area.
- Develop a connection with the high school and local businesses that could lead to job training opportunities, entry positions, and nutrition services with local produce growers.
- Identify and connect the various regional institutions who can provide supportive services to grow the skilled workforce pool. There are a number of Vietnam Veterans living in Eloy. The Housing Authority is currently working with families, senior/disabled individuals, and Veterans. The City should collaborate with the Housing Authority on a Strategic Housing Reinvestment Plan to target limited resources and address opportunities for affordable workforce housing.
- Leverage the City's willing and active volunteers (e.g. Eloy Rotary Club and Robson Ranch) who focus on a soup kitchens, safety events, etc. Community-based neighborhood organizations are a ready source of active partners to address community issues.

**Survey area employers** to gather information regarding: 1) how to bring more people and businesses into the Downtown Area; 2) the amenities desired by employees; 3) the specific employer workforce training needs; and 4) possible business expansion or Downtown location opportunities.



**Panel Discussion:**

The Panel discussed Eloy’s focus on economic development in the Downtown Area and how it is important to understand the support for existing businesses and local entrepreneurs. Businesses that are already located in the region are important assets and may expand and have a presence on Main Street someday. The goal is to listen to what is important to their business and employees, and to outline what investments are essential to them in the Downtown. This will also increase awareness on how to support their business retention and potential expansion needs.

**Strategies/Implementation Actions:**

- Meet with local businesses (e.g. Sun Life Health Center, Veteran’s Center, Eloy Airport companies, Skydive Arizona, Lucky Nickel Farming) and discuss opportunities and potential partnerships. Work with Access Arizona on business survey efforts.
- Identify primary businesses who are attracting customers and visitors to Eloy and examine prospects of expanding outpost operations to locate in the Downtown (e.g. Skydive Arizona parachute display).
- Develop a strong connection with local businesses to share and foster ideas that can help them grow and build the labor force, e.g. training mechanics to service the local truck stops, local electricians, etc.

**Convert vacant space to incubator workspaces** and create opportunities for start-up and small businesses. Offering incubator, accelerator and co-working spaces to small businesses in Eloy’s Downtown will transform the underutilized and vacant commercial spaces and build capacity for businesses to grow and expand.



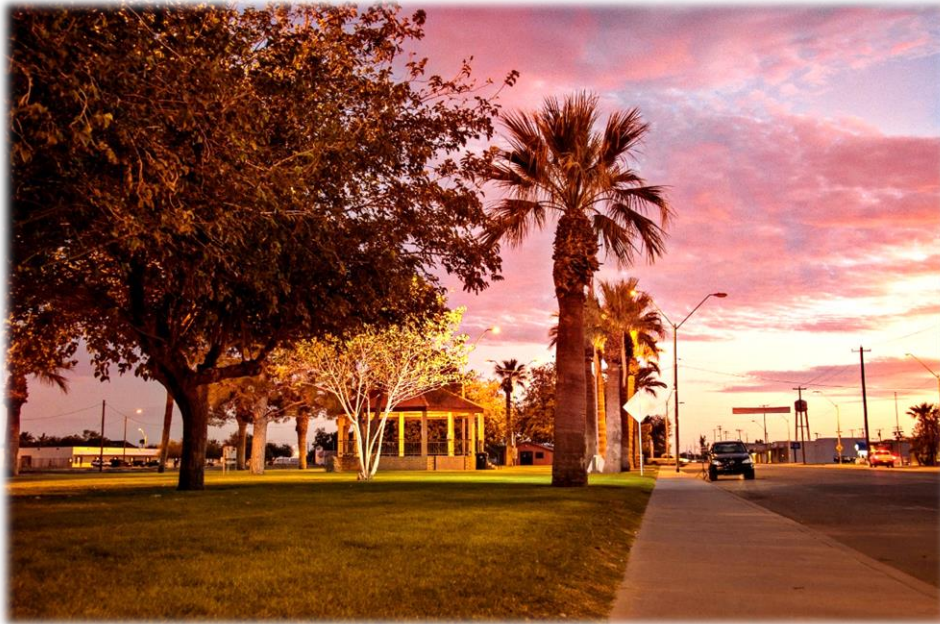
**Panel Discussion:**

The Panel discussed how the pockets of vacant buildings in the Downtown Area are currently a drag on development and people going downtown. Transforming the dead space will build confidence in Downtown Eloy and signal to the brokerage and development community that the City is truly “open for business” (e.g. DeSoto Market in Phoenix). The City owns several lots and buildings Downtown that could be immediate opportunities to convert blighted space into active commercial. Temporary uses generate activity and interest for sites that are not ripe for redevelopment and may provide short-term space for entrepreneurial start-up businesses. Nationwide, communities are increasingly preventing vacant lands

from lying fallow through temporary uses, such as community gardens and green spaces, event and festival sites, and food truck stations.

**Strategies/Implementation Actions:**

- Entice businesses Downtown through various incentives.
- Consider the vacant buildings as opportunities for businesses to get started or turn them into workforce training centers.
- Temporarily convert the vacant Downtown buildings into local agriculture outlets. The community garden in Eloy grows produce for the food bank but is not near Downtown, so this could be an opportunity to expand the garden's presence and operations.
- Create a Downtown Mercado that links Eloy's Hispanic heritage to food. When empty storefronts are divided among a variety of tenants, the different occupants share the risk. This activity can also serve as an incubator to build tenant capacity for eventually establishing individual full service operations. People want to experience authentic places. There often is a synergy among the different tenants (e.g. East coast fish markets), and together they create a unique experience.





## Question 2. Planning and Design:

What character improvements need to occur to attract or influence the market potential?

**Cultivate a brand** that tells the unique story of Eloy’s deep family roots, diversity, cultural pride, agricultural history, and skydiving appeal. Own the community’s important historical elements and curate an experience through physical design elements and infrastructure, and social and educational programming.

### Panel Discussion:

The Panel discussed how many of the successful communities in the country have a trademark feel to them (e.g. San Antonio, Santa Fe, Savannah, etc.). Through local development policies, communities build identity. For example, the Town of Gilbert has consistent implementation of brand and identity in the downtown Heritage District that celebrates the Town’s small town, agricultural legacy. Having a vision that pronounces that City’s unique character and promoting the brand in local amenities and infrastructure helps attract potential visitors and residents. Community development practitioners strive to create unique, authentic destinations in downtowns. Branding the Main Street district should be about telling the “one of a kind” Eloy story in the people, buildings, history, character, shops, restaurants and infrastructure.

### Strategies/Implementation Actions:

- Develop a marketing plan that outlines how to tell the Eloy story, where it is told Downtown and throughout the City, how to celebrate it through community functions, and how it is reflected in Downtown design elements (e.g. Coronado Island Spanish origins).
- Ensure the brand essence melds the existing character, traditions, and celebrated historic buildings.
- Make the brand profound with many layers and opportunities to attract different market segments, e.g. festivals, tours (“seed to seed” farming), monuments, museums, recreation, education, etc.
- Create artistic gateways with historical and cultural orientations that welcomes visitors and residents to the Downtown Area at key entries.
- Maximize the Eloy Visitor Center as a principal resource for bringing more people to the Downtown Area.



## Activate Main Street and its connections to

foster revitalization and to move people to the Downtown expeditiously from Interstate 10.



### Panel Discussion:

The Panel discussed how streetscape enhancements, signage, and street interconnectivity will orient visitors, residents, and employers, enhancing the pedestrian experience. People typically will walk within a defined 0.25 mile Main Street segment where a critical mass of commercial retail and restaurants demonstrate “we are open for business”. The City’s ongoing investment in water and streetscape improvements supported by Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) and Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) capital already demonstrates a strong government commitment for the Downtown.

### Strategies/Implementation Actions:

- Narrow the width of Main Street by adding on-street parking and add pedestrian scale and landscape amenities to improve the function and image of the public right-of-way for all users.
- Add identifiable elements, wayfinding, and directional signage to guide people Downtown. Recognized gateways will provide notice of transition and contribute to the sense of arrival.
- Implement the improvements necessary incrementally to make Eloy vibrant to attract business and retail. Don’t do too much too fast, be strategic with limited resources.
- Manage parking (e.g. on-street, vertical, shared, etc.) to maintain easy access to businesses, especially in the early stages.
- Support design improvements such as wider sidewalks, and visible, safe pedestrian crossings and access points that lead pedestrians to businesses, retail space, and key civic and gathering spaces like Central Main Street Park.

*“A bad road can be forgiven if the place is pulsating and alive with activity. A great road might be nothing if the place is silent.”*

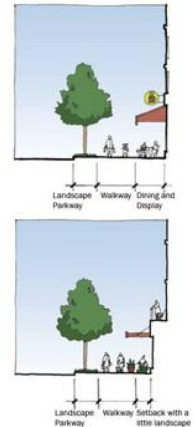
- Trevor Barger, Espiritu Loci, TAP Panelist



**Develop design guidelines** to build Eloy’s distinct character and brand (e.g. Town of Gilbert’s Heritage Area). Incorporate consistent characteristics and attributes in guidelines that will foster architecturally cohesive development and will provoke discovery experiences from residents and visitors (i.e. “the ability to go from little shop to little shop”).

**Panel Discussion:**

The Panel discussed how successful downtowns have virtues that attract residents, shoppers and visitors who find it different from and more desirable than other places. The virtues may disappear if new development does not carefully relate to the existing design context. Design guidelines influence the general character of projects to preserve important qualities and to promote a cohesive community brand.



**Strategies/Implementation Actions:**

- Create design guidelines with strategic community input to ensure consistency with community goals.
- Develop character elements (e.g. vegetation, artworks, murals, signage, lighting, colors, texture, materials integration, shading, etc.) that will celebrate the history, culture, and traditions of Eloy, while also heightening the overall appeal and functionality of the Downtown.





**Question 3. Investment Strategies:** Is the City appropriately investing in its infrastructure to create a vibrant Main Street? Should the City acquire land along and proximate to Main Street? What other investment strategies should be considered?

**Critically evaluate alternative “Main Streets”** under consideration in the Downtown Area and identify where key design elements and development concentrations are strategically located. Focus public and private energy and investments on the preferred corridor.

**Panel Discussion:**

The Panel discussed, including sketching out different scenarios on maps, potentially moving the focus of Main Street to a different location configuration along either Main, Stuart or Frontier Streets. Visitors accessing Downtown from I-10 should be able to orient to Main Street easily and know this corridor transports them Downtown. There are several areas of focus currently in the Downtown Area that should be thoughtfully considered to determine where strategic investment efforts make the most sense.

**Strategies/Implementation Actions:**

- Potentially move “Main Street”. Stuart Street could be emphasized due to the locations of the Chamber of Commerce, behavioral health, medical, possible new civic center, etc. Another option is to block off



- Direct people to Downtown by restricting short cut streets and adding “wayfinding” to channel people to wherever “Main Street” locates. Develop the gateway to Downtown with pronounced amenities and then opening up to the dominant street to guide people where to go.
- Understand how people make decisions to get to Downtown Eloy. The different electronic map support applications (e.g. MapQuest, Yahoo, Google) currently direct traffic via different routes. Focus investment on a route of preference, so visitors can experience the transition to the walkable Downtown Area of activity.
- Redirect and emphasize the through-traffic movement from Sunshine Boulevard to Main Street because no regional traffic has to travel through Downtown currently.
- Recognize that a tipping point of roadway congestion and scarce parking can be a positive performance measure.
- Main Street is too wide currently. Shrink and narrow from its edges so that retail and commercial uses feel closer together and people feel comfortable crossing the Street. Employ traffic calming through the use of landscaped curb bump outs along with on-street parking on both sides.
- As the City explores building a new civic center, make sure the new location will enhance activity and pedestrian traffic on Main Street.

**Acquire and assemble land** in the Downtown Area. It is prudent for the City to control as much property as possible both north and south of Frontier Street for strategic opportunities.

**Panel Discussion:**

The Panel discussed how it is beneficial for a municipality to manage its own property holdings to encourage private or possibly public-private development. It can be easier to advance community goals and market a brand when the City owns and assembles downtown parcels to attract private investment. “Control your own destiny”. Gilbert owns a lot of land in its Heritage District, which simplifies the Town’s ability to adhere to its brand and strong sense of place. Maintaining municipal



control over the vacant and underutilized buildings in the Downtown Area will also make it easier to advance short-term temporary use of space to activate private revitalization/redevelopment.

**Strategies/Implementation Actions:**

- Establish a database of City-owned Downtown property to respond to requests for information from prospective Downtown businesses.
- Inventory available public property within the Downtown Area and identify parcels with the highest yield potential.
- Develop a strategic plan for land acquisition with identified goals for assemblage of land and redevelopment in prime areas.

- Acquire right of way access where necessary to redirect traffic through Downtown.
- Approach financial institutions about their portfolio of Downtown parcels to determine their willingness to donate and take the write-off.

**Devote public and private monies and other resources judiciously** since they are limited. Be careful not to create competition between Downtown and other activity centers.

**Panel Discussion:**

The Panel discussed the importance of outlining a framework of actions that are designed to produce positive financial results while balancing limited City resources. Being strategic with incentives to targeted uses, street, water, and sewer upgrades to enhance capacity and adequacy, and marketing and branding efforts to build external awareness will continue to positively leverage efforts and resources.



**Strategies/Implementation Actions:**

- Invest in signage, way finding, brand/image, land banking, public utilities and infrastructure improvements where/when possible, and financially feasible.
- Central Main Street Park is well maintained and should be referenced as a best practice to prudently manage public resource expenditures.

**Build financial partnerships with banks**, such as, but not limited to, Great Western Bank and Pinal County Federal Credit Union. Look for opportunities where mutual objectives can be realized through their financial participation in implementation efforts.

**Panel Discussion:**

The panel discussed the federal Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and how banks also have community development missions to assist populations and businesses who are located in their region. The perceived inability of some banks to serve certain geographies may result from inaccurate or incomplete demographic or economic information. It is important to maintain open communications to increase the awareness of the City's economic and community development needs as well as the demand for loans and equity investments in local projects.



**Strategies/Implementation Actions:**

- Reach out to regional financial institutions regarding their respective CRA requirements and how they are fulfilling its objectives of providing capital and financial services to Eloy residents and businesses.
- Assess the financial institutions' investment willingness. This is a good opportunity to have focused conversations regarding the balance of investment/loan portfolios with local banking deposit levels.
- Talk with Access Arizona and the City's small-business owners about finance and equity needs. Financial institutions usually have a local Community Investment Officer who can assist with CRA opportunities.





**Question 4. Finance Strategies:** How do we finance – public private partnerships and other sources? What entities could or should assist?

**Enhance grant writing capacity** to know which agencies and organizations have money, the timing of submission/grant awards, and how to submit (and resubmit) compelling grant applications for Downtown Area development. Eloy has the existing characteristics to demonstrate need, which opens the ability to submit for more grants and resources, thus leveraging local funds.



**Panel Discussion:**

The Panel discussed how grants provide much-needed funding and enhance the community's capacity for change. However, grant writing is a very technical process and submittal and review can be viewed as subjective. Understanding where to look for money, how to clarify project goals and objectives, especially the roles and responsibilities, and clearly describing the problem/needs statements are imperative for successful grant applications. Eloy meets the eligibility standards in many grants and should actively pursue them.

**Strategies/Implementation Actions:**

- Example grant sources include:
  - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), e.g. Florence downtown efforts
  - Economic Development Administration (EDA)
  - Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
  - Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) \$2 million rural infrastructure grants to promote base industry development (not retail)
  - Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) Home funds
  - Department of Labor (DOL) training money
  - Arizona Office of Tourism
  - Arizona Lottery small community grant program
  - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
  - Utilities
  - Foundations

- Think outside of the box. The more linkages made, the better chances of the City obtaining money. Start small, realize success and move to the next step. Going after too much too soon can cause failure.
- Look for an established nonprofit to receive grants and partner with various groups, such as with Sun Life Healthcare Center.
- Get to know Sun Life Healthcare Center and how they operate. They obtain federal funds for ancillary services. This relationship can be important because a range of community development activities can be eligible for funding through a health organization. Healthcare centers also usually have grant writers on staff or on contract.
- Review Pinal County Health Assessment data to understand important health indicators for the City. “Building healthy places” is a popular cross-disciplinary theme to link human health with the built environment. There are numerous national, regional, and local organizations / foundations available as potential sponsors, or as resources for tools and best practice information to advance approaches to healthy buildings, projects, and health-promoting operations. (e.g. Centers for Disease Control, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Robert Wood Johnson, Kresge, Urban Land Institute, Smart Growth America, AARP, Arizona Department of Health Services, St. Luke’s Health Initiative).
- Keep up-to-date on the various efforts to restore the Arizona Heritage Fund. This could be a good source for the Dust Bowl Theatre to be refurbished.
- Connect with arts organizations to include art in public streetscape improvements (e.g. Casa Grande *Life on Main Master Plan*).

**Develop a capital inventory of available financial resources**, including debt and equity resources to support community development and related infrastructure activities.

**Panel Discussion:**

The Panel discussed how outlining the associated risk and expected returns of each available resource builds stronger investment decision-making and explores different funding options, such as General Obligation (GO) Bonds, Community Facilities Districts (CFDs), revitalization districts, secondary taxes, special assessment bonds, real estate and development crowdfunding resources, municipal development agreements, etc. Eloy is in a good financial position because the City currently has no GO Bond debt.



**Strategies/Implementation Actions:**

- Evaluate the feasibility of financing one big public improvement through a GO Bond.
- Evaluate whether to set up a Revitalization District. The Arizona Legislature approved the creation of Revitalization Districts outside of Maricopa County in 2011 for planning, designing, repairing, and operating defined public infrastructure or providing enhanced municipal services (see ARS

Title 48). Revitalization Districts must not reduce levels of service, need to have majority of property owner participation, and have a focus on specific goals. For example, the City of Flagstaff recently approved a Business Improvement and Revitalization District for their downtown to fund comprehensive downtown management and planning of infrastructure improvements and services, such as parking.

- Monitor discussion related to bringing back Tax Increment Financing (TIF). TIF is a tool (not currently available in Arizona) that allows a community to “freeze” the existing property tax within a defined area. As the community undertakes future projects within that area, the community captures the increase or increment that allows payment or repayment of public improvements. The boundaries of a Revitalization District, if strategically defined, may also set the boundary for a TIF District, if so desired in the future.
- Take advantage of available business assistance resources. The Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) has a revolving loan fund program, the Arizona Innovation Accelerator Fund, to stimulate financing of small businesses and manufacturers, but it requires cash flow. Perhaps a local or regional financial institution comes in first and the ACA loan fund is the second position.

**Create a Downtown Advisory Committee** to review specific recommendations and actions to improve the Downtown Area, monitor grant efforts, and navigate the many issues which need to be addressed by the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

**Panel Discussion:**

The Panel discussed the benefits of a Downtown Advisory Committee. A group is needed that could coalesce a variety of public, private, nonprofit disciplines and perspectives. Such a group could help coordinate activities focused on the Downtown business environment and creating additional public amenities that strengthen its sense of place. The Committee would meet regularly to identify and discuss issues, explore plausible opportunities, review and monitor implementation progress, and make recommendations to the Eloy City Council.



**Strategies/Implementation Actions:**

- Ensure the Advisory Committee includes a diverse membership with all members having a stake in the goals (e.g. Sun Life Family Health Center, Great Western Bank, Chamber of Commerce, Eloy Visitor Center, Access Arizona, Rotary Club, local businesses, prison, farms, etc.).
- Consider setting up a nonprofit entity (i.e. 501(c) (3)) to be the lead organizational resource for the Downtown Area with City Council Members and land owners participating in an advisory capacity.
- Don't be afraid of not-for-profits operating Downtown. The social ventures that interest nonprofits fit well with the community because of lower costs (e.g. La Paloma Restaurant, Heart of Eloy, and the popular Florence Fudge Company).



### Question 5. Incentive Strategies:

How do we use community resources effectively to help create desired outcomes?

**Consider forming a Special District** to assist Downtown Area redevelopment and public infrastructure improvements through statutorily authorized finance mechanisms (e.g. Improvement, Revitalization, Community Facilities, etc.) that are intended to enhance public services and neighborhood amenities in designated areas.

#### Panel Discussion:

The Panel discussed how cities form and use special improvement districts to finance supplemental public services in downtown commercial areas. There are a variety of districts authorized by state legislation in Arizona and many are funded by assessment fees paid by merchants and property owners within the district.

#### Strategies/Implementation Actions:

- Consider the Government Property Lease Excise Tax (GPLET) as a redevelopment tool to initiate development. The foundation for GPLET is a provision in Arizona's tax code that exempts land owned by governments from property taxes. GPLET allows a city to take over the rights to a piece of land and lease it back to the developer at a significantly reduced rate that replaces the normal property tax.
- Focus on adaptive reuse projects that transition older buildings for new business uses to promote building efforts that preserve Eloy's history and contribute economic vitality and authenticity.
- Explore a façade improvement program offering discounted or matching funds to qualifying businesses (Panelists noted that matching programs demonstrate "skin in the game"). For example, the City of Glendale has a Commercial Visual Improvement Program that assists in the improvement of commercial or industrial properties by offering a rebate of up to 50% of any qualified improvement costs.
- Offer incentives that create easier paths for property owners to develop and reinvest, such as waiving or reducing permit / development fees, offering density bonuses, providing lease abatement in City-owned buildings to jumpstart business, providing flexible zoning code requirements and development standards when certain conditions are met, and working to resolve business expansion or relocation conflicts with existing regulations (e.g. example of La Paloma desiring patio expansion but fire restrictions prohibiting).

- Consider a parking district so that businesses do not have to worry about accounting for parking ratios because it is provided and managed by the City.

**Explore Public-Private-Partnership (P3) opportunities** to help the City advance Downtown Area priorities through private projects that leverage public investment dollars.

**Panel Discussion:**

The Panel discussed why P3's are worthy opportunities. Many cities are considering these partnerships, as they are not only intended to maximize resources, but also to institute operating efficiencies.



**Strategies/Implementation Actions:**

- Develop a “Farm-to-Market” Program that could include the following scenario:
  1. The City will provide grocery retail space to local farmers wanting to sell local, organic foods in a vacant location Downtown (e.g. Lucky Nickel Farm);
  2. The farmers will provide training and jobs to local Veterans;
  3. The farmers’ produce will be provided to workforce nonprofits (e.g. La Paloma Restaurant);
  4. Workforce nonprofits can expand operations Downtown; and
  5. A Sustainable Agriculture Festival can be coordinated with the Farm-to-Market Program partners to attract visitors to Eloy.
- Collaborate with local businesses to assist growth and expansion needs. Develop cross-promotional opportunities where the City’s brand can be marketed (e.g. La Paloma Restaurant, Lucky Nickel, Skydive Arizona).
- Consider a P3 for the City-owned Dust Bowl Theatre to reduce its cost. A previous cost was estimated at approximately \$4.5 million to accomplish the adaptive reuse of the theatre, the plaza and to integrate a community center.



**Going Forward: Top 5 Priorities:** What are the top five steps that would have the potential to make the Downtown Area a place that would attract investment?

**Create Downtown Advisory Committee** comprised of major public, private, nonprofit stakeholders whose mission is to drive actions and Downtown planning efforts (e.g. Access Arizona, Eloy Chamber of Commerce, Visitor Center, Pinal County Hispanic Council, etc.). Establish a central organizer (ideally a paid position) who addresses the goals holistically, oversees tasks, writes grants, coordinates the critical players, and connects with potential partners (DOL, health centers, etc.). Having a point person who views the City holistically will help keep the various efforts in sync and moving forward.

**Survey Local Businesses and Employers** to find out what services they are lacking or would like to have so that they remain and expand their companies in the City, especially in the Downtown Area.

**Establish a Recognizable Identity, Community Brand, and Market** to bring people to live, work, and play in Eloy. Make sure infrastructure design concepts and projects support the image. If the image ends up celebrating organic agriculture, then consider reexamining the current theatre, community center and plaza design concepts.

**Prioritize the Alternative “Main Streets”**, pick one, and invest in pursuits that bring people to Main Street. Use the Main Street Area as a stage for every major activity and celebration that takes place in Eloy.

**Develop the Overall Plan** that promotes Eloy’s brand/identity, has specific goals, and coalesces stakeholders. Strike while the iron is hot and find the smallest tangible successful outcome(s) to stimulate momentum. Celebrate each successful outcome and market it through various mediums.



## Panelist Biographies

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### **Trevor Barger, President, Espiritu Loci**

Trevor founded Espiritu Loci in 1997. He received a Bachelor of Science in Design, focusing on Housing and Urban Development, from Arizona State University in 1995. He earned a Master's of Science in Planning from the University of Arizona in 1997. Trevor has formally studied urban design around the country and around the world, in such places as Mexico, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, France, Spain, Germany, England and Canada. His studies abroad focused on the cultures and design techniques used in other countries to solve urban issues. He is an accomplished and certified planner, having worked on the projects that stretch to provide wonderful places for modern families to experience life.



### **Dana Belknap, Shareholder, Gallagher & Kennedy**

Dana practices in the areas of land use, real estate development and governmental affairs. She has represented various regional and national developers and landowners in the planning and development of mixed-use, master-planned communities by assisting in a broad range of issues, including master planning and land use entitlements, negotiating annexations and development agreements, and advising on archaeological issues, infrastructure financing and development, analysis of water rights and environmental protections. In 2012, Dana was named among the "Best Lawyers in America," along with nearly two thirds of her fellow G&K shareholders. Dana earned her J.D., with honors, and her B.A, with honors, from University of Texas



### **Susan Demmitt, Member, Gammage & Burnham**

Susan concentrates her practice in the areas of land use, development law and real estate transactions. Prior to attending law school, Susan worked for over a decade as a land use consultant for some of the most respected land use attorneys in Phoenix, allowing her to build close relationships with a wide-ranging network of developers, consultants, and city officials. She has extensive experience managing land use entitlement cases, negotiating annexation and development agreements, formation of special taxing districts, transactional counseling, development permitting, administrative proceedings and strategic oversight of public outreach campaigns involving collaboration with neighborhood organizations, political action groups and local media. Susan earned her J.D. from Arizona State University, where she was a Pedrick Scholar, and her bachelor's degree from Kansas State University, where she graduated from the College of Architecture, Planning and Design.



### **Lani Lott, President, L.L. Consulting**

Lani is committed to assisting communities with the revitalization and economic development of their historic downtown cores, traditional commercial districts, urban commercial corridors, neighborhood districts and business improvement areas. With over 23 years in the field, Ms. Lott provides technical assistance and consulting services that include fundraising and funding plan development, organizational formation and training, Main Street program development and management, business development strategies and programs, strategic planning and visioning, marketing, promotional and tourism strategies, business improvement district formation and management and small business consulting and coaching. Prior to launching L.L. Consulting, Ms. Lott was a senior consultant for a national revitalization consulting firm. She holds a bachelor of science in public administration from California State University, Sacramento.



**Joe McClure, Principal, McClure Consulting**

Joe's multidisciplinary background incorporates many phases of the community and real estate development process: economic analysis and strategy development, market and financial feasibility assessment, and planning and design. Joe has an M.S. in Urban Planning, in a program that emphasized regional economics, from the University of Arizona and completed additional post graduate work in economic geography at UA. He has a B.S. in Architecture from the University of Cincinnati, and is a registered architect in Arizona. McClure directs the firm's technical focus on regional/land economic services – regional economic analysis and strategic planning, real estate feasibility, and economic impacts of development – and coordinates creative activities within the firm that include promoting innovation in economic development strategic planning.



**Mark Stapp, Executive Director, Master of Real Estate Development Program, the Fred E. Taylor Professor of Real Estate, W.P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University**

Mark is the Executive Director of the Master of Real Estate Development Program and the Fred E. Taylor Professor of Real Estate in the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. He also serves as a faculty associate in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at ASU. Mr. Stapp is also the Managing Member of Pyramid Community Developers, LLC, an investment and development firm of projects throughout the US and provider of asset management and design consultation services. Mr. Stapp completed his undergraduate work in environmental studies and urban design at William Paterson University, did his graduate work in urban economics at Arizona State University and was a member of the 2000 Stanford University Graduate School of Business Executive and Professional Education program. In 2007, Mr. Stapp received a Doctor of Humane Letters from A.T. Still University, for his work in community sustainability, health and wellness.



**Silvia Urrutia, Director of Housing & Healthcare, Raza Development Fund**

Silvia serves as the Director of Housing and Healthcare at RDF. As Director, she leads the company's vision and strategic planning in those sectors and oversees Business Development, Client Relations and Financing nationwide. Additionally, she provides technical assistance to many organizations, including the Illinois Latino Family Commission. Ms. Urrutia has extensive knowledge of community development and her experience includes: financing of affordable housing, healthcare facilities and charter schools; providing technical assistance; planning and developing mixed-income, mixed-finance projects; and utilizing collaborative leadership to revitalize neighborhoods. Ms. Urrutia holds a Bachelor degree from Arizona State University, a Juris Doctor from the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law, and has completed courses at Harvard's Business School and Graduate School of Design. She was an Adjunct Professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston – College of Public & Community Service. She is fluent in English and Spanish.



**Keith Watkins, Senior Vice President, Arizona Commerce Authority**

Keith serves as the Senior Vice President of the Arizona Commerce Authority's Economic and Rural Development Division. Keith leads the ACA's efforts in advancing the rural economies of Arizona. In so doing, he has been instrumental in working with Arizona's rural communities to enhance their competitive offering so that they are capable of competing on the global scale. Mr. Watkins has pioneered the state of Arizona's first integrated Certified Sites program which is designed to showcase rural Arizona's very best development ready, industrial and office properties to employers seeking new locations. Prior to joining the Arizona Commerce Authority in 2011, Mr. Watkins spent 25 years in the real estate and economic development arenas and has a decorated history of bringing some of Arizona's largest employers to the state. Keith also has significant experience in the land development arena where he was responsible for the entitlement and development of large scale master planned communities. Mr. Watkins is a third generation Arizonan, is a graduate of the University of Arizona with a degree in Regional Development.

## Appendix

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- ❖ **Agenda of AzTAP Panel Session**
  
- ❖ **TAP Briefing Document Presentation (prepared by Jon Vlaming, Community Development Director, City of Eloy – under separate cover)**
  
- ❖ **TAP Briefing Document (prepared by City of Eloy-under separate cover)**



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### City of Eloy AzTAP Panel Day Agenda

Thursday, April 30, 2015  
8:00am to 4:30pm  
Eloy Santa Cruz Library  
1000 N. Main Street, Eloy, Arizona 85131

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8:00am	<b>Panelists Arrive</b>
8:15am	<b>Tour of Study Area</b>
9:15am	<b>Welcome and Overview of Issues Being Considered</b> Mayor Joel G. Belloc, City of Eloy Harvey Krauss, Manager, City of Eloy Jon Vlaming, Interim Community Development Director, City of Eloy
9:50am	<b>Panel Introduction and ULI AzTAP Process Review</b> Mark Stapp, Executive Director, MRED/W.P. Carey School of Business, ASU, ULI AzTAP Panel Moderator
10:00am	<b>Question 1 - Market Potential</b> What is the market potential for downtown – viable uses, location, etc.? What steps should the City take to increase the market for retail, office and other compatible uses on Main Street?
10:30am	<b>Question 2 - Planning and Design</b> What character improvements need to occur to attract or influence the market potential?
11:00am	<b>Question 3 – Investment Strategies</b> Is the City appropriately investing in its infrastructure to create a vibrant Main Street? Should the City acquire land along and proximate to Main Street? What other investment strategies should be considered?
11:45am	<b>Public Comment</b>
12:00pm	<b>Lunch and Presentations</b>
1:15pm	<b>Question 4 – Finance Strategies</b> How do we finance – public private partnerships and other sources? What entities could or should assist?
2:00pm	<b>Question 5 – Incentive Strategies</b> How do we use community resources effectively to help create desired outcomes?
3:00pm	<b>Going Forward: Top 5 Priorities</b> What are the top five steps that would have the potential to make the downtown a place that would attract investment?
3:50pm	<b>Public Comment</b>
4:00pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>
4:30pm	<b>Adjourn</b>



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*ULI Arizona Technical Assistance Panel*



**CITY OF ELOY  
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

Agenda Item: **V.B.**

Date: **3/22/2023**

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**Date submitted:**  
03/20/2023

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**Action:** Other

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**Subject:** Staff to provide an update on the completion of the painting of the building columns on both sides of Main Street, from Frontier Street to 5th Street.

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**Date requested:**  
3/22/2023

**TO:** Downtown Advisory Commission

**FROM:** Jeffrey Fairman

**RECOMMENDATION:**

There is not a recommendation associated with the completion of the column painting.

**DISCUSSION:**

This project was completed in early March. Staff will provide an update of the process and expressions of support elicited by the Community.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This project was completed with a total of \$11,850 in funding from the City's general fund through a competitive bidding process, which which was substantially lower than other estimates presented to Staff.

**CITY OF ELOY  
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

**Agenda Item: VI.A.**

**Date: 3/22/2023**

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**Date submitted:**  
03/20/2023

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**Action:** Other

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**Subject:** Staff will present a framework for the establishment of a volunteer committee of the Eloy Revitalization Commission for the Commission's consideration and approval.

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**Date requested:**  
3/22/2023

**TO:** Downtown Advisory Commission

**FROM:** Jeffrey Fairman

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None at this time

**CITY OF ELOY  
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

**Agenda Item: VI.B.**

**Date: 3/22/2023**

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**Date submitted:**  
03/20/2023

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**Action:** Formal

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**Subject: Commission to consider and nominate one of its members to serve as the inaugural volunteer committee leader.**

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**Date requested:**  
3/22/2023

**TO:** Downtown Advisory Commission

**FROM:** Jeffrey Fairman

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on the results of Item B. above, the Commission will ask for nominations for a Commission member to be the inaugural volunteer committee leader. Following the Coordinator selection, there will be a discussion of potential future projects.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**CITY OF ELOY**  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

**Agenda Item: VI.C.**

**Date: 3/22/2023**

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**Date submitted:**  
03/20/2023

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**Action:** Resolution

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**Subject: Commission to accept Staff's support for the involuntary resignation of Ms. George Hargis and conduct a subsequent search for a new Revitalization Commission member.**

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**Date requested:**  
3/22/2023

**TO:** Downtown Advisory Commission

**FROM:** Jeffrey Fairman

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests the Commission's approval of this agenda item.

**DISCUSSION:**

Staff will ask for the Commission's acknowledgement of Ms. George Hargis' involuntary resignation from the Revitalization Commission and send to Council for their acceptance and authorization to advertise or otherwise find potential applicants for Council approval.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

**CITY OF ELOY  
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

**Agenda Item: VI.D.**

**Date: 3/22/2023**

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**Date submitted:**  
03/20/2023

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**Action:** Formal

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**Subject: Commission to nominate and elect a Chairperson for Calendar Year 2023**

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**Date requested:**  
3/22/2023

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**TO:** Downtown Advisory Commission

**FROM:** Jon Vlaming

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Commission to approve a Chairperson for Calendar Year 2023

**DISCUSSION:**

A Chair and Vice Chair are to be nominated and elected each year by the members of the Commission as per City Code.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is not a direct fiscal impact resulting from this action.

**CITY OF ELOY  
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

**Agenda Item: VI.E.**

**Date: 3/22/2023**

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**Date submitted:**  
03/20/2023

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**Action:** Formal

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**Subject: Commission to nominate and elect a Vice Chairperson for Calendar Year 2023**

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**Date requested:**  
3/22/2023

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**TO:** Downtown Advisory Commission

**FROM:** Jon Vlaming

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Commission to approve a Vice Chairperson for Calendar Year 2023

**DISCUSSION:**

A Chair and Vice Chair are to be nominated and elected each year by the members of the Commission as per the City Code

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is not a direct fiscal impact resulting from this action.