

# City Manager's Report

May 9, 2024

Council and Colleagues, greetings. These reports will be included in the City Council packet for Council Work Sessions. The reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the city organization. Appended to this report you will find the April update from PROSE, and the most recent newsletter from Human Resources.

## **HR Director Recruitment**

With assistance from our professional recruitment firm, we have been busy over the past two weeks conducting interviews with candidates for the Human Resources & Risk Management Division. This far there have been three candidates interviewed, each involving a panel review by Leadership, the HR Team, and Executive Management. There will be a fourth candidate to be interviewed the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>, and potentially others.

Stay tuned for outcomes on this very important process. Many thanks to Shannon Anderson for her orchestration of the multiple interview panels ... no easy feat.

## **Budget Retreat**

It was a very successful two-day retreat that was hosted at the Core Services Facility, and facilitated by Jeff Kennedy with Lancaster Leadership. We covered much ground, recapping the overall budget process, Priority Based Budgeting and Community Priorities, revenue projections, employee retention, compensation and benefits, capital projects, five-year planning, new staffing, community services, and a myriad of other topics. Council was engaged and the staff was well prepared, and we are now on our way toward adoption in June.

Thank you!



## Presentation to County Board of Supervisors

We have apprised Council of our preparation and ultimate presentation to the County Board of Supervisors (sitting as the Board for the Coconino Flood Control District) related to the city's Rio de Flag Flood Control Project. This presentation occurred on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Props to the team who prepared, and specifically to Ed Schenk who conducted the presentation masterfully. The presentation was in tandem with updates from the USFS regarding forest health and the many pending forest management contracts that are happening in the upper reaches of the Rio de Flag watershed. It was all very informative, and quite appreciated by the Board.



## Meetings & Events

### Washington, D.C.

The agenda was packed (pasted below) and very meaningful in terms of visits, project updates, and overall relationship building. Please note that on Thursday the agenda was altered to include a noon meeting with Senator Sinema and the Congressman Gosar meeting was cancelled in order to accommodate this.

I am pasting below some great photos from the whirlwind trip ... enjoy!

**City of Flagstaff**  
**Schedule for Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**  
Mayor Becky Daggett, Vice Mayor Austin Aslan and Councilmember Jim  
McCarthy, City Manager Greg Clifton, Deputy City Manager Joanne Keene,  
and Senior Project Manager Christine Cameron

**Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024:**

10:50 am – FLG to DCA

8:10 pm – Arrive at DCA – Canopy Hotel, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, NW; Washington, DC  
20006

**Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024:**

8:00 am – Bob and Ana will meet you at the hotel for a breakfast briefing and strategy session.

10:00 am – meeting with Congressman Greg Stanton in 207 Cannon House Office Building to discuss Rio de Flag, forest health, Pulliam Airport, and FY 25 appropriations requests – Contact: Ricardo Uribe-Campos (202) 225-9998.

11:30 am – VIRTUAL meeting with Associate Administrator for Airports ~~Shanette Griffin~~ to discuss Snow Removal Equipment Building for Pulliam Airport – Contact: ~~Shiree Killens~~, (202) 267-9471 or 2971 – Zoom Link

<https://faavideo.zoomgov.com/j/16103201923> Meeting ID: 161 0320 1923 Passcode: 787925 (Solomon Room is reserved from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm)

12:15 to 1:30 pm – LUNCH

1:45 pm – meeting with Congressman Ruben Gallego to discuss Rio de Flag, forest health, Pulliam Airport, and FY 25 appropriations requests in 1114 Longworth HOB – Contact: Jose Contreras, (202) 225-4065 (Rep. Gallego will have to leave at 2:10 pm)

3:15 pm – meeting with Congressman Eli Crane in 1229 Longworth House Office Building to Discuss Rio de Flag, forest health, Pulliam Airport – Contact: Courtney Buzzetti, (202) 225-3361

7:30 pm – White House West Wing Tour with Rick Hart and Zion ~~Tina~~ – 17th Street and State Place Security Entrance

**Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024:**

8:30 am – Bob and Ana will meet you at the hotel, have bags ready to check out

9:30 am – Meeting with Chris Phalen and David Miller of Senator Sinema's staff to discuss Rio de Flag, forest health, Pulliam Airport, and appropriations requests – Contact: Ethan Sanders, (202) 224-4521.

10:00 am – meeting with Joe Russell and Morgan ~~Guilbeau~~ of Senator Kelly's staff in 516 Hart SOB to discuss Rio de Flag, forest health, Pulliam Airport, and appropriations requests – Contact: Naomi ~~Shubaux~~, (202) 224-2235

11:00 am – meeting with Charles Wilson, Senior Planner for the South Pacific Region of the Army Corps, at 441 G Street, NW to discuss Rio de Flag and 595 projects – Contact: Veronica Bell, (202) 761-4814

11:45 am – meeting with Rory Burke of Congressman Paul ~~Goody~~ in 2057 Rayburn House Office Building to discuss Rio de Flag, forest health and Pulliam Airport – Contact: Leslie Rath ~~Foti~~, (202) 225-2315.

12:15 to 1:30 pm – LUNCH

2:00 pm – Meeting with Evan Wessel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Department of Transportation, and Landon Bailey, Special Assistant, at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW, to discuss RAISE grant for Butler Road and other projects (thanks for the INFRA and PROTECT grants) – Contact: ~~Toyrish Turner~~, (202) 763-6802 or Landon Bailey, (202) 924-4270

**HARD STOP AT 2:30 pm**

5:00 pm – Depart DCA to FLG (Bob will drive you to the airport)

10:50 pm – Arrive in FLG

**Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024:**

11:00 am/8:00 am PST – VIRTUAL meeting with Agriculture Undersecretary Homer Wilkes and Deputy Undersecretary Meryl Harrell to discuss 4FRI, FWPP, ERI and other forest health related issues – Contact: Amanda Lockwood, (202) 720-7174 – [Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 232 267 374 94 Passcode: ~~boFAJL~~.







## **2024 Election**

The City is partnering with the County to use the Aquaplex as a polling location for both the primary and general election. We will be waiving the facility rental fee for the Aquaplex for the election. We are also finalizing an internal policy that will encourage and provide City employees an opportunity to contribute and work on Election Day and serve as Election Day Technicians (EDTs) by providing paid time off for these services.

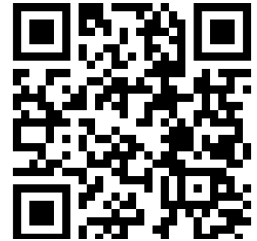
## Housing – 2024 AMI Released

Housing staff have prepared the new 2024 Area Median Income (AMI) limits for the City's homeownership and rental programs, which are based on income limits provided by HUD annually. The income limits are used to determine income eligibility for both federal and local rental programs, as well as the Affordable Homeownership Program. The new AMI tables have been distributed to the City's housing partners and are effective immediately.

## Beulah/University Realignment Project

Great progress is being made at one of the key gateways to our community! With the cooperation and partnerships of the City, ADOT, NAU, Eagle Mountain Construction, numerous businesses, residents, community members, and visitors, the project team is working toward our transition to Phase 2 of the project – which marks the start of the pedestrian underpass.

Currently crews and franchise utilities are working to reroute and connect the underground utilities crossing Milton Road. Underground utilities have been installed east and west of Milton Road and now is the monumental task of connecting the two sides of utilities under Milton Road. As one can imagine there are a myriad of utilities under Milton and due to the installation of the pedestrian underpass, nearly all of them need to be rerouted so they are not in conflict with the underpass.



- Project Website –  
*Sign Up for Weekly Updates!*



Due to the geographic extent of the project, there is a great deal of traffic control signage and rerouting. Pedestrian and bicycle access at Milton and University is closed for the safety of bicyclists, pedestrians, community members, and our construction team. This is an active construction zone and should not be entered by those not part of the construction team. Pedestrians and bicyclists need to utilize the two suggested bike/ped detours which are Plaza Way to the north and Forest Meadows to the south. These crosswalks are fully operational and outside of the active construction zone. The team understands this is an inconvenience; however, safety for our community, visitors, and construction team is our highest priority. Please note that the eastbound lane of University Drive will be open for traffic for NAU's spring graduation weekend (May 10-12).

The project has recently finished the concrete for the raised bike/pedestrian crosswalks in the roundabout, landscaping/irrigation work has started, and the new roundabout and new Beulah Blvd are scheduled to be paved toward the end of May. Beginning after the Fourth of July holiday, the excavation work for the pedestrian underpass will commence followed by the installation of the pre-cast pedestrian underpass which come in 8-foot sections. The underpass work and associated improvements to the University Drive and Milton Road intersection will continue through October 2024 with the whole project expected to be completed by Fall 2025.

Enjoy the below photos, and we may have some drone footage to share as well!



### **Pedestrian Underpass Ramp**

*Picture taken looking east at the western portal approach.  
Note the soil nail wall on the left, which is not the finished face.*



### **New Roundabout**

*Looking north from above the new extended Beulah/Boulevard.*



**New Extended Beulah Boulevard**

*Looking southwest at the southern end of the new extended Beulah Boulevard.  
Note the new continued sidewalk down to Forest Meadows (east/left side).*



**Southern End of New Beulah Boulevard**

*Looking north at the southern end of the new extended Beulah Boulevard.  
Note the median in the center will have a signalized pedestrian crossing.*

## **Linda Vista Culvert**

Last week you had an excellent update on the suite of projects related to Spruce Wash and Hwy 180. Great stuff. In visiting the Linda Vista site recently, the below photo was taken simply to show the utility relocates (see water line, visible in the trench) that are preceding the culvert project.



With that, Council, this report is concluded. Again, two updates are attached for your review. Thank you.