



COUNCIL MINUTES

March 14, 2024

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on March 14, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles
Francisco Heredia
Jennifer Duff
Mark Freeman
Alicia Goforth
Scott Somers
Julie Spilsbury

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Holly Moseley
Jim Smith

Mayor Giles conducted a roll call.

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the March 18, 2024, Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: 6-a through 6-d

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on potential projects for future general obligation bonds including transportation, public safety, and parks and cultural projects.

City Manager Christopher Brady discussed adding a General Obligation Bond to the ballot in November 2024. He said that City Engineer Beth Huning will be going through the past priorities and projects and is looking for Council direction on which projects should be considered for the upcoming bond funding request. He confirmed that the deadline to get the bond questions on the ballot is June 3 and that a final decision needs to be made by the beginning of May.

Ms. Huning displayed a PowerPoint presentation regarding projects from previous bond elections, as well as providing options for the possible upcoming bond request. **(See Attachment 1)**

Ms. Huning declared that it is critical for the community to have a strong infrastructure, and that enhancing public safety has been identified as a priority. She pointed out that projects to modernize the Fire, Medical and Police facilities could include consolidating the Public Safety 911 Communications Center, expanding the City's fiber network for communications, providing neighborhood medical facilities in areas with large call volumes to support mental health, and replacement of aging fire apparatus. (See Pages 2 through 4 of Attachment 1)

In response to questions from the Councilmembers, Assistant City Manager Scott Butler reported that Mesa has engaged a national consulting firm to provide direction on how to refine and enhance the 911 center. He said the consultant provided suggestions on how to improve efficiency, provide better employee conditions, and stressed the importance of co-locating the Police and Fire emergency call centers. He confirmed that the region is making a transition to a future 911 adoption which will improve the technology, but that building improvements and collaboration are also needed. He advised that Mesa also serves as a dispatch service for the seven agencies in the East Valley and that is not expected to change.

Mr. Brady commented that the Police Department is outgrowing their current building, and the Facilities Department is working on determining the cost of either remodeling the existing building or construction of a new building. He added that combining the Public Safety 911 Communications Center into one is a public safety issue that needs to be addressed and is considered a best practice to have both together. He said that the idea of integrating a 311, 411 or 711-call center dedicated to handle the social services and non-emergency calls is being discussed to reduce hold times for 911 callers.

Ms. Huning explained that another way to enhance community safety is through effective street networks and referenced the Mesa Moves projects. She identified four projects that were not completed with the last bond but are still considered a priority. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Responding to questions from Mayor Giles and several Councilmembers, Transportation Department Director RJ Zeder confirmed that the roads in this area are also important to the Town of Queen Creek and that they had assisted with the initial funding of some of the projects that have already been completed. He elaborated that the athletic grounds, airport, and industrial areas create a lot of traffic on Ellsworth Road. He provided the status of the Safe Streets project and clarified that the project is moving forward, indicating that for this area the work just needs to be done and for some of the other projects physical right-of-way space is a challenge. He reported that the City has hired a consultant that is gathering data citywide to determine what improvements are needed as well as the priorities.

Additional discussion ensued regarding Proposition 400, the upcoming Proposition 479, and the determination that the past projects identified in Proposition 400 will not be included in Proposition 479 funding.

Ms. Huning recalled that another priority was to promote active and healthy lifestyles through enhanced recreational facilities. She advised that requests are steadily received for indoor facilities and presented the proposed 76,000 square feet indoor recreation center to be called the Central Mesa Community Center. She pointed out a possible location on 29 acres of City-owned property that offers the opportunity to combine with the library, which fits with the Library Master Plan. She provided details about the proposed indoor facility including a running track,

fitness spaces with strength training, indoor playground, and indoor sports courts. (See Pages 6 and 7 of Attachment 1)

Additional discussion ensued regarding the location of the proposed community center.

Responding to questions from several Councilmembers, Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Department Director Andrea Moore clarified that the purpose of the Community Center is to be a community gathering location and youth center, which will benefit all ages while providing enrichment classes in that service area.

Ms. Huning outlined the outdoor trails and paths system project, which will create walkability and enhance bike and pedestrian access by connecting gaps in the trail system and creating shared use paths. She identified the two approximate locations for pools as Red Mountain Aquatic Facility and Southeast Aquatic Facility. (See Pages 8 through 12 of Attachment 1)

Additional discussion ensued regarding the pool locations.

Ms. Moore described an agreement that Queen Creek School District would provide land for a pool beside Eastmark High School and the City of Mesa would manage and maintain the pool. She advised that the schools pay for the use of the City-maintained pools. She added that the Freemont Pool is the oldest in the City built in 1976 and needs to be renovated or rebuilt.

Ms. Huning continued by explaining that 13 new park properties have been purchased to convert into neighborhood parks which will be used for soccer fields, multi-use courts, playgrounds, ramadas, exercise stations, and dog parks. She stated that an additional 20 acres is still needed in West Mesa for future park expansion. She identified several parks selected as locations for pickleball court additions, which has really activated the City parks. She reported that many of the parks have aging irrigation water controls and confirmed the project to upgrade the controllers to help conserve water at the parks. She identified eight parks in need of renovations. (See Pages 13 through 16 of Attachment 1)

Additional discussion ensued regarding the park renovations.

Ms. Moore clarified that the playground at Harris Park was eliminated because there is not a location on the land suitable for the equipment, not because of costs.

Ms. Huning outlined the desired expansion of educational and cultural experiences. She identified libraries as hubs of knowledge and reiterated the purpose of having a branch library located with the Central Mesa Community Center, as well as adding an express library in the northern part of the city. She reported that the Red Mountain Library requires renovations and provided details about the needed updates. (See Pages 17 and 18 of Attachment 1)

Responding to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Library Director Polly Bonnett confirmed that staff is looking for feedback on the location of the next express library. She said adding express libraries to space around other amenities is a popular concept and has proven to be successful. She expressed the concern to not overwhelm the parks but to balance and accommodate all needs while being cost conscious. She commented that a central library branch would serve a three-mile service radius. She identified a service gap area to the north that could provide an opportunity for the whole city to be served.

Ms. Huning reported the needed upgrades to the museums and art center and added that the Natural History Museum building dates to the 1930's.

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Arts and Culture Director Richard Parison stated that the plan will be to focus the public meetings on the programming and education impact that the museum has on the community and neighborhoods, as well as how the programs combine with the infrastructure to serve the community.

Mr. Brady clarified that a Phase 2 has been created for the i.d.e.a. Museum and the visuals of the design concepts will be readily available for the public to view, adding the drawings for the Natural History Museum are being created.

Arts and Culture Museum Administrator Simon Tipene Adlam confirmed that the designs for the Museum of Natural History updates are in the early stages, noting that a consultant has been hired and a full report is expected to be completed in approximately six months. He reviewed the plan for the community engagement events, reporting that the focus will be to bring families together by looking outside of the walls of the museum and listening to the community's needs to paint a picture of an investment for the future generations.

Ms. Huning stated that the designs will be presented in an open house format and a very immersive community engagement is being planned. (See Page 19 of Attachment 1)

Responding to a question from Mayor Giles, Ms. Huning emphasized that the previous bond did not cover all of the infrastructure necessary.

Ms. Huning summarized the next steps indicating the importance of getting information out to the citizens in every district and provided the schedule of upcoming community meetings. (See Pages 20 through 23 of Attachment 1)

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

2-b. Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on Mesa's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Finance Director Irma Ashworth displayed a PowerPoint presentation and gave an overview of the status of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. **(See Attachment 2)**

Ms. Ashworth confirmed that the ARPA funds have been allocated to responding to a public health emergency or its negative economic impacts and providing premium pay for essential workers. She declared that other categories allowed are investment in water and wastewater infrastructure and revenue replacement. She reported that the deadline to have all funds obligated is December 31, 2024, and the deadline to spend the funds is December 31, 2026, and provided a summary of what has been spent to date and gave a breakdown of each project. (See Pages 2 through 8 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Ashworth pointed out the projects that have been started or that have contracts pending and gave details about the budgets for each project and what funding amounts will be obligated. (See Pages 9 through 11 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Ashworth advised that the Treasury allowed cities to take an allowance of up to \$10 million of revenue replacement which was meant to assist with the loss of revenue during the pandemic. She noted that the election to receive the funds needed to be made by April 2022. She confirmed that the funds may be used on general governmental services and to avoid losing the funding the City will move forward using those calculations. (See Page 12 of Attachment 2)

Additional discussion ensued regarding the ARPA funds.

Mr. Brady recalled that to avoid losing the funds, and because the deadline is getting close and the process to procure can take time, the City will utilize the flexibility and identify expenses from the costs of current projects that qualify for ARPA funding.

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Ms. Ashworth defined obligated as a contract that has been signed and committed to procure the services or goods.

Mayor Giles noted that it is the consensus of the Council for staff to move forward as presented.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

2-c. Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on the Downtown Restaurant Incubator.

Mr. Brady stated that this item will be continued to a future date.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

3-a. Economic Development Committee meeting held on February 12, 2024.

It was moved by Councilmember Somers, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Giles–Heredia–Duff–Freeman–Goforth–Somers–Spilsbury

NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

4. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Mayor Giles and Councilmembers highlighted the events, meetings and conferences recently attended.

5. Scheduling of meetings.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the schedule of meetings is as follows:

Monday, March 18, 2024, 5:15 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, March 18, 2024, 5:45 p.m. – Regular meeting

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

JOHN GILES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 14th day of March 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

sr
(Attachments – 2)

BUILDING MESA'S FUTURE Through Infrastructure



March 14, 2024 – Study Session

Beth Huning, City Engineer

Consider the Possibilities . . .

VISIONING . . .

Projects from Previous Bond Elections

Approved Masterplans

General Plan Interactions

Community Events Input & Comments

Surveys

Council Feedback

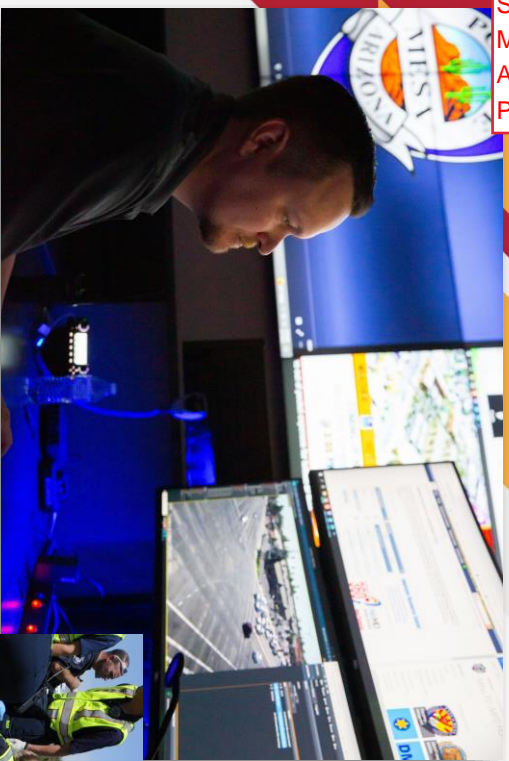
PI DAY



MARCH
3.14

Enhance Community Safety . . .

... Through Modern Fire, Medical & Police Facilities!



Consolidate Public Safety 911 Communications Center

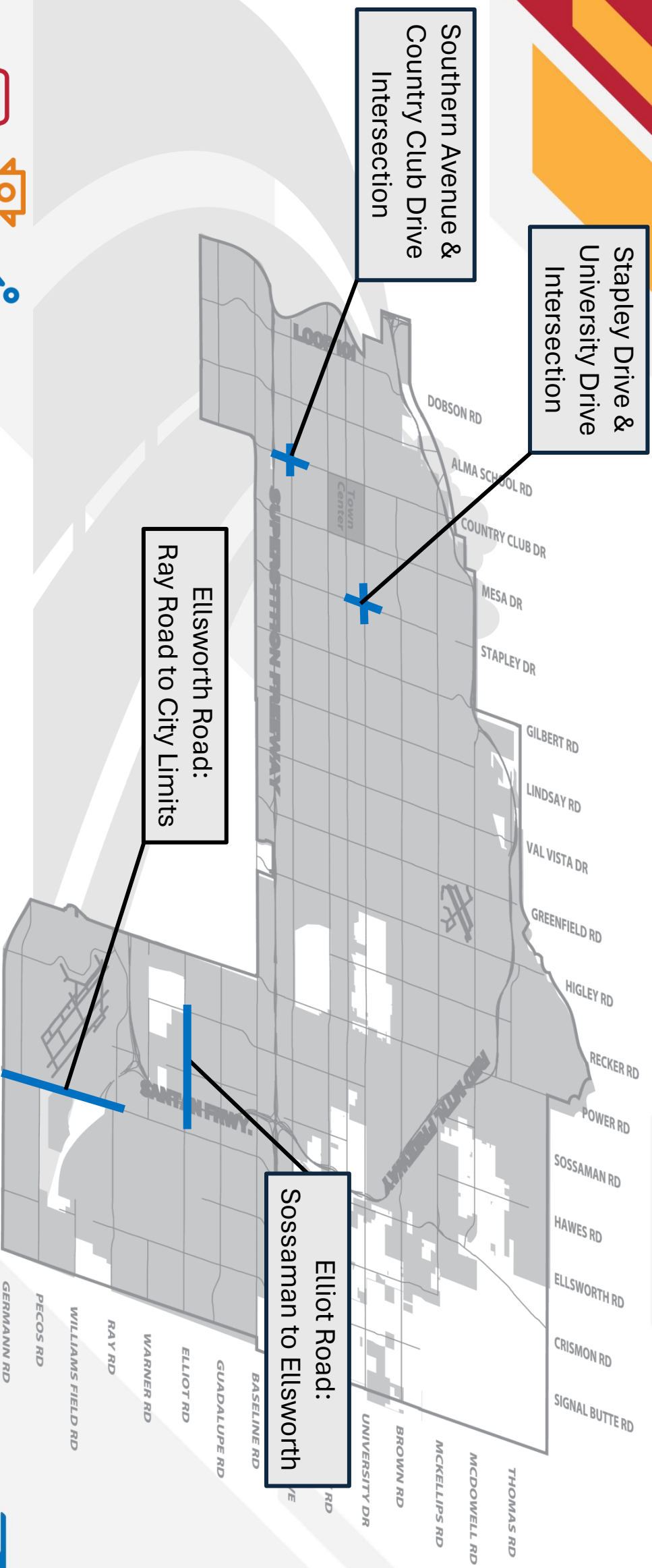
Expand the City's Fiber Network for Efficient Communications

Provide Neighborhood Medical Response Facilities

Replace and Add Fire Apparatus



... Through Efficient Street Networks!



MESA MOVES

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PLACES



BUILDING MESA'S FUTURE

Promote active lifestyles . . .

... Through enhanced recreational facilities!

INDOOR RECREATION



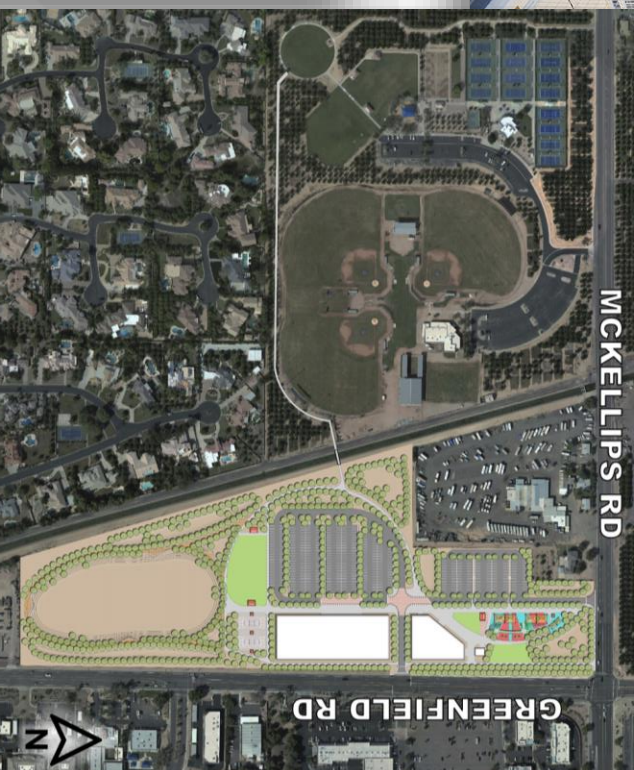
Running Track

Fitness Spaces

- ### Possibilities
- Central Mesa Community Center
 - 76,000 square feet, 29 acres
 - Opportunity to combine with Library



Indoor Courts



Indoor Playground

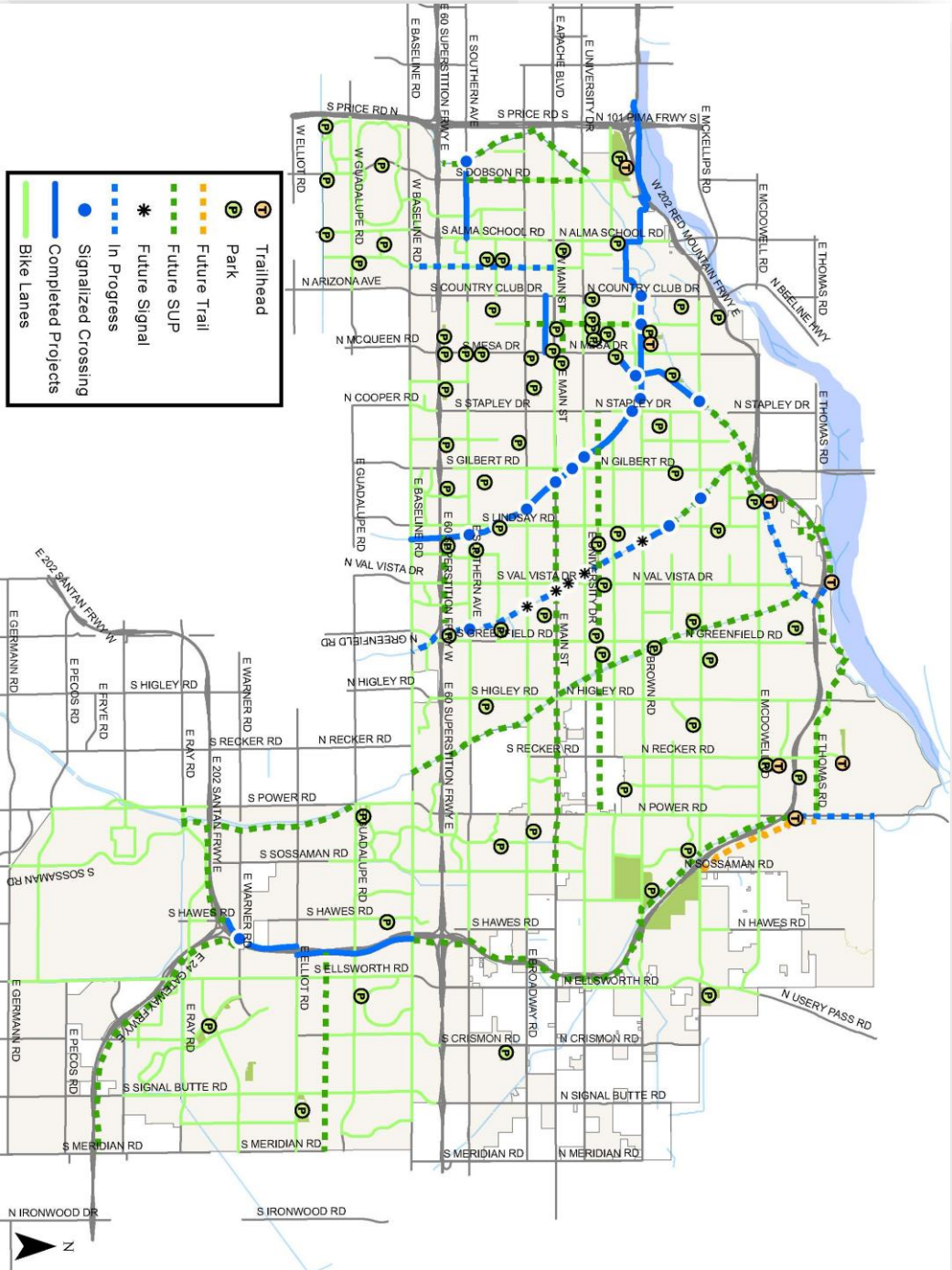


Strength Training



... Through enhanced recreational facilities!

MESA'S TRAILS & PATHS SYSTEM



BUILDING MESA'S FUTURE



... Through enhanced recreational facilities!

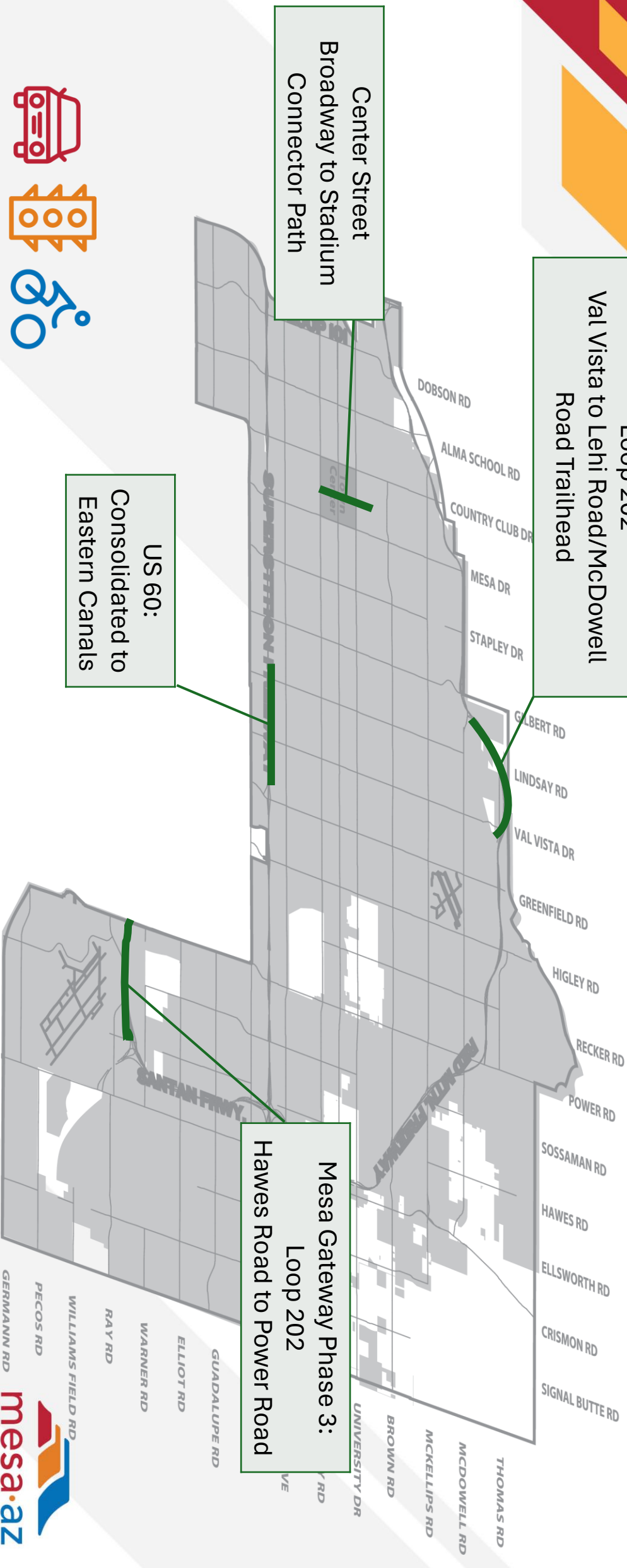
SHARED USE PATHS

Lehi Loop Phase 2:
Loop 202
Val Vista to Lehi Road/McDowell
Road Trailhead

Center Street
Broadway to Stadium
Connector Path

Mesa Gateway Phase 3:
Loop 202
Hawes Road to Power Road

US 60:
Consolidated to
Eastern Canals



MESA MOVES

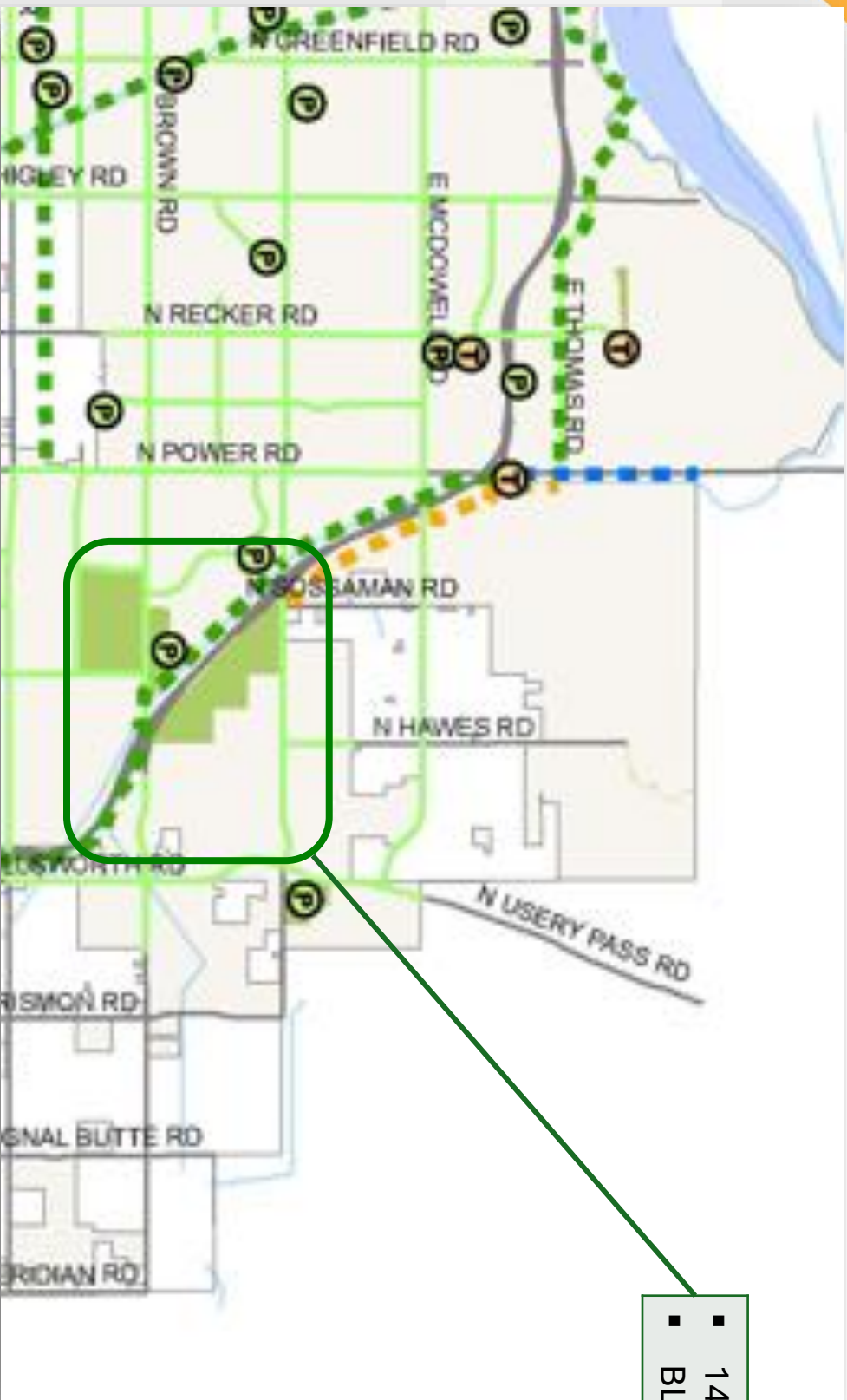
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PLACES

BUILDING MESA'S FUTURE



... Through enhanced recreational facilities!

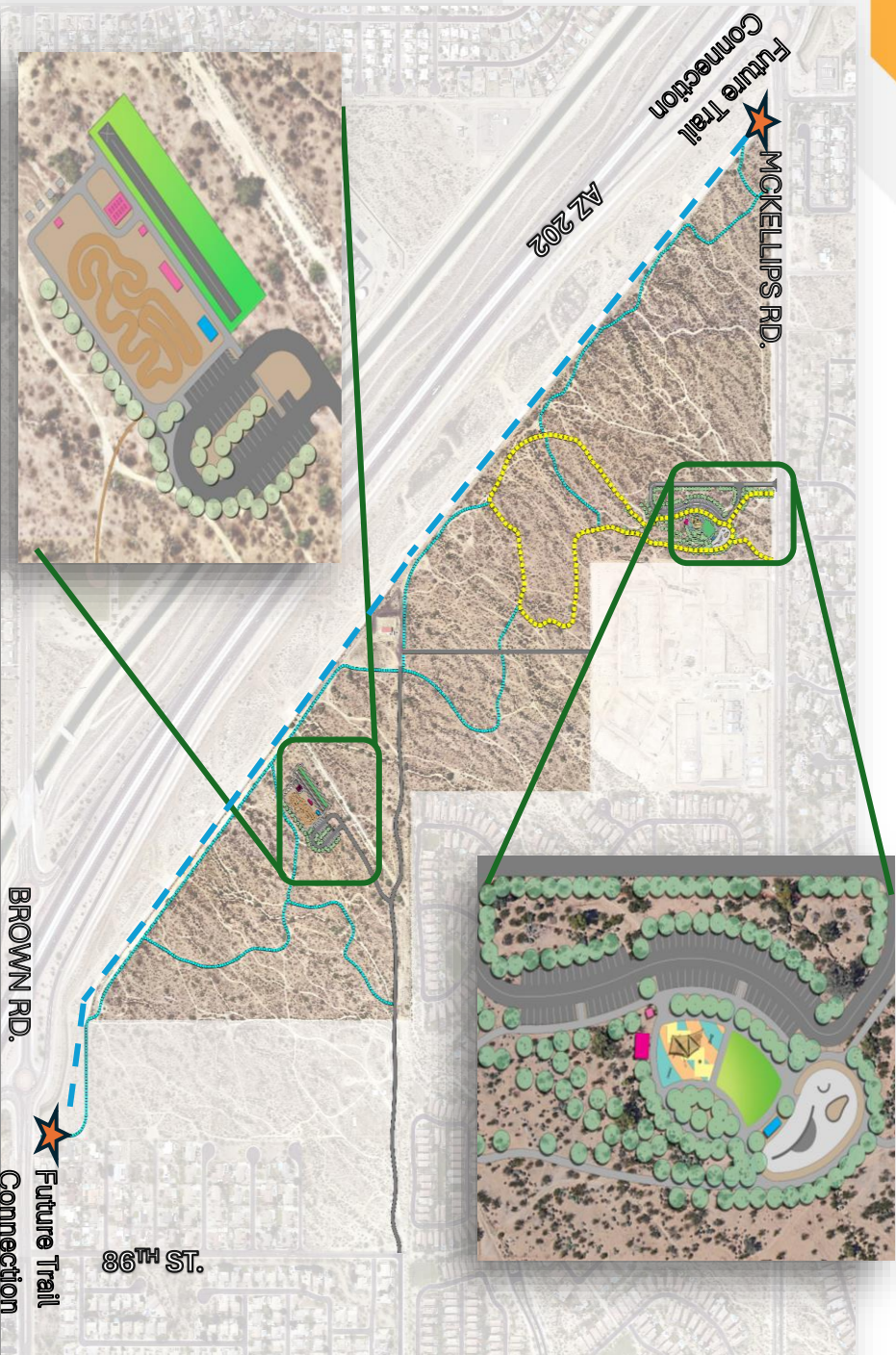
NORTHEAST MESA REGIONAL TRAILS & PARKS



- 140 Acre Parcel
- BLM Lease from 1988

... Through enhanced recreational facilities!

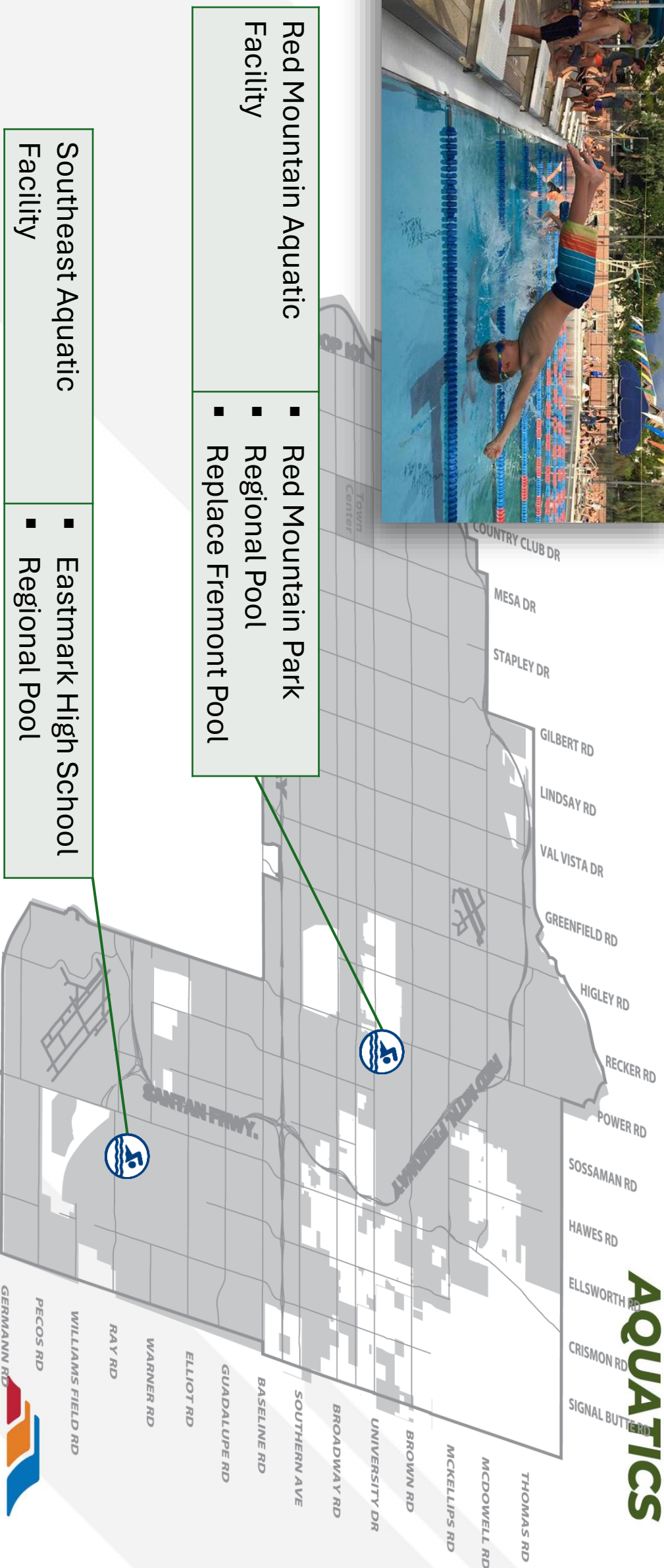
NORTHEAST MESA REGIONAL TRAILS & PARKS



Possibilities

- Desert Trails
- Concrete Path
- Playground
- Skate Park
- Remote Hobby Area

... Through enhanced recreational facilities!

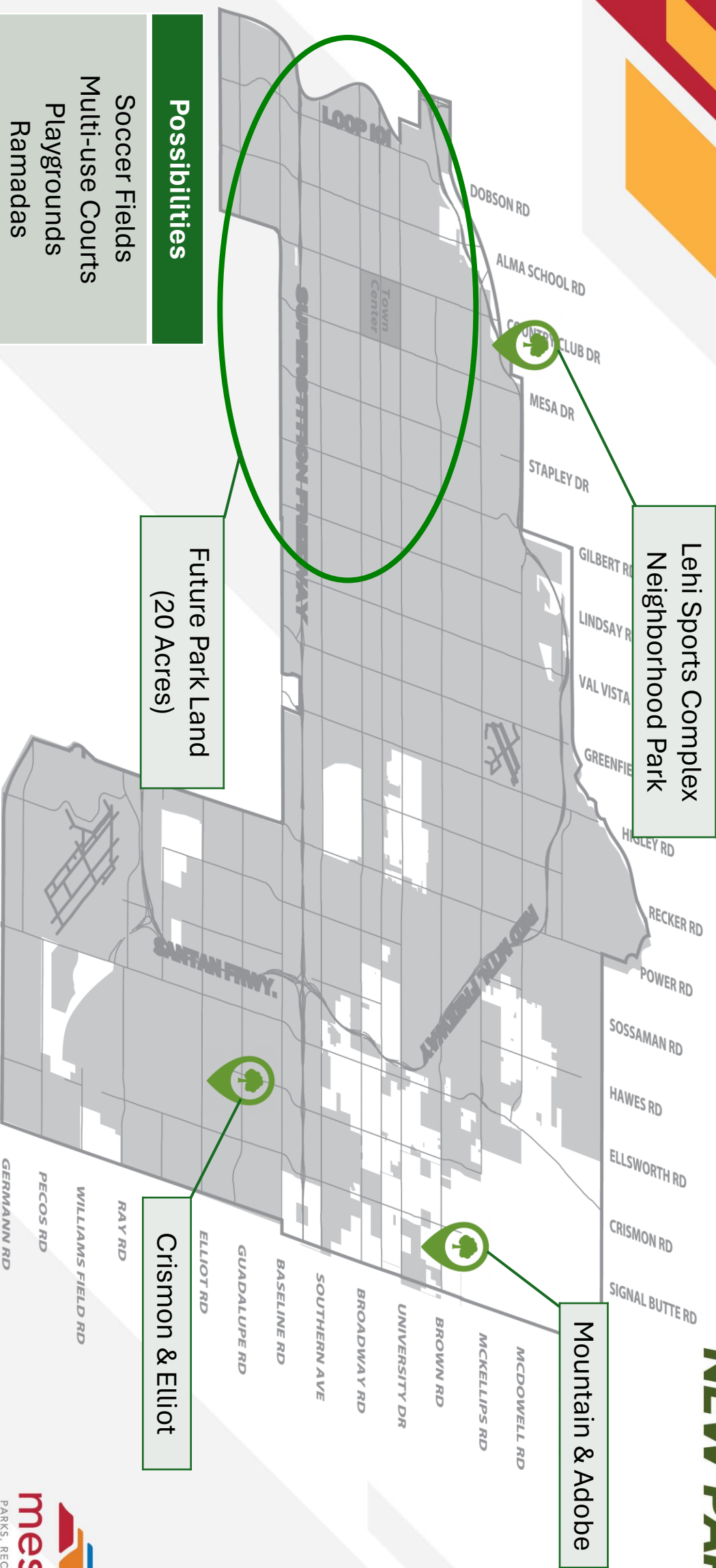


AQUATICS



... Through enhanced recreational facilities!

NEW PARKS



- Soccer Fields
- Multi-use Courts
- Playgrounds
- Ramadas
- Exercise Stations
- Dog Park

Possibilities

Future Park Land
(20 Acres)

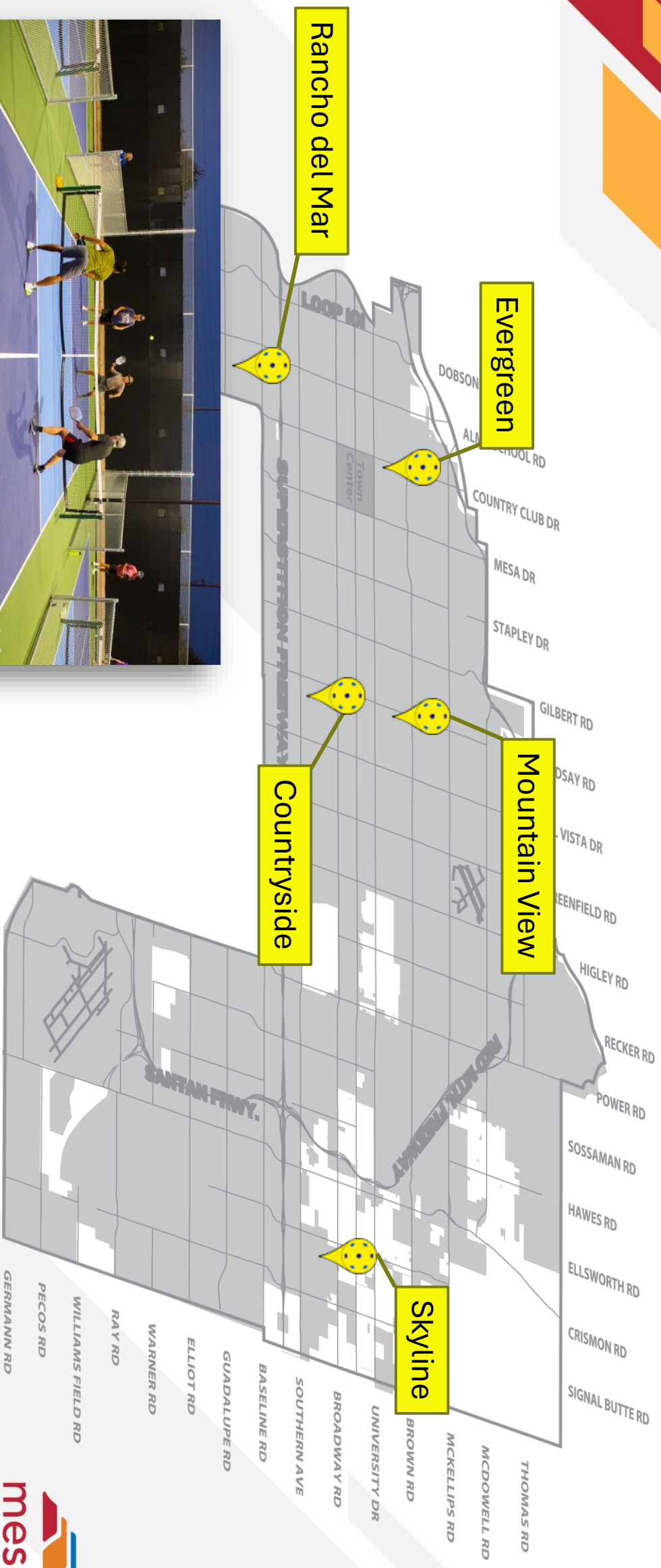
Lehi Sports Complex
Neighborhood Park

Mountain & Adobe

Crismon & Elliot

... Through enhanced recreational facilities!

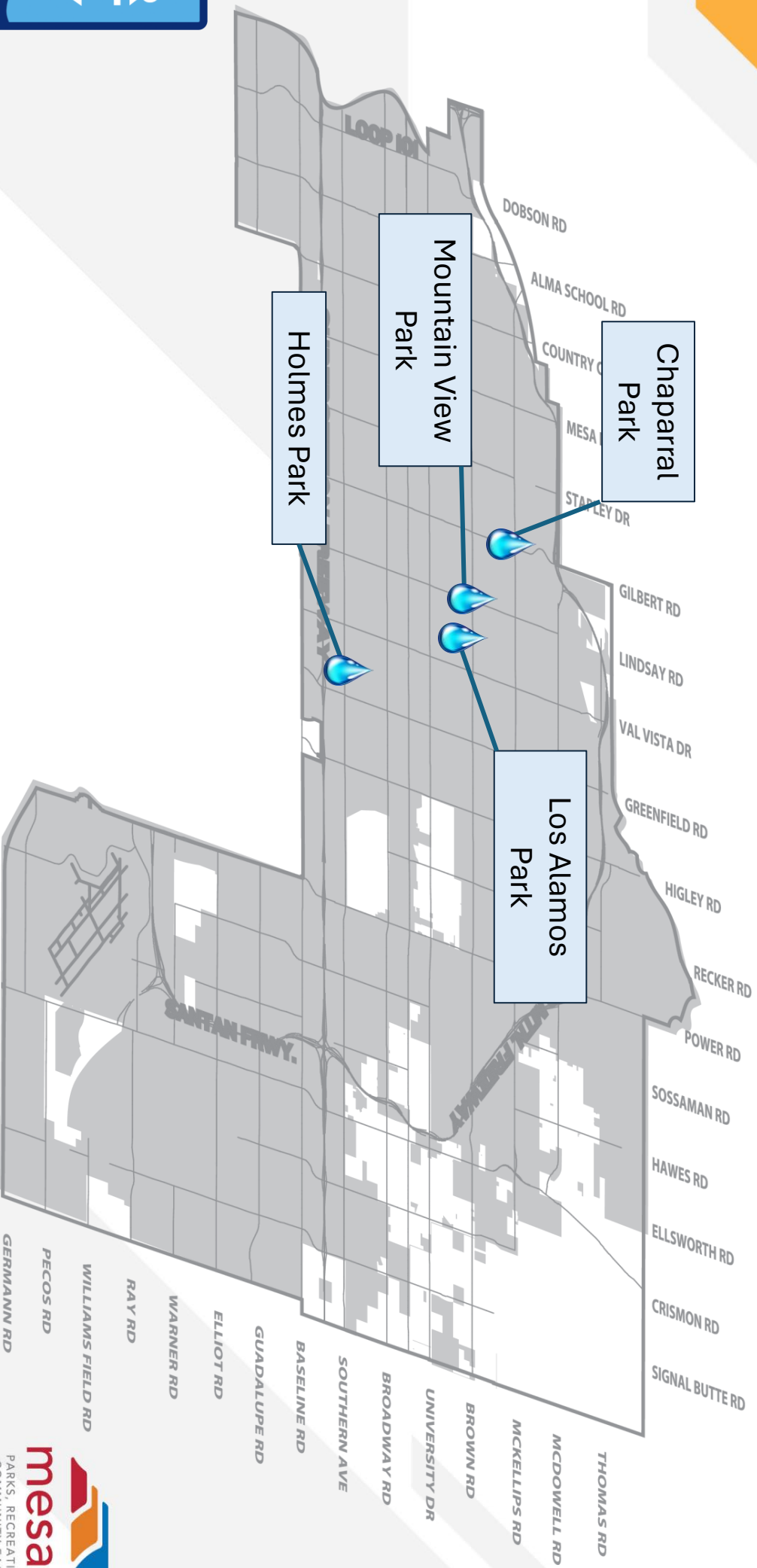
PICKLEBALL COURTS



BUILDING MESA'S FUTURE

... Through enhanced recreational facilities!

WATER CONSERVATION



... Through enhanced recreational facilities!

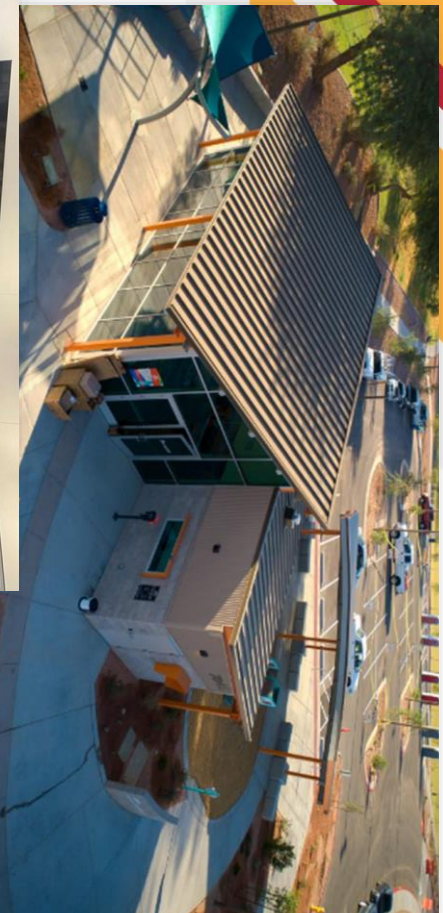
RENOVATE EXISTING PLAYGROUNDS



BUILDING MESA'S FUTURE

Expand Educational & Cultural Experiences . . .

... Through new & upgraded libraries!



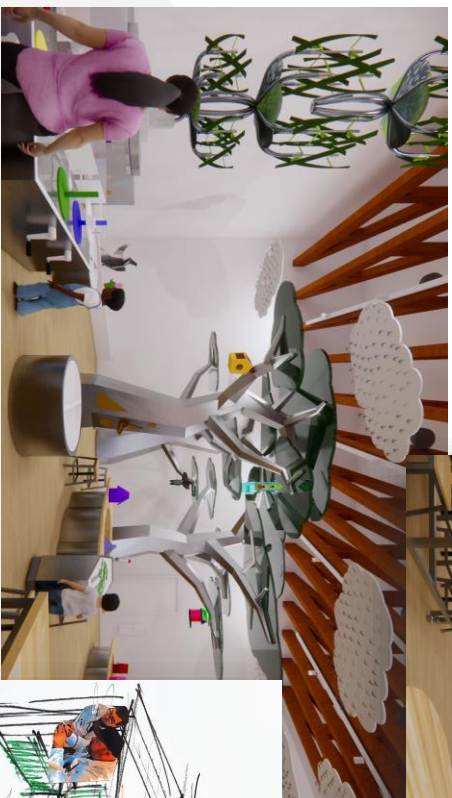
LIBRARIES – HUBS OF KNOWLEDGE

Central Mesa Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branch Library 25,000 – 28,000 square feet Opportunity to combine with Rec Center
Mesa Express Library - North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,500 square feet
Red Mountain Library Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovate/Expand Children's Room - 8,000 square feet Welcoming Entrance Focus on digital & sensory literacy



... Through upgraded Museum & Arts Experiences!

MUSEUMS & ARTS CENTER - HUBS OF DISCOVERY



<p>i.d.e.a. Museum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Entrance/Exterior upgrades ■ Main Exhibit Hall refresh ■ Artville Redevelopment ■ Art Studio Development ■ Second level redevelopment
<p>Arizona Museum of Natural History</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Upgrade infrastructure in all three buildings ■ Collections upgrades ■ Large Exhibit to convert Dino Mountain ■ Entrance/Exterior upgrades



What's Next?

Council Discussion	Today!
Social Media Outreach	March 18 to April 3
In Person Engagement	April 3 through 17
On-Line Engagement	March 15 to April 24
Return for Council Discussion	May
Call for Election Date	June 3

What do our citizens want?

IN PERSON ENGAGEMENT

District	Date	Location
6	April 3, 2024	Eastmark High Cafeteria
4	April 4, 2024	The Post
2	April 9, 2024	Jefferson Recreation Center
5	April 10, 2024	Falcon Field Airport
1	April 16, 2024	Mountain View High Cafeteria
3	April 17, 2024	Westwood High Cafeteria

*All meetings are held from 6 to 7 PM



What do our citizens want?



my.mesaaz.gov/buildingMesa

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT



QUESTIONS?

Update - American Rescue Plan Act – Local Fiscal Recovery

March 14, 2024

Irma Ashworth, Finance Director



Funds allocated to the following eligible uses:

- ✓ Responding to public health emergency or its negative economic impacts
- ✓ Providing premium pay for essential workers

Deadlines:

- ✓ Funds obligated by December 31, 2024
- ✓ Funds spent by December 31, 2026

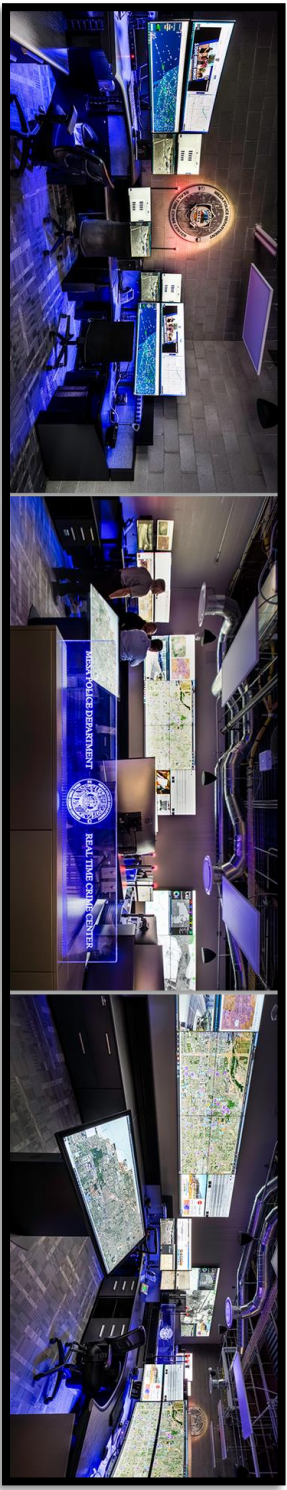
Spending Summary

The City has received \$105,515,724

The City has obligated \$79,724,321

The City has spent \$60,653,549

Public Safety Support \$6,237,000



LA FRONTERA
ARIZONA
IMPACT - SIGUIENDO REVOLUCION CENTER

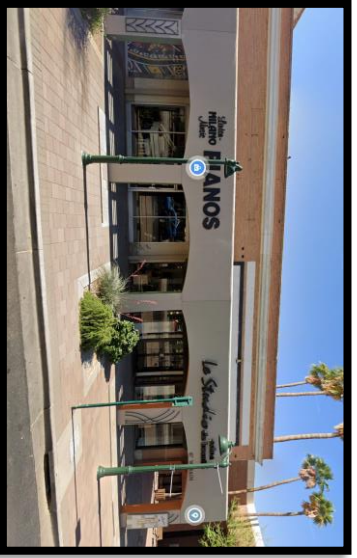
CBI
COMMUNITY BRIDGES, INC.



Household Assistance \$18,141,000



Small Business Assistance \$13,643,000



Homeless Support Programs \$7,785,000



Off the Streets



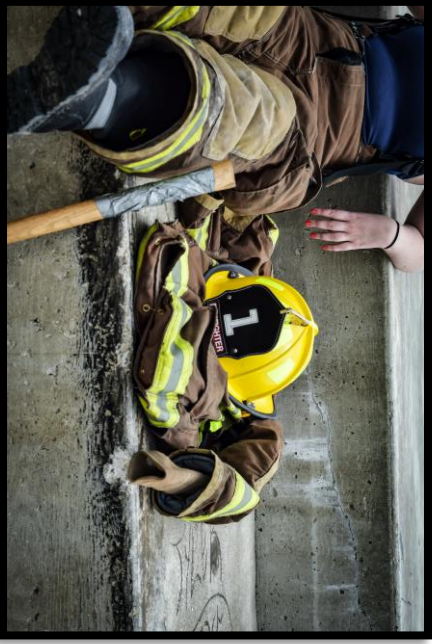
 a new leaf

Helaman House



Cybersecurity
\$2,752,00

Essential City Operations
\$12,096,000



Projects with contracts pending



911 Mental Health Response

- \$4,841,000 Budget
- \$2,852,500 under contract through June 30, 2024
- \$1,988,500 pending new contract

Projects with contracts pending

Downtown Façade Improvements

- \$4,400,000 Budget
- \$4,327,208 unobligated
- Design contracts in process
- JOC contracts pending

Restaurant & Food Business Incubator

- \$7,089,000 Budget
- \$1,658,601 Spent
- \$5,023,249 finalizing contract

Projects with contracts pending

Off the Streets Program

- \$6,900,000 Budget
- \$4,800,000 under contract through 12/31/2024
- Contract pending for 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2026

Emergency Shelter Facility @ 6733 E Main Street

- \$12,375,000 Budget
- \$3,886,711 Spent and under contract
- \$8,488,289 unobligated
- In design phase and construction contract pending

Revenue Replacement

May elect a standard allowance of up to \$10 million

Standard Allowance available to all recipients

Spent on general Governmental Services