

11. Describing the Project

- a. Project location. The project site is located at the convergence of Little Nogales Rd. and San Xavier Rd., approximately 0.8 miles west of Interstate 19. The Mission Plaza site is approximately 7.5 acres.
- b. The project site is located on an existing corridor. The segment of San Xavier Road wrapping around the southern and western portions of the site was part of a road realignment project that occurred from June to October, 2001. That project was identified as the *Mission Plaza Enhancements* on a listing of projects in the PAG region receiving approval for funding.
- c. Enhancements to road infrastructure. The *Mission Plaza Enhancements: Phase II* will involve the design and construction of pedestrian access along San Xavier Road, and within the plaza area itself. The intention is to create, widen and /or upgrade the pedestrian corridors in an effort to accommodate and create safer passage for pedestrian, tourist, bus rider and bicycle traffic. Mission School children and disabled folks also frequent the site and would greatly benefit from these upgrades.

Design and construction would also include enhancements for the basket weave pattern in the Mission Plaza and landscaping around the site. Noise and visual mitigation would involve strategic placement of vegetative buffering for surrounding residents, in addition to the placement of a knee-high wall to afford additional buffering for those residents.

- d. The proposed time frame for completion of this project would be 1 to 3 years, which seems to be a realistic forecast; depending on the time frames of all related parties and entities involved — with consideration for design, and construction that could possibly be segmented at different times at the site — if that is determined to be the best course of action.

15. Maintaining the project. The project occurs at a site in which maintenance costs would be shared between the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation and the San Xavier del Bac Mission.
- a. The San Xavier del Bac Mission and the San Xavier District will collaborate on a plan of on-going maintenance and repairs.
 - b. Since the source of funding for maintenance and repairs involves participation between the San Xavier del Bac Mission and the San Xavier District. The funding involves the annual budgets of the respective entities contributing to a special operation and maintenance budget under the District, managed by the SXD Maintenance Department.
 - c. The Maintenance Department of the San Xavier District would work with the budget.
 - d. Future use of the site will be similar to its current uses; however, future uses will have more safety and accessibility to work with if these requested enhancements are seen to fruition.

16. Enhancement description. This project is an enhancement, in that it will provide safety features and enhancements for the Mission Plaza that do not currently exist. The project elements include accommodation of pedestrian access through walking paths along San Xavier Road, and enhancing access throughout the Mission Plaza site. Such enhancements and improvements will be designed in the spirit of accommodating local Community Members to and throughout the Mission Plaza, in addition to the many visitors and pilgrims that visit the San Xavier del Bac Mission on an annual basis. Although many visitors arrive at the Mission from within Arizona, other visitors travel long distances — from around the world — to see one of Arizona's most famous historic landmarks.

Enhancements will augment the transportation infrastructure through the addition of drought tolerant landscaping features, both within the Mission Plaza (where landscaping will be used for beautification and shading purposes) and along San Xavier Road (to serve as a buffering mechanism for surrounding neighbors). In the latter scenario, vegetative buffering along San Xavier Road will function in concert with knee-high right-of-way boundary walls to mitigate noise and any perceived nuisances or eyesores resulting from traffic and Mission Plaza parking lot activity, while being maintained in such a way as not to hinder viewsheds of the San Xavier del Bac Mission from the vantage point of those residents.

Improvements to traffic circulation within the Mission Plaza will involve features to accommodate buses, including bays to serve as drop-off zones. These locations will be strategically located so that disabled folks will have direct access to accommodating pathways along the Mission Plaza.

Finally, enhancements will further the design and attractiveness of the Wa:K O'odham basket weave pattern in the Mission Plaza. Purposes for the design features and improvements to the basket weave pattern are to reflect the O'odham culture and artwork, and heighten the experience for the visitor at the Mission Plaza.

17. Community involvement. Since this project is the second phase of a previously approved, multi-phased plan, it has already moved through the San Xavier District Development Review Process and received approval. Still however, details surrounding the second phase implementation will be brought before decision-makers and the Community — for updating and informing purposes — and to receive any input and suggestions they may have for District Staff. Decisions for the design process and consultant selection will involve District Staff, District Administration, and designated professionals.

When this project is brought before decision-makers and the Community for updating purposes, Community involvement occurs at several levels. Community members attend Planning and Housing Committee meetings; this committee serves as a recommending body for the Community and Council. Community meetings (public hearings without any formal governing bodies) are intended to specifically address the Community's concerns; information is received at a grass-roots level and the goal is to work towards consensus on a particular project. If necessary, any final decisions and /or approving resolutions occur at the Council level, which is also open to the Community.

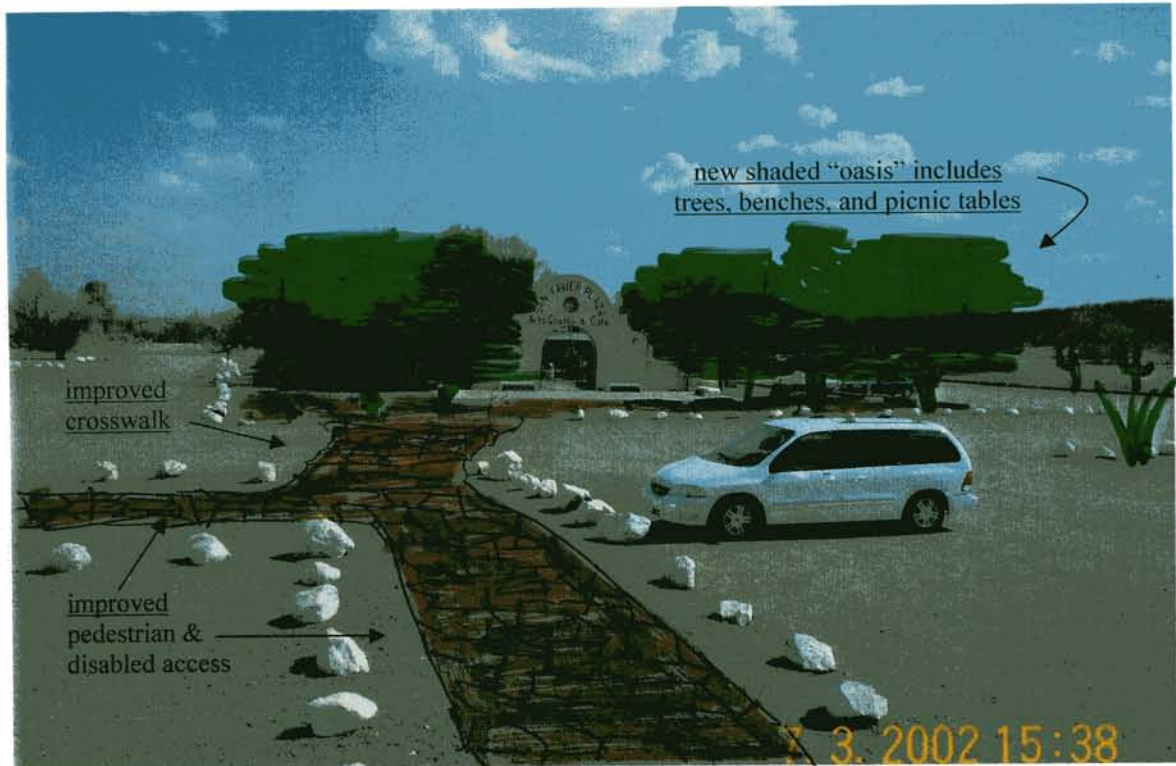
18. Community benefit. This project will benefit the Community in that it will provide safer access for Community Members to and through the Mission Plaza, and safeguard Mission School children — nearly all of whom are Community Members. In addition, it will afford residents whose homes surround the site a knee-high perimeter wall and vegetative buffering option that can be tailored to their liking. Added landscaping features, shaded spots with street furniture, and an enhanced basket weave pattern in the plaza will benefit the Community by providing a more attractive Mission Plaza. From an economic standpoint, an enhanced Mission Plaza encourages the potential for increased visitors to the site, which potentially translates into increased revenues for vendors and at least stabilizes their business.
19. Benefits to safety. Such benefits are a focal point of this project, in that they involve a reduced probability of pedestrian /vehicular accidents. Designated walkways along San Xavier Road will provide for a bona-fide separation along the corridor for vehicles and pedestrians. Designated crosswalks mark clear pathways of access for pedestrians to negotiate street crossings. More clearly

MISSION PLAZA ENHANCEMENTS

Scene 1

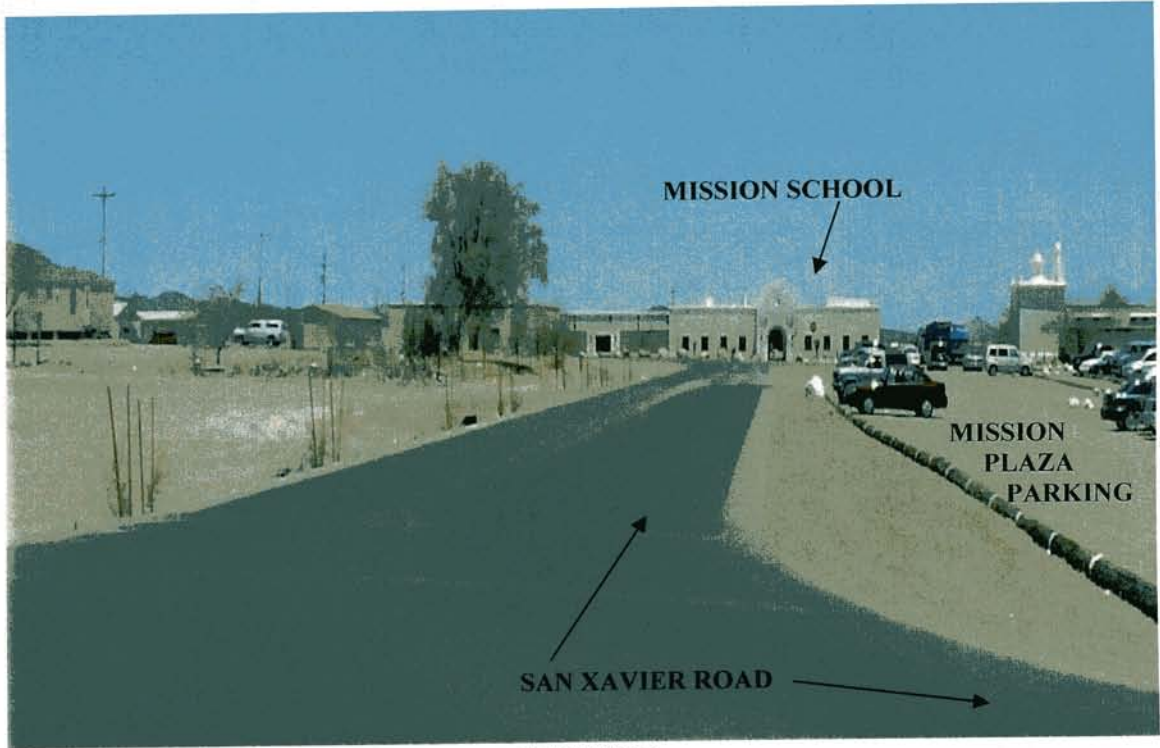


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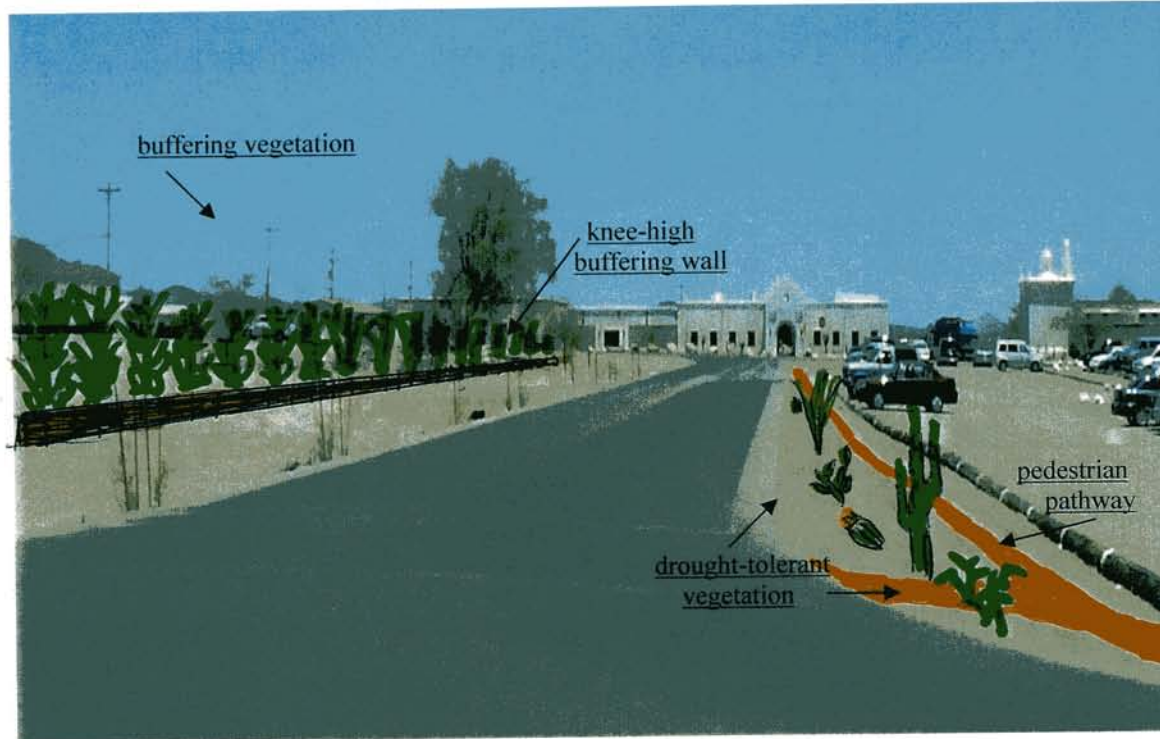


AFTER

MISSION PLAZA ENHANCEMENTS
Scene 3



BEFORE



AFTER