

# Council opts to move ahead with south Scottsdale report

by **Lynh Bui** - Feb. 10, 2010 11:12 AM  
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Officials hope south Scottsdale's reputation as place "betwixt and between" more energetic areas will disappear as the city moves forward with plans to revitalize the area along McDowell Road.

The City Council widely praised the work completed by the McDowell Corridor/Southern Scottsdale Economic Development Task Force, which presented its final recommendations on Tuesday.

The Council unanimously accepted the task force's report and directed the city staff to develop a work plan to implement the recommendations. City staff also will develop quarterly reports that outline the progress they're making on executing the recommended revitalization plans.

The recommendations encourages turning south Scottsdale into an urbanized core with more mixed-used development that takes advantage of area's proximity to Papago Park, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, Arizona State University's SkySong business park and ASU's main campus in Tempe.

The task force report suggests the city help bring new amenities to energize the area, including a proposed multipurpose entertainment venue near SkySong southeast of McDowell and Scottsdale roads, and redevelopment of the nearby Salt River Project canal to make it pedestrian friendly area similar to the Scottsdale Waterfront.

Acting City Manager David Richert said a proposed work plan could be available for the council to review in 60 to 90 days.

Mayor Jim Lane, who backed creation of the task force, said the group's work has been a "great effort" and the start of change for the area.

The City Council created the task force last summer after the city hosted a summit in April where more than 160 residents, property owners, developers and community members met to brainstorm ideas that would breathe new life into the area.

Task force Chairman Tom Sadvary, also president and CEO of Scottsdale Healthcare, said the group was nearly unanimous on all of the recommendations.

Task force members were most divided on suggestions to annex land from the city of Phoenix at Papago Park and realign McDowell Road from Galvin Parkway to the west. Scottsdale officials say they have been discussing the annexation idea with Phoenix.

Those in favor of annexing land in the northern part of Papago Park say it will give the city more a stake in the development and redevelopment of the area.

However, task force member Ed Gawf, Scottsdale's former general manager of planning and development, said he didn't see the benefit of having Scottsdale take up the cost of maintaining a piece of the park.

Gawf also hesitated in endorsing the realignment of McDowell Road, saying it would be costly and have no benefit.

Those who back the realignment of McDowell Road say dipping the roadway more to the south could revitalize the existing outdoor amphitheatre in the area.

The task force has been meeting since August to develop plans for stimulating economic development and revitalization of Scottsdale.