

Behind The City Scene



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The term pork barrel refers to a politically motivated grant of benefits to a politician's District in order to bolster continued constituent support. A member of a Federal, State or local elected body trades support



for his or her pork barrel project with other members of the elected body for reciprocal support of their pork barrel projects. For example, a member of Congress obtains Federal

funds for the study of the mating habits of sugar gliders in the Animal Research Center at the University in his or her District.

I recently learned to my very pleasant surprise that the intersection of E. Yale and S. Xanadu has been selected as for a 1.2 million dollar reconfiguration and signalization. Very soon after I was elected a group of citizens, City staff and I visited the intersection to see first-hand the vehicular and pedestrian dynamic. Our action caused this intersection to be placed on a list for additional study. This meeting took place about two years ago.

Unlike a politically pork barrel driven process the work on this intersection resulted from a scientific based (Traffic Engineering) study. Five areas of study took place to grade the project in terms of priority for remediation. The ability to eliminate safety hazards received the highest possible score due to the high speeds on E. Yale, reduced line of sight and pedestrian traffic seeking to gain access to the light rail station.

This project joins another project in Ward 4. The lengthening of the westbound to northbound turn at E. Iliff and S. Havana. I am appreciative of City staff's scientific analysis of our transportation needs and of course the affirmation of the opinion that this intersection needed attention. I think everyone would agree that the funding of any government project should be based upon merit and not political power.

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2018 Ward IV Town Meetings — held on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at EcoTech Institute, 1400 S. Abilene St., unless otherwise noted.