



# Desert EDGE project should keep moving forward

The Scottsdale Coalition of Today and Tomorrow, a group of business and civic leaders, launched a month ago to pursue a mission to promote Scottsdale, address issues of concern and encourage civil discourse on how to move forward on them.

One of the most pressing issues is the Desert Edge, a plan decades in the making to build an educational and visitors center at the Gateway Trailhead to the Mountains Preserve.

divided the city like he has never seen before.

Indeed, the issue has stirred deep passions on both sides of the issue - those who have worked hard to build the vision and those who have worked in opposition to it.

While the debate continues, we believe the City Council should keep the Desert EDGE project on track and move it into the next phase of design. The analysis and debate on the merits of the project can continue as the project design evolves and city staff answers questions the council posed to them.

But the work should continue moving forward in the meantime.

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# **SAAR adopts position statement on Desert EDGE project**

After careful consideration, which included precise analysis, in-depth

adopted the following position regarding Scottsdale's Desert EDGE project (formerly known as Desert Discovery Center project). This statement is based upon SAAR's policy platform.

#### **POSITION STATEMENT BRIEFING**

After careful research, analysis and review of the Desert Discovery Center, Scottsdale's feasibility study proposed "Desert EDGE" project (July 31, 2017 presented), it has been determined this project meets all requirements of SAAR's policy platform.

Key research results and policy platform positions which lead to this determination:

**Housing Value Impact** - National and local research shows that home values within relative proximity (one mile or less) of urban interpretive centers tend to be higher in value than their surrounding areas and are not negatively impacted by the centers.

**Property Tax Impact** - No property assessments, fees or increases to existing property taxes are proposed at this time. If any new property taxes are proposed, it will go to a public vote.

**Economic Impact** - Studies show quality unique cultural, education driven, high-level research, experience facilities are proven key identifiers of a healthy regional economy, which sustains vibrant communities for living and working.

**Environment Position** - *"SAAR, in an effort to maintain our community's quality of life and to protect the environment, supports policies and programs that encourage conservation, education and balanced incorporation of the environment, and the wise use of natural resources."*

*through policies embracing property rights, economic vitality....and the balanced conservation of the environment which will sustain and enhance the community's quality of life."*

[READ SAAR's STATEMENT ON THE DESERT EDGE](#)



On Monday, November 6 the City Council will discuss the Desert EDGE project at a Work Study Session. The meeting will be held at 4 p.m. at City Hall, 3939 North Drinkwater Boulevard.

[Review the Agenda for Monday's Work Study Session](#)

**Thank you for your support.**



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