



February 8, 2018

RE: SITE SURVEY UPDATE

Virtually everyone agrees: Desert EDGE is a great project.

Currently, determining the project's location is the critical component in moving forward. In order to maximize its potential and meet our community's expectations, it must be built at the "right" location.

That's why Desert EDGE Advocates support the City Council's decision to explore alternative locations in addition to the proposed Gateway Trailhead. The project's eventual location must be convenient for visitors and financially feasible for taxpayers.

After intense analysis in a series of studies conducted over several years, the Gateway was selected as the optimum location. Numerous locations were eliminated because they weren't practical or the land was too costly.

Nevertheless, Desert EDGE Advocates encourage making every effort to ensure that the best location is chosen – even if it means reconsidering locations that were previously disqualified.

Several people are lobbying to relocate the project to Taliesin West. That would be easier said than done. Because that location is outside the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, land would have to be purchased, funding generated for construction, a relationship explored with Taliesin West, the agreement with ASU reconfirmed and a new design created for the project.

Relocating Desert EDGE would mean starting over.

Based on the past exhaustive due diligence process, Desert EDGE Advocates remain confident that the most viable location for the unique project is at the Gateway Trailhead.

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