

**From:** [Harold Back](#)  
**To:** [Harold Back](#)  
**Subject:** 68th Street Sidewalk Association - UPDATE  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2022 9:41:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [68th Street Sidewalk Citizen Petition Overview.pdf](#)

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External Email: Please use caution if opening links or attachments!

The honorable Mayor and City Councilors,

We need your help !!!

In an effort to advance the idea of the City of Scottsdale completing the project it started when it built the bridge over the canal at Indian School and 68th Street, we have completed a Citizen Petition which will be submitted to the City Council tomorrow, over 200 citizens have signed it.

Upon crossing that bridge, a pedestrian is confronted with perilous danger, having to walk up 68th Street to visit the mall or any of the new density of homes at 68th and Camelback Road, that walk has to take place unprotected, in the face of a high volume of vehicles travelling at high speed and bicyclists navigating the neighborhood, THERE ARE NO SIDEWALKS.

It is not safe, and only a matter of time before a fatality occurs along this small stretch of 1/3 mile. We need the City to act with some urgency to develop sidewalks to ensure that pedestrians can safely traverse the area connecting Fashion Square Mall, The Valley Ho, Old Town, The walking trails along the canal and also the density of homes at 68th and Camelback as well as bus routes along Indian School and Camelback Roads.

Furthermore, The Planning Commission is scheduled to hear an application to vacate a portion of the right of way at Exeter and 68th Street (Case 2-AB-2022). It is inconceivable that the City could or should approve an idea which will adversely impact future planning for the area including the possibility of a traffic circle at that intersection. At the very least, that application needs to be suspended until a comprehensive and detailed plan is developed for the sidewalk development and other traffic calming methodologies including the possibility of a traffic control circle at the intersection of Exeter and 68th Street.

High volumes and high speed travel and an absence of sidewalks represent a mix that is bound to create problems.

For your benefit, we have attached our Citizens Petition which we hope will help you understand and act on our concerns. We need your help !!!

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter.  
Yours sincerely,  
The 68th Street Sidewalk Association

Sent from my iPad

Citizen Petition  
Presented to Scottsdale City Council  
March 29, 2022  
by the 68<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalk Association

**Petition Purpose:** We, the undersigned residents of the City of Scottsdale and neighbors who use North 68<sup>th</sup> Street, **request that the City of Scottsdale build sidewalks on North 68<sup>th</sup> Street** to connect with the sidewalks on East Camelback Road and on East Indian School Road. Additionally, we **oppose the abandonment case 2-AB-2022** at 6750 East Exeter Boulevard that would surrender an essential right-of-way needed to complete the sidewalk path on North 68<sup>th</sup> Street. Building a sidewalk along N 68<sup>th</sup> St will improve the safety and quality of life for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles along this transportation corridor.

**Unfinished Business:  
Complete the Sidewalk along N 68<sup>th</sup> St**

Dear Mayor and City Councilpersons,

The City of Scottsdale in 2019 rebuilt the bridge over the canal at 68<sup>th</sup> Street and Indian School to repair damage and also to improve the traffic flow for all who pass through that area. This rebuilt intersection smoothly and efficiently accommodates vehicles and safely connects pedestrians and bicyclists to the canal path and sidewalks. However, there is no sidewalk along 68<sup>th</sup> Street travelling north of the bridge and pedestrians are forced to walk on 68<sup>th</sup> Street between the 68<sup>th</sup> St canal-bridge and Camelback Rd.

In recent years there has been increased traffic pressure on our city roads with the building of high-density apartment buildings and other development in South Scottsdale. For example, in 2019 the construction of Optima Sonora Village, on the corner of 68<sup>th</sup> St and Camelback Rd, was completed bringing 768 residential units and a similar number of vehicles. These residents, neighbors, visitors, and workers have wanted to connect with the amenities of the canal-walking path, Old Town, Fashion Square and The Valley Ho. In addition, citizens who use the public bus system should be able to walk safely between the canal-bridge and Camelback Rd. Yet there is no way for a pedestrian to safely walk along 0.3 miles of 68<sup>th</sup> St between Camelback and Indian School Rds; the sidewalk on 68<sup>th</sup> Street needs to be completed.

In the midst of this background, Scottsdale City staff has advanced an application (case 2-AB-2022) to the Planning Commission, a request by a resident at 6750 East Exeter Blvd for the city to abandon a portion of its right-of-way along 68<sup>th</sup> Street where a sidewalk could be built. The Planning Commission will hear this abandonment case on April 13, 2022.

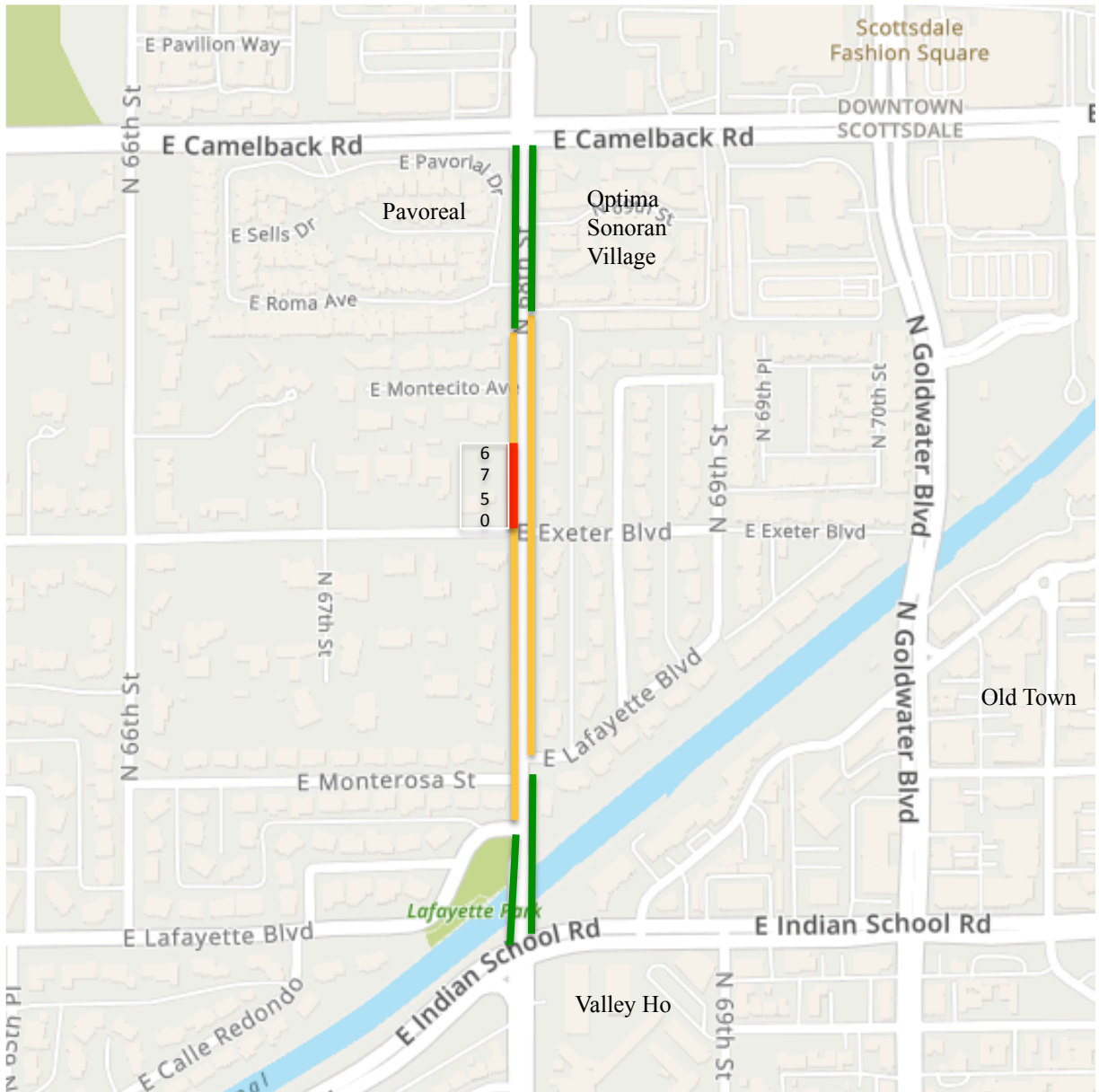
Our concern is that there is no plan or funding allocated for the development of sidewalks along 68<sup>th</sup> Street between Camelback Rd and Indian School Rd. To consider granting this abandonment request before the development of a sidewalk plan potentially forecloses future sidewalk development and risks increasing the cost of a sidewalk.

We respectfully request that the City Council along with the Planning Commission immediately put on hold any consideration of this application (2-AB-2022) and direct staff to complete a plan with funding for the construction of a sidewalk along 68<sup>th</sup> Street.

The dynamic situation along this stretch of road suggests that motor vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic will increase. It is crucial that the City Council considers as a matter of some urgency this citizen petition, with over 200 interested citizens' signatures, and provides the leadership to mitigate the current and growing pressure on North 68<sup>th</sup> Street.

Thank you, The 68<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalk Association

# Map of North 68<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalk Areas



Existing sidewalks are marked in **GREEN**

No sidewalks exist in areas marked in **YELLOW**

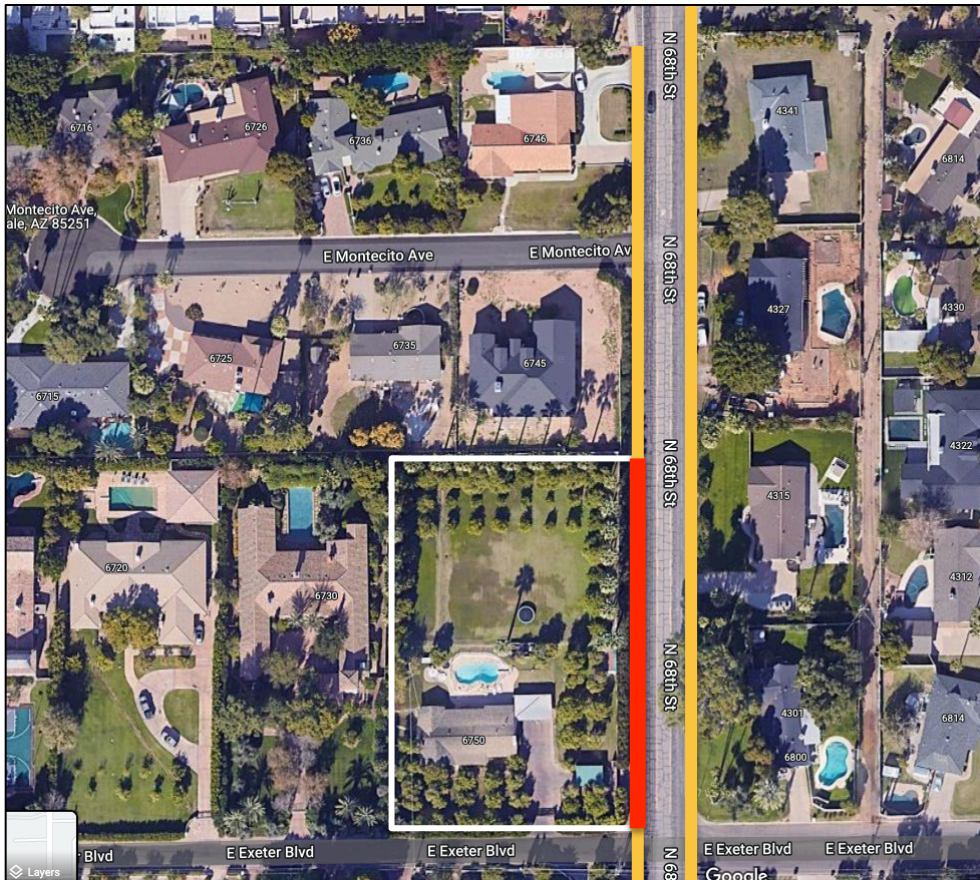
Land requested for abandonment is marked in **RED**  
(case 2-AB-2022 at 6750 East Exeter Blvd)



# Abandonment Requested along North 68<sup>th</sup> Street

## Case 2-AB-2022

### 6750 East Exeter Blvd



# Photo Examples of Hazards to Pedestrians on North 68<sup>th</sup> Street



Irrigation berms and walls leave pedestrians no option but to walk in the street. Vehicles often move into the center turn lane to avoid hitting pedestrians.



Dirt areas along the street are uneven and have debris that are tripping hazards especially when walking in the dark.



This intersection sign for Exeter Blvd requires pedestrians to step off the dirt and walk in the street to get around the sign.



View of eastern edge of 6750 E Exeter Blvd along N 68<sup>th</sup> St that is proposed for abandonment. (case 2-AB-2022)