

**Cortaro Farms Road, Camino de Oeste to Thornydale Road  
Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
March 13, 2008**

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Kevin Thornton, Psomas Project Manager, welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the CAC meeting. Kevin Thornton is the new project manager for this project, since Joe Vaskovic has left Psomas. Project team members and CAC members introduced themselves. Project team members in attendance included: Bob Roggenthen, PCDOT; Rick Ellis, PCDOT; Dewayne Tripp, PCDOT/Psomas; Carol Brichta, PCDOT; Kevin Thornton, Psomas; Alejandro Angel, Psomas; Scott King, Psomas; Lori Woods, RECON; Colby Henley, RECON; Scott Stapp, HDR; and Carol Oaks, Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations.

II. ATTENDANCE

CAC Members:

David G. Philips  
Dan Brader  
Robert S. Crossland  
Carolyn Pataconi for  
Daniel Pataconi

Leonard Bike  
Sy Lakosky  
David Gittings

Members Absent:

Greg Ogden  
Sandra Elliott  
James V. Barnhart  
Maeve O'Brien

Public Attendees:

Bruce Williams  
HP Friedrichs  
Lynn Friedrichs

Gene Lueth  
Karen Henley  
Nancy Nelson

III. Traffic Discussion – Alejandro Angel

Alejandro Angel gave an overview of the differences in the projected traffic volumes from the 2002 traffic report and the new projections according to the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) traffic model.

Alejandro discussed the original traffic report completed in 2002 as follows:

- The original report assumes a 4% per year growth rate without a reduction in traffic for the Twin Peaks Traffic Interchange.

Since the year 2002, several projects have been added near the I-10/Cortaro interchange that change the assumptions made at that time. Alejandro then discussed the reasoning behind the new projections as follows:

- Traffic increased from approximately 17,000 to 18,000 average daily traffic (ADT) in the year 2000, to approximately 19,400 ADT in the year 2006. This represents a 2% growth rate per year.
- Over that same period, according to the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), Pima County increased in population by 2.5%.
- Population growth is expected to slow down and only increase by 1.6% over the next 20 years.
- Looking at the current land use and population in the area, most of the land that can be developed has already been developed.
- Most of the undeveloped areas are preserved under the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.
- The I-10/Twin Peaks Interchange project is expected to be under construction at the end of the year and will have a grade separation at the railroad tracks. This will attract some of the Cortaro Farms Road traffic.
- Ina Road will also be widened to 6 lanes, 3 lanes in each direction, and will have a grade separation at the railroad tracks.
- Prince Road will also have a grade separation at the railroad tracks. This will mean that Cortaro Farms will be one of the only at-grade railroad crossings in the vicinity, making it the least attractive to traffic.
- The original design showed Cortaro Farms west of Camino de Oeste to be 6 lanes. The Town of Marana constructed it with only 4 lanes due to the decrease in projected traffic volumes.

The above assumptions, along with a heavily revised PAG model due to the passing of the RTA, results in traffic being projected to increase at 2.5% with a decrease in ADT when the I-10/Twin Peaks Interchange opens. The projected traffic volumes will still require 4 lanes, however the roadway will not be as busy as first expected.

For vehicle composition, the 2002 Traffic Report assumed 4% heavy trucks. From a count done in January 2008, the traffic count showed: 97.5% passenger cars; SUVs, and pickups; 0.4% buses; 1.3% medium trucks; and 0.8% heavy trucks.

#### CAC Questions and Comments on Traffic

A CAC member commented that once Cortaro Farms Road is widened, the amount of trucks on the roadway will increase. Alejandro agreed, however he said large trucks will prefer to use Ina Road because of the large commercial developments and because of the proposed grade separation at the railroad tracks.

Another person asked about the status of widening Cortaro Farms Road, east of Thornydale Road. This section is now under design and will go to construction before 2011. Some of the CAC members commented that when Ina Road is under construction, motorists will use Cortaro Farms Road.