



PIMA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Re: Cortaro Farms Road/Magee Road: Thornydale Road to Oracle Road
Public meeting held on Dec. 10, 2008

Dear Community Member:

The Pima County Department of Transportation held a public meeting on Dec. 10, 2008, to present the recommended alternative for the intersection of La Cholla Boulevard and Magee Road, the recommended alternative for the frontage roads along Magee Road and the conceptual roadway layout for the entire corridor, including proposed signal and median placements. Project representatives were available to discuss individual concerns and questions, and encouraged attendees to write down questions and concerns on comment forms provided.

The project team appreciates the feedback received from those who attended the public meeting. Approximately 70 people attended, and numerous comments and concerns were submitted via comment forms both at the meeting and in the two weeks following the meeting via mail, fax and e-mail.

In order to respond to the community as efficiently and effectively as possible, the project team has compiled the following enclosures: a summary of the meeting that includes frequently asked questions and responses, and the fact sheet distributed at the public meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Angie Brown, c/o Community Relations, at (520) 327-6077 or e-mail angie@gordleydesign.com. For more information, please visit the project Web site at www.roadprojects.pima.gov/cortaromagee.

Sincerely,

The Cortaro Farms Road/Magee Road Project Team



Cortaro Farms Road/Magee Road: Thornydale Road to Oracle Road Improvement Project



Public Meeting Summary – Dec. 10, 2008

The Pima County Department of Transportation held a public meeting on Dec. 10, 2008, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the Cortaro Farms Road/Magee Road: Thornydale Road to Oracle Road improvement project. The meeting was held at Mesa Verde Elementary School, located at 1661 W. Sage St. The objective of the meeting was to present the recommended alternative for the intersection of La Cholla Boulevard and Magee Road, the recommended alternative for the frontage roads along Magee Road and the conceptual roadway layout for the entire corridor, including proposed signal and median placements.

The public meeting followed an open house format for the first 15 minutes. Supervisor Ann Day opened the presentation and answered a few questions before Project Manager Bill Schlesinger, AECOM, presented the process used by the Citizen Advisory Committee and team for choosing the recommended alternative for the intersection of La Cholla Boulevard and Magee Road. The meeting returned to an open house format until 8 p.m. Project representatives were available to discuss individual concerns, and attendees were encouraged to complete comment forms. Various display boards showing the overall corridor, typical roadway sections, La Cholla Boulevard and Magee Road alternatives, and a computer simulation of intersection traffic movements were available to assist in the discussions.

Materials Distributed:

- Fact sheet
- Agenda
- Comment form
- Sign-in sheets
- Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) brochures

Public Attendance:

- Approximately 70 attended

Public Comments:

- Fourteen comment forms were received at the meeting and eight comments were received afterward
 - Regarding intersection alternatives:
 - Ten comments were in favor of the recommended alternative – the Jug Handle
 - Reasons why include: safety, land-use, further from homes, less impact to homes, cheaper and less noise for homes
 - Three comments were against the Jug Handle
 - Reasons why include: adds time/distance, safety (specifically regarding emergency service providers), increased noise and more impact on desert
 - Five comments were in favor of the S-Curve
 - Reasons why include: easiest, less confusing and safety
 - Three comments didn't like either alternative
 - Reasons why include: not necessary
 - One comment didn't address the alternatives

Public Comment Issues in Addition to Alternatives:

- Construction timeline concerns – 6 comments/questions
 - The project is on track to have the corridor study portion of the project completed by the end of 2009, as scheduled. The beginning of the first phase of construction is anticipated to occur in early 2011. At this time, we are anticipating that the first phase of construction will consist of improvements to the intersection of Magee Road and La Cholla Boulevard.

Project Web Site:

www.roadprojects.pima.gov/cortaromagee/



Cortaro Farms Road/Magee Road: Thornydale Road to Oracle Road Improvement Project



Public Meeting Summary – Dec. 10, 2008

- Drainage concerns – 5 comments/questions
 - This project has many drainage challenges. The proposed improvements for this project include drainage improvements along the roadway. Upstream and downstream drainage conditions will be improved when possible. At the very least, the drainage improvements will be designed in a way that will not increase water flow or velocity.
- Median access/left-turn concerns (other than the alternatives) – 4 comments/questions
 - The proposed median opening locations were determined based on physical constraints, such as proximity to major intersections, and traffic volumes on side streets and driveways. In addition, we attempted to provide each individual neighborhood and commercial development with at least one median opening. We have met with all individuals that have contacted us to discuss access issues. If anyone else would like to discuss access issues, we would be happy to meet with them.
- Noise walls desired – 3 comments/questions
 - Noise analysis is being performed now that an alternative intersection alignment has been selected. The results of the noise analysis will be presented at a public open house later this year, including proposed locations for noise walls. Because the County has applied for federal funding for this project, the federal process for noise analysis will be followed.
- Wildlife crossings desired – 2 comments/questions
 - We will attempt to incorporate wildlife crossings into the roadway and drainage improvements where possible.
- Road designation as arterial – 2 comments/questions
 - Based on current traffic volumes and characteristics, Magee Road functions as an arterial roadway and, based on future traffic projections, will continue to function in this capacity in the future. Pima County has determined that a design speed of 50 mph, with a posted speed of 45 mph, is appropriate for this type of roadway. This is in line with what is used by other jurisdictions throughout Arizona and the United States.
- Sustainability – 2 comments/questions
 - The project team has identified opportunities for revegetation and water harvesting. As we move forward to finalize the design of each section of the corridor, these opportunities will be evaluated and, where possible, incorporated into the final design.
- Want bus pullouts – 2 comments/questions
 - Bus pullouts are being considered.



Cortaro Farms Road/Magee Road: Thornydale Road to Oracle Road Improvement Project



FACT SHEET – Dec. 10, 2008

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Welcome to tonight's public meeting. Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT) is planning improvements to the Cortaro Farms Road/Magee Road corridor from Thornydale Road to Oracle Road. The purpose of this project is to improve current traffic conditions, meet future traffic needs and facilitate multimodal transportation along approximately five miles of the Cortaro Farms Road/Magee Road corridor, which is designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Roadway by PCDOT.

This project is funded in part through the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Plan, which was approved by Pima County voters in May 2006, as well as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The first part of the project is to study the corridor in order to develop preliminary design and conduct environmental analysis. A specific construction start date for the project has not yet been established; however, the project will comply with RTA mandates, and construction activities will begin prior to summer 2011.

The proposed improvements to be considered include:

- Widening the roadway to four lanes and adding a center median.
- Providing bike lanes and sidewalk.
- Intersection work at Thornydale Road, Shannon Road, La Cholla Boulevard, La Cañada Drive and Oracle Road to match or improve existing conditions.
- Improvements to the Magee Road/La Cholla Boulevard off-set intersection based upon an analysis of various intersection alternatives.
- Drainage improvements throughout.
- New/augmented bridge over the Cañada del Oro Wash.
- Landscaping throughout the corridor utilizing native plants.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- An Environmental Assessment meeting the needs of the FHWA and the Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report (EAMR) process will be prepared.
- Technical Discipline reports for Noise Analysis, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources and Hazardous Materials will be prepared as well as analysis of view sheds and social and economic impacts.
- An individual Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers is anticipated.

CURRENT STATUS

- The recommended alignment for the La Cholla Boulevard/Magee Road intersection is the "Jug Handle".
- The frontage road alignment has been determined after meeting with affected parties.
- Noise analysis is ongoing.
- The draft EAMR and the draft Design Concept Report (DCR) are ongoing.

NEXT STEPS

- Review public comment.
- Finalize the corridor concept and intersection alignment.
- Complete the noise analysis.
- Hold a public meeting in spring/summer of 2009.

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