



PIMA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Oct. 20, 2008

Re: Cortaro Farms Road/Magee Road: Thornydale Road to Oracle Road
Public meeting held on Aug. 14, 2008

Dear Community Member:

The Pima County Department of Transportation held a public meeting on Aug. 14, 2008, to discuss alternatives for the intersection of La Cholla Boulevard and Magee Road, alternatives 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 workshops. Approximately 140 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 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 – Aug. 14, 2008

The Pima County Department of Transportation held a public meeting on Aug. 14, 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 St. Mark's United Methodist Church, located at 1431 W. Magee Road, Tucson, AZ 85704 (southwest corner of Magee Road and La Cañada Drive). The objective of the meeting was to show alternatives for the intersection of La Cholla Boulevard and Magee Road, alternatives 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 30 minutes, followed by a brief presentation of the process of the project and the alternatives developed for the frontage roads and the intersection of Magee Road and La Cholla Boulevard. After the question-and-answer session that followed the presentation, Supervisor Ann Day spoke. The meeting followed an open house format for the final 30 minutes. Project representatives were available to discuss individual concerns, and attendees were encouraged to complete comment forms.

Materials Distributed:

- Fact sheet
- Agenda
- Comment form
- Sign-in sheets
- RTA brochures

Public Attendance:

- 139 attended

Public Comments:

- 17 comment forms were received at the meeting and 13 comments were received after the meeting
 - Regarding intersection alternatives:
 - One comment suggested a "Michigan Left"
 - Two comments suggested an underpass at the intersection

	Liked most	Liked Least
Roundabout	2	10
S-curve	5	1
Jughandle	9	2
Flyover	5	7
None	2	
Leave as is	5	

- Regarding frontage road alternatives:
 - No comment forms were received regarding frontage roads; the team heard the following at the meeting:
 - Concern about high traffic noise level
 - Concern about traffic other than local residents using frontage roads as an additional high-speed traffic lane



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



Public Meeting Summary – Aug. 14, 2008

- Frontage road too close to Magee Road, is a different elevation than Magee Road
- Difficult to make U-turn westbound where Magee Road converges to two lanes, due to sight visibility issues; lots of accidents happen here
- Unanimous that Alternative #1 is best
- Would like to have access to two-way lanes on the frontage road
- Did not like one-way alternatives
- Suggestion to move proposed alignment north for less right-of-way acquisition

Public Comment Issues in Addition to Alternatives:

- Noise walls desired – 7
 - Noise analysis will be performed once an alternative intersection alignment has been selected. A description of the process the team will use for noise analysis will be presented at the October 20, 2008, CAC meeting. The results of the noise analysis will be presented at a public open house later this year or early next 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.
- Concern about alternative costs – 2
 - As with all design decisions, cost will be one of the criteria used to evaluate the alternatives. The project has a finite funding limit. Cost over that limit may mean other projects to improve safety and mobility throughout the region will not be constructed.
- Median access concerns – 4
 - 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.
- Crosswalks and/or wildlife crossings desired – 3
 - At a minimum, pedestrian crosswalks will be provided at all signalized intersections and wherever crosswalks exist today. Additional crosswalk locations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. We will attempt to incorporate wildlife crossings into the roadway and drainage improvements where possible.
- Want lower speed limit – 2
 - Magee Road functions today as an arterial roadway, and 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. Additionally, experience has shown that designing an arterial roadway at a lower design speed leads to more accidents, regardless of the posted speed.
- Want bus pullouts – 5
 - Bus pullouts will be considered.
- Want more details – 2
 - More details will be provided at future public meetings and on the project Web site as the design is further refined over the next year.
- Concern about design of traffic signal at Jensen Drive – 2
 - While a traffic signal at Jensen Drive is closer to adjacent signals than we would typically prefer, the large projected volumes from Jensen Drive met the national criteria we utilize to determine the location of traffic signals.

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Public Meeting Summary – Aug. 14, 2008

- Right-of-way concerns – 1
 - In general we try to minimize, if not entirely avoid, any right-of-way acquisition. The amount of right-of-way acquisition is one of the criteria used to evaluate all design decisions.
- Drainage concerns – 3
 - 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.
- Desire for more traffic signals – 2
 - Traffic signals installed at the wrong location cause more accidents than they prevent. We have followed national standards to determine where signals are warranted. To install a signal at a location where it is not warranted would decrease the overall safety of the intersection.
- Concern about sight distance at Mona Lisa Road– 1
 - The intersection of Magee Road and Mona Lisa Road will be designed to insure proper sight distance along vertical and horizontal sight lines, based upon a 50 mph design speed on Magee Road.
- Construction timeline concerns – 2
 - 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 late 2010 or 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.

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FACT SHEET – Aug. 14, 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 construction start date for the project has not yet been established.

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 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, social and economic impacts.
- An individual Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers is anticipated.

CURRENT STATUS

At tonight's meeting, the project team is presenting for public review and comment:

- A typical cross-section of what the four-lane roadway will look like, with a center median, sidewalks and vegetation.
- The roadway alignment.
- Median opening locations.
- Traffic signal locations.
- Alternatives for the La Cholla Boulevard/Magee Road intersection.
- Alternatives for the frontage roads located on Magee Road east of La Cholla Boulevard.

NEXT STEPS

After tonight's meeting, the project team will further study the alternatives presented, using public comment, Community Advisory Committee input, engineering analysis and environmental analysis to develop a recommended alternative for both the La Cholla Boulevard/Magee Road intersection and the frontage roads located on Magee Road east of La Cholla Boulevard. Engineering and environmental technical analysis including traffic report, hydraulic analysis, biological resources, cultural resources and noise analysis will take place in the next few months. The next public meeting will be held in winter 2008/2009, and will present the recommended alternatives as well as the findings from the technical analysis.

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