



La Cholla Boulevard: Ruthrauff Road to River Road Community Advisory Committee Meeting



Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2009
6 to 7:30 p.m.
Pima County Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Facility

CAC Members Present:

- Fred Bass
- Ann Girvin
- Norma Metz
- Wayne Metz
- Ellie Towne

CAC Members Not in Attendance:

- Humbert Arce
- Ellen Currey
- Jason Kai
- Andy Hernandez
- Robert Schwartz

Attending from Project Team:

- Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT): Carol Brichta, John McManus, Dean Papajohn
- HDR Engineering: Larry Barela, Mike Barton, Ted Buell
- Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Mainstreet Program: Britton Dornquast
- Gordley Design Group: Barb Alley, Jan Gordley

Materials Distributed/Presented:

- Agenda

Dean Papajohn, PCDOT Project Manager, welcomed the group to the CAC meeting, and thanked the members for their commitment to the La Cholla Boulevard project. He asked that the CAC members introduce themselves for the record, and then had those in attendance do so as well.

Dean said he was very excited about this project, as it will offer relief of traffic congestion now and in the future. Dean shared a story out of the book titled *Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do, (and What It Says About Us)*, by: Tom Vanderbilt. He read a short description about a five-hour traffic jam in New York City on Dec. 23, 1879. Dean reminded us that traffic issues have been prevalent throughout the ages.

Dean referred everyone to the agenda, and he started with the tentative schedule moving forward:

- July 2009: In the process of completing final design
- August/September 2009: Pima County Procurement will put this job out to bid to obtain a contractor
- October/November 2009: Underground work should begin
- January 2011: Project substantially completed

Dean said that some utility works needs to be done over the summer, such as relocation of power poles, etc.

Dean gave an update on construction plans for the bridge. He told the group that the original plan was to have one lane open in each direction during construction and construct the bridge one side at a time; however, with further review, the team had a great concern regarding the power lines that run along the road quite close to the bridge. For the safety of the crews that will be constructing the bridge, it was decided that the bridge would be closed during the reconstruction process. Besides the safety issue involved, Dean said that closing the bridge during construction would reduce the time needed to construct the bridge from 18-20 months down to just 12 months. Dean also mentioned that County representatives and the RTA have been talking to the businesses in the area making sure they have accurate information and know the alternate routes needed to get their employees and customers to and from their businesses. Dean said that during the Interstate 10 construction, people had been using La Cholla Boulevard as an alternative route; however, by the time work begins on this project, I-10 construction will be wrapping up, making another avenue for motorists to use. Flowing Wells Road will also be repaved to handle any increase in traffic due to the construction. Dean said that Curtis Road would remain open; discussions and suggestions for additional detours ensued.

Larry Barela, HDR, gave an update on the design of the roadway. He said that the roadway design was progressing and they were now looking at the details, such as the number of temporary construction easements (TCE) that will be needed to do the construction on the roadway and the curb access ramps to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Larry also stated that they would be taking traffic counts on Curtis Road in order to determine storage capacity and prepare for possible future widening of this roadway.

A CAC member stated that she lives at Curtis Road, and although having the bridge closed will be an inconvenience, she was happy that the process would take less time to complete.

Another CAC member expressed his satisfaction with the entire project.

Dean concluded by stating that Pima County Real Property had contacted 19 property owners on the roadway about acquisitions, and nine are possibly interested in having their property acquired. Appraisals have been ordered on those properties and that process will be moving forward.

Dean said that the team would stay around to answer any questions the CAC or members of the public had about the project. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.