

4RTLTM

La Cholla Blvd: Magee to Tangerine CAC Meeting

MINUTES

JUNE 30, 2009

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
9755 N. La Cholla Blvd.

TYPE OF MEETING	Community Advisory Committee Meeting
FACILITATOR	Dean Papajohn & Eric Sibson
ATTENDEES	<p><u>Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Members Present:</u> Fred DiNoto DeDe Betten Andrea Calabro, Bob Iannarino Danny Goldmann Brent Bartz Loren B. Christenfeld Jane Perry Robert Ewens John Reynolds Barbara Wisot Randall Abbey John Lacky</p> <p><u>CAC Members Not Present:</u> Thomas Tucker</p> <p><u>Pima County Team Members:</u> Supervisor Ann Day, District 1 Jacqui Andrade, Supervisor Ann Day’s Office, District 1 Dean Papajohn, Project Manager Rick Ellis, Engineering Design Division Head Carol Brichta, Community Relations Program Coordinator Julie C. Simon, Community Relations Program Coordinator</p> <p><u>URS Group:</u> Eric Sibson, Project Manager Leslie Watson, Environmental Manager</p> <p><u>Interested Parties:</u> George Ward Robert A. Nall Mr. & Mrs. R. McBride Judy Moll Peter Archuleta</p>
DISCUSSION	La Cholla Blvd: Magee Road to Tangerine Road Project

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Ann Day. Supervisor Ann Day welcomed the CAC members and thanked them for their participation on this project. Supervisor Day briefly discussed what the committee's participation would entail, how their participation represented the citizens along the project corridor, described the anticipated design for this project, the RTA's reprioritization of this project from the 2nd quarter to the 1st quarter so that it could be built sooner, and the importance of communication. CAC members will be responsible for providing information received from CAC meetings to their HOA and vice-versa bringing these communications to the committee.

Mr. Dean Papajohn addressed the committee. Mr. Papajohn outlined the agenda for tonight's meeting:

Introductions
Project Improvement Overview
CAC Input
Review of CAC Responsibilities/Role
Additional Concerns

Mr. Papajohn introduced the team members that would be working with the CAC members on this project.

Project Team Members:

Dean Papajohn - Project Manager from Pima County's Department of Transportation

Eric Sibson - Project Manager from URS – Will be leading the design team and working on various aspects of the project such as Engineering Surveys, Biological Surveys, Cultural Surveys and working with the real property group about rights of entry.

Leslie Watson – From URS will be working closely with Eric Sibson to develop environmental aspects for this project

Rick Ellis – Design Division Manager, Pima County Department of Transportation

Jacqui Andrade – Representative from Supervisor Ann Day's office.

Julie Simon – Community Relations Program Coordinator, Pima County Department of Transportation, will be handling Community outreach – and working with CAC members.

Carol Brichta – Community Relations Program Coordinator, Pima County Department of Transportation, Working with CAC members

Introduction of CAC Members

Mr. Papajohn asked the CAC Member to introduce themselves and identify their goals for the project.

Each member of the CAC introduced themselves and expressed why their participation on this project was important.

Loren Christenfeld – Has been a resident since 1970. Would like to see the flooding issue resolved and ensure bank protection and equestrian access is addressed

Andrea Calabro – Has lived in the area for the past 8 years. Concerns include adequate bank protection, alleviating traffic congestion, traffic safety, and bicycle/pedestrian access.

Fred DiNoto – Has lived in La Cholla Hills for 6 and half years. Multiple concerns include biking, congestion, transportation, and potential perch. Additionally, flooding of the CDO Wash and how that will be alleviated. Would like to see better communication to the public when there are road closures.

Randy Abbey – Area traffic.

Brent Bartz – Represents the Northwest Bible Church. There is a proposed building project of a new

church; he is concerned with what impact the project will have on this proposed development.

Bob Iannarino – Has been a resident for 15 years. Concerned with the regional connectivity La Cholla will bring to the area, the surges in traffic, and wants to ensure safe corridors in the area.

Ron Staub – Has been a resident for 13 years. He is also concerned with connectivity, washes, and the entire corridor.

Bob Ewens – Resident for 11 years. Concerned with maintaining washes, wash banks, and removing the possibility of people moving barriers during floods to travel through an area.

John Lakey – Resides near Overton & La Cholla. Concerned about the quality of life in this area and the traffic flow.

Barbara Wisot – Resides near Tucson National. Placed importance in getting people together.

John Reynolds – Resident for 6 years. Currently resident and board member of HOA. Concerned about the high density in the area. The preservation of the quality of life in the area, ridges, run-off, dips being washed out and noise factors.

Jane Perry – Resides in the Copper Ridge Estates south of Tangerine, east of La Cholla. Concerned about congestion, traffic flow, speed and pedestrian safety.

Danny Goldmann – General Manager of Tucson National. Communication is through this process is very important.

DeDe Betten – Resides in La Canada Hills, Oro Valley, for 2 years. Concerned with the aesthetics, and improve safety.

Mr. Rick Ellis addressed the committee regarding the expectations of the CAC and its members, the importance of feedback and input. How membership on the committee is viewed as representation for their community. How important their communication with team members and their community is critical to this process. Members will be tasked with being educators and advocates for their communities and community advisors on the project's progress. Mr. Ellis also thanked them for their participation.

Mr. Dean Papajohn addressed the committee regarding the project overview. Proposed improvements include 4 lane roadway, multiuse path, sidewalks, intersection improvements (signalized and non-signalized), medians, major drainage structures, curb and storm drain, bridge crossing at CDO Wash, landscaping, art, and noise mitigation (rubberized asphalt, warranted noise wall, etc.) Other potential improvements include: Utility company upgrades and right of way acquisitions.

This project encompasses La Cholla starting at the northern Magee intersection and ending at Tangerine Road. This is a 5 mile corridor with main intersections at Overton, Lambert, Tangerine and Narjana. These intersections have stop lights and will continue to have stop lights. The roadway is a 2 way road that will be improved to a 4 lane roadway. Multiuse paths and/or sidewalks will be added. A raised median with curb & drainage structures in addition to the bridge. We will be studying all of that along with the roadway.

Landscape and art along the corridor is 1% of the budget dedicated to this project. Two CAC members will be asked to volunteer on the selection for art along this corridor.

Noise mitigation will be examined and designed where mitigation is warranted.

The improved four lanes will be divided by a median approximately 20 feet wide. There will be landscape in the median, but no large trees, there is a clear zone that needs to be maintained within the median and 20 feet on the outside travel lanes.

A bridge will be constructed over the CDO Wash. The road currently goes down and there is a dip crossing across the CDO Wash. The road will be higher, above the existing grade of the wash. Turn lanes will impact the construction of the bridge.

Road elevation will be examined along with the existing bank protection along the Bluff Subdivision.

Connectivity to the walk way along Omni which is located farther up the wash will be incorporated.

Staff is working closely with Oro Valley to coordinate both jurisdictions (Pima County & Oro Valley). Staff will also need to work with property owners to acquire property.

Mr. Eric Sibson addressed the CAC regarding Existing Conditions.

Photos of the existing roadway were displayed for CAC members to view.

The design speed for La Cholla will 50 mph, however the posted will remain at 45 mph.

Mr. Straub inquired about the road variations.

Mr. Sibson responded this area is considered a mountainous area, because there is more than 20 ft of fall. We are allowed a 7% grade but we are going to flatten that out as much as we can. There may be some cut backs to hills and those might be areas where you will see some walls.

Mr. Sibson continued with his presentation

Existing Intersections

Intersections that will be included in the traffic study: La Cholla / Glover, La Cholla / Naraja, La Cholla / Lambert, & La Cholla / Overton.

Earthwork

There will be excavation on top of the hill. There will be embankments at the approach to the bridges. The CDO Wash is one of the main focuses of this corridor. Work has started on the hydraulic analysis of the wash. The existing floodway will be analyzed to show how high we need to make that bridge to make free board clearance. Scour for the long term will be studied.

Drainage

Dip crossing will need reconstructed with culverts. Safety issues will be addressed for potential affect by weather conditions. Road alignment will also be studied.

Mr. Iannarino inquired as to whether the washes have been mapped.

Ms. Watson responded that the mapping process is underway.

Mr. Sibson added that classification of washes have also been identified preliminarily.

Utilities

Utility coordination includes the following companies:

Metro Water, Tucson Electric Power (TEP), Southwest Gas (SWGAs), Regional Wastewater, Reclamation Dept. (RWRD), Comcast Cable, Qwest Communications, Oro Valley Water.

Staff is currently mapping the existing utilities that are in the corridor.

Metro water has indicated an interest in putting in some extra facilities along the project corridor. Metro Water has also been informed about the need to relocate a current well site.

TEP power pole cables will need to be relocated. A TEP substation located on corner of Overton/La Cholla

shouldn't be impacted by the improvements.

Southwest Gas staff is examining the locations of a pressure stations to check for conflicts.

These utilities run parallel to the project: Sewer Pima County Wastewater, Comcast Cable, and Qwest Communications. These utilities all run parallel to La Cholla for a major part of the project limits.

Oro Valley water runs through Oro Valley. It runs Parallel to La Cholla from Lambert Rd to Tangerine Rd.

Adjacent Property

All properties adjacent to the project limits that will be impacted have been identified. The following subdivisions, churches and public schools have been identified:

Iron Wood Ranch Subdivision
La Cholla Estates Subdivision
Catalina at Canada Hills Subdivision
Canada Hills Subdivision
Chaparral Heights Subdivision
Iron Wood Estates Subdivision
The Bluffs Subdivision
La Cholla Hills Subdivisions
Church of the Apostles
Casas Church
Alive Christian Church
Grace Community Church
Northwest Bible Church
Wilson K-8 School
Ironwood Ridge High School

Also being examined are what impacts future developments will have on the project: These are some proposed developments:

Rancho Del Cobre Subdivision
Sagueros Viejos Subdivision
Casas Adobes Baptist Church Expansion
Ironwood Ridge Estates
The Hills at Tucson National Subdivision

Mr. John Reynolds inquired about the 45 foot right-of-way and as to whether that would exist throughout the entire project?

The full right-of-way is anticipated at 150'. Mr. Sibson responded that the area which might create the tightest spot was north of Overton.

Leslie Watson addressed the committee

Environmental - Steps in the Process

Data Gathering – staff is currently in this stage of the process.

Environmental Screening – Tells us what is important and what needs to be considered.

Technical Reports – These are cultural delineation and hazmat reports.

Design Concept Report – This report is for the entire project limits from Magee to Tangerine. It examines alternatives, how things can be done differently, and what ways/options are for building.

Environmental Assessment & Mitigation Report - CAC members will be asked to review the environmental assessment & mitigation report and compose a recommendation letter for consideration and approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Loren Christenfeld inquired as to whether the Army Corp would be involved?

Ms. Watson responded that the Army Corp would be involved and that a permit form them is necessary. Mr. Papajohn added that environmental permits have stricter regulations. The County's goal, especially for water, is to have zero impact. Recommendations include removing the dip section on La Cholla Road at the CDO Wash and bridging the Wash with the intent of not raising the water level.

Mr. Dean Papajohn addressed the committee

Project Schedule

Planning & Engineering

Stage I (15% concept plans)

January 2010

Design Concept Report (DCR)

Draft DCR, February 2010

Final DCR, April 2010

Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report (EAMR)

Draft Noise Report, November, 2009

Final Noise Report, December 2009

Draft EAMR, December 2009

Final EAMR, March 2010

Mr. Bob Iannarino inquired about the CAC's involvement with EAMR and whether or not this document goes for federal review? Is this the final document that allows you to move forward into design?

Mr. Papajohn responded that the EAMR is the final planning document and CAC members will be asked to provide their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The document will then go before the Pima County Board of Supervisor's for approval and once it is approved it will become our plan for the final design. This document will include information regarding washes, permitting, and a strategy for obtaining the necessary permits. We will not have the permits in hand when the EAMR is approved but the strategy for moving forward and obtaining those permits will be in place.

Mr. Iannarino inquired as to what were the project limits of the EAMR?

Mr. Papajohn responded that the DCR would encompass the entire corridor from Magee Road to Tangerine Road and the EAMR would encompass only the county's portion of the project from Magee Road to Lambert Lane.

Mr. Robert Ewens inquired as to where this portion of the project would end?

Mr. Sibson responded the project limits will extend from Magee Road to Lambert Lane intersection. The intersection itself will be the ultimate improvement it will then taper back into an existing two lane roadway north of Lambert and Oro Valley will handle constructing the remaining portion.

Mr. Iannarino inquired as to whether the section between Lambert Lane and Tangerine Road would be separated out of the DCR to expedite the southern DCR?

Mr. Papajohn responded that this is a potential strategy. The County's goal and the RTA's desire is that we do this 15% design for the entire corridor. RTA has budgeted for the full 5 miles and the money will be divided between Pima County and Oro Valley.

Mr. Papajohn Continued to address the committee regarding the CAC meeting schedule.

CAC Schedule – (Tentative)

CAC Meeting #1 – (introductions/CAC Role/Project Overview)

June 30, 2009

CAC Meeting #2 – Preliminary Design Review/Project Update)
October, 2009
CAC Meeting #3 – (Noise Study Introductions)
November 2009
CAC Meeting #4 – (Noise Results/Draft EAMR/Draft Traffic Report)
January 2010
CAC Meeting #5 – (Draft Letter to Board of Supervisors)
February 2010
CAC Meeting #6 – (Finalize Letter to Board of Supervisors)
March 2010

Planning Stage

Magee Road to Tangerine Road
Stage I (15% concept Design)
DCR
Magee Road to Lambert Lane
Stage II (30% design)
EAMR

Ms. Carol Brichta addressed the committee thanking them for their participation and explained the responsibilities of the committee. Attendance is critical to the project's process. Committee members are considered community representatives. Committee members were provided a binder for placing all the materials they receive. A website for this project can be found on Pima County's Department of Transportation Road Project webpage. This website will be updated as new material becomes available. The CAC meetings are designed to provide CAC members with the projects progress. Interested parties are always welcome to attend however the information will be provided to the CAC committee first. Once that is accomplished the meeting will be opened to all interested parties to ask questions.

If any members of the CAC are unable to attend, staff asks that they please contact us and let us know. CAC members may also send a representative, just let us know.

The biggest part of this process is the DCR and EAMR. These reports will be provided and the Committee will be asked to compose a recommendation letter to the Board of Supervisors. During this process there will also be public meeting to receive feedback from the public.

If necessary the committee can meet more than what has been tentatively scheduled.

Also, if any of the HOAs would like us to meet with them to discuss this project, staff is willing to do that on a one on one basis.

CAC members were advised that there were certain aspects of this project that would not be brought before them for review. These instances are regulations that are mandated and that can not be changed. On these regulations we do not ask for the committee to comments.

The Committee will need to select a chair person for the committee. The Chairperson/co chairs will be responsible for getting everybody together, drafting the letter for the BOS, and making sure enough meetings have been scheduled for the group.

Two committee members will also be asked to sit on the artist panel. Their responsibilities will include: review of art submittals, attend meeting with the art panel, and attending the presentations by the selected artists

Mr. Randy Abbey and Jane Perry volunteered to sit on the artist committee.

Mr. Peter Archuleta asked that the project team please consider accommodations during construction for individuals that jog and ride their bikes along Magee and to the Northwest Pima Community College Campus.

Mr. Bob Iannarino inquired about transit?

Mr. Sibson responded coordination would be done with Suntran

Mr. Fred DiNoto asked about the project's start and finish date?

Mr. Papajohn responded that construction takes approximately 1 ½ year for a project this size.

Ms. Brichta asked the committee if they had any objections to staff placing the committee members email addresses on the project website. There were no objections.

Mr. Bob Iannarino asked about the cost and funding challenges?

Mr. Papajohn responded the original funding estimate for this project was 53 million dollars for the entire 5 miles. That total represents the county's portion and Oro Valley's portions. Staff is looking at the budget or alternatives to keep within the budget.

Ms. Brichta asked the committee if they objected to continue to hold future CAC meeting on Tuesday nights at 6:00 p.m. There were no objections

Call to the Audience

Ms. Judy Moll addressed staff about whether a signal light would be constructed at Coral Ridge Loop, and La Cholla? There is some difficulty coming out of that area for the senior citizens that live there.

Mr. Papajohn responded that this area will be part of the traffic study.

Mr. Robert Nall inquired as to whether TEP can move their overhead lines underground?

Mr. Papajohn Dean's responded that the line would be maintained overhead due to the large voltage of the transmission lines and the large cost of undergrounding utilities that utility companies will not cover.

Conclusion of Meeting

Mr. Papajohn shared a quote from Henry Ford which stated: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." Tonight we have made a beginning by coming together. We look forward to making progress at future meetings, and ultimately resulting in a successful project. Then Mr. Papajohn closed the meeting and thanked the group for their participation.