



CITY OF ELK GROVE TRAILS COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

Mark Mendenhall, Chair | Steve Zehnder, Vice Chair
Lisa Dixon | Merwin Rose | Sharon Anderson

Special Meeting of the Trails Committee
Tuesday, September 12, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Elk Grove City Hall, 8400 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Mark Mendenhall called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Steve Zehnder was not in attendance. Lisa Dixon arrived at 6:38.

2. **Trails Master Plan Presentation and Discussion:**

The meeting began with Chair Mendenhall giving a short introduction and orientation to the meeting.

Rebecca Atkinson, project planner, followed with a presentation on the Plan & Plan process thus far.

Ms. Atkinson conducted a general survey of categories of questions people had. She then opened the floor to questions, requesting people save their property specific questions to the end of the meeting. The following are a summary of major comments/questions and how they were addressed by the Trails Committee and City Staff.

- **Which departments in the City handle trails?** The City & Elk Grove Community Services District currently share responsibility for trails. Fred Bremerman of the Elk Grove Community Service District attends Trails Committee meetings. Developers build trails for the most part in Elk Grove. Within the City the Planning & Public Works departments work with the Community Services Director to plan and develop trails.

- **How does this plan link up with regional trails & assist bike commuters in moving north out of the City?** This plan addresses trails up to the City limits only but does set a goal of cooperation with external agencies for trail connectivity. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan addresses many of these concerns.

- **Commuters use trails too, & they prefer trails. We need to take transportation into account when developing this Trails Master Plan.** Committee members & staff agreed & asked for specific recommendations above and beyond what exists in the Plan.

- **A board member from the Central Valley Rails to Trails Foundation requested a staging area off of Grant Line to take advantage of the planned regional trail there.** Staff & the Committee stated the concentration of established businesses around Grant Line Road may make development of a staging area on this trail adjacent to Grant Line Road difficult. One implementation item in the Plan commits the City to identifying at least three staging areas within the City, however.

- **What is the general timeframe for implementing priority one projects? Could lower priority projects get built first?** Staff & the Committee responded by saying yes, and that specific implementation timing was frequently based upon the funds available. Grants are usually tailored to specific types of projects. Those projects will most likely get funded and built first. The Committee cited several examples and emphasized the need for the public to petition City Council to build trails if they wanted them built. The Committee also noted the success of communities with staff solely dedicated to trails.

- **Please give an estimate of the actual costs associated with these priority projects. What does “\$\$\$” mean?** Trail costs are difficult to estimate without knowing when they will be built and the cost of labor

and materials at that time. Cost estimates on page 34 of the plan give general parameters. Grants usually require matching funds which take time to raise. Developers build trails for the most part & thus set the timeframes for trail construction in general. The City and CSD still need to work out which organization will actually build trails.

- Thanks to the Trails Committee for their work thus far. Thanks to them it's safer for cyclists in town now.

- Where are trails to schools? It's tough to put trails in built out areas, which is where schools tend to be. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan lists bike lanes & bike routes which are alternative routes to schools. Specific plan areas may bring additional trails into particular areas.

- This gentleman has waited fifteen years for little connectors to be completed by Wackman Park. At a minimum we need to reserve open spaces for trails. One trail is identified & on the priority list, the other one is in a wetlands area & we need to figure out a way around that. The map will reserve the areas listed. The Committee complimented developers who have cooperated & put trails in on pieces of property they have developed thus far.

- How do trails facilitate school commutes? Can we send maps to the schools stating students can use trails on these maps & even ones not listed on these maps? This is part of the Plan's educational component. Admittedly, cyclists in bike lanes do not receive much respect from motorists in Elk Grove and unmarked trails seem to offer a safe alternative for students. Anyone who wants these unmarked trails listed on the Master Plan Map should make that explicit because the City does not recommend people walk along planned trails where there are no safety patrols and where the trail itself is often on private property.

- Is the trail near Emerald Vista and East Stockton Boulevard ever going to be built back out? Yes, within the next few years thanks to a one million dollar grant from SACOG. Once that trail segment near Emerald Vista and one other is completed that trail will take users almost all the way to Bruceville Road.

- Do developers cooperate? Yes, & they will have to continue doing so once the Trails Master Plan is adopted by the City Council.

- The trail route in the Stonelake area should extend to Franklin High School & Toby Johnson Middle School. Unfortunately the trail ends right before the railroad tracks & this is arguably the most dangerous section of road in the City. Can we connect that with a trail? The railroad over-crossing is built out & doesn't have enough room for a bike trail.

- How will the Powerline corridor work? Will it be a safe route up to Calvine for schoolchildren? The key to the corridor is ensuring every developer builds their section of the trail. Otherwise the City will have to purchase easements. It will be safe.

- This lady was very happy to read about this Trails Master Plan in the paper on Sunday & happy to realize trails even exist in Elk Grove. She thought these were privately owned trails. When will the Plan get approved? Can trail development move forward without this? Staff gave a general rundown of coming events prior to City Council approval. The Trails Committee will continue to plan trails in Elk Grove, regardless. This plan will help trail planning and construction for a variety of reasons but it's not absolutely essential to have this plan in place.

- Is there any concern regarding trail safety in Laguna Ridge? No.

- How soon will this plan be updated after it is adopted or will it? Yes, it will probably be, but there's no definite schedule.

- **Are trails leading to the railroad trail in the northeastern section of the City a priority?** We don't have priorities for trail construction, & that area will be developed slowly due to individual property owners still owning properties & probably not developing them anytime soon.
- **Why are there so many trails in Vintara Park?** The Trails Committee requested these trails. The developer agreed to put those trails in, though not all meet the standards outlined in this Plan. The Trails Committee wasn't able to request trails prior to the City's incorporation.
- **How wide are these trails in Vintara Park?** Not all meet our minimum cross section since they were put in before the adoption of this plan.
- **Can we put in a trail along Bond Road?** The Committee would like to see that but residents in that area aren't as happy about that, though not including curb, gutter, & sidewalk may be an option to get a trail in there. The City is developing rural roads standards that will help dictate exactly what those trail standards are. The City may not be able to implement a 24' wide trail section in these rural road areas.
- **Is there any information regarding the Sheldon overpass & can we get a bike trail in there?** CALTRANS has a say in this & their standards do not include trails but do have wide sidewalks & don't require major elevation increases.
- **The mall is depicted with no trails. Why? Trails are needed. Get them on the map.** The Trails Committee has requested trails through the mall.
- **Won't this plan be adopted before the mall goes to the Planning Commission? If so, get the trails on the map.** Yes.
- **Why are there no equestrian trails east of Waterman on Sheldon?** The area is primarily built out.
- **Can stop bicyclists from speeding down sidewalks in Old Town?** The bike route encourages people to stay on Grove Street. The committee would like to see a bike route to the north of Elk Grove Boulevard along Locust Street. Speak to staff after the meeting to discuss getting Problem Oriented Policing officers involved with that issue. The Committee spoke about bike riding along Elk Grove Boulevard itself.
- **Where can we find this Trails master Plan map online in color?** See the City's website.
- **Sheldon overpass into Laguna Creek trail question.** The Committee detailed what is planned & identified bike routes in area as well. It will be tough to build an over-crossing due to wetlands in the area.
- **Cycling south on Elk Grove Florin Road, the bike path moves into traffic. Can we correct that? It's scary.** No. Bike lanes should move cyclists to the left of right hand turning vehicles. This is a standard design.
- **Recommended plant materials include oak trees. They should be a priority plant. We have enough of other trees types of trees like Chinese Pistachios & Crape Myrtles. Let's have native vegetation that is drought tolerant.** No vegetation prioritized as of yet, though the Plan recommends drought tolerant shrubbery.
- **Let's double the width of the trail railroad crossing on Elk Grove Boulevard since it is designed for two way traffic. Let's make a convenient way to get across the street at that point. This is a major liability for the City. We shouldn't have bikes on such narrow sidewalks.** Staff will look into that.
- **Get map of trails to the public in bike shops & elsewhere.** Good idea.

- **The Central Valley Rails to Trails Foundation wants to work with staff in joint grant ventures. They have grant writers.** Please call.

3. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Planning Commission Secretary Melanie Ware at (916) 478-3621.

Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to his meeting.

Information on the Elk Grove Trails Committee is available on the Internet, at
<http://www.egplanning.org/trails/>