



CITY OF ELK GROVE TRAILS COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

Mark Mendenhall, Chair | Sharon Anderson, Vice Chair
Timothy Jordan | Merwin Rose | Steve Zehnder

Regular Meeting of the Trails Committee
Monday, December 17, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Elk Grove City Hall, 8400 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chair Mendenhall called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM with Committee Member Rose absent.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

John Smoley, Planning, stated that the E-Tran bus bench placed in the middle of the trail along Franklin Boulevard just north of Blossom Ridge Road had been moved to one side of the trail. He also thanked Chair Mendenhall for his assistance in developing a short article on the Trails Committee to be featured in the January edition of the City of Elk Grove newsletter.

Ralph Torres, a member of the public, continued to express concern about deteriorating, disconnected, dead end, and disappearing bike lanes in Elk Grove, especially along Bruceville Road between Elk Grove Boulevard and Laguna Boulevard. He asked for advice as to the best way for a citizen to help change these conditions. A general discussion ensued regarding citizen participation in the trails & bike lane development & improvement process as well as the way the City has addressed these issues in the past. The Committee resolved to have staff develop a running list of problematic bike lanes in Elk Grove to provide members of the public, the Committee, and staff with a transparent reporting and tracking system that will focus staff's attention on problem areas and reduce repeat reporting of the same problems.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: Approve the agenda of the December 17, 2007 Trails Committee meeting.

Action: Mendenhall/Jordan, 4/0/0

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion: Approve the minutes of the November 19, 2007 Trails Committee meeting.

Action: Mendenhall/Anderson, 4/0/0

5. **PROJECT UPDATES AND STAFF REPORTS**

A. Elk Grove Creek/Highway 99 Overcrossing - Stephen Jackson, Public Works, updated the Committee on this City project. Chair Mendenhall noted the importance of ramp design in providing reasonable access to sidewalks and bike lanes from the bridge to East Stockton Boulevard. He noted that long, straight access ramps have to be extended

quite far to meet accessibility requirements and that pedestrians and cyclists wishing to access East Stockton Boulevard should not have to travel far down the trail to access this ramp. He recommended the City employ a corkscrew or S curve ramp design to address this issue. The Committee also mentioned the possibility of tunneling the trail under the freeway and recommended Mr. Jackson study the trail undercrossing of Highway 50 in Rancho Cordova.

- B. Sheldon Rd/Highway 99 General Plan Amendment and Rezone – Jessica Shalamunec, Planning, briefed the Committee on this City project. Ms. Shalamunec noted that the project is limited to a rezone and General Plan amendment to change permissible land uses around the Sheldon/ Highway 99 interchange that is currently being constructed. She noted that the City was considering permitting office, retail, and high density residential development in this area. She also noted that conditions could not be placed on projects of this nature.

The Trails Committee stated their belief in the need for measures to assure trails designated in the Trails Master Plan will be constructed with connections to those trails when development in this area occurs. Ms. Shalamunec stated that this could happen when individual projects are proposed. The Committee inquired as to why subdivisions recently approved north of this area had no trails, despite the presence of a planned trail in this area, as indicated in the General Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and Trails Master Plan. Ms. Shalamunec said staff would check into why projects in this area were not conditioned to construct this trail. The Committee inquired as to the best way to ensure trails and trail connections did not get overlooked in this rezone and future development. John Smoley, Planning, noted that the Environmental Impact Report the City was beginning for this project would study project impacts related to circulation such as vehicular traffic, bicycle transportation, and air quality. He stated that the Committee's comments might be appropriately directed toward sections of the EIR that addressed these issues. Ms. Shalamunec added that a section dealing with recreation would also address these impacts and that the Committee could submit comments via a comment letter or simply via their meeting minutes. The Committee elected to comment on the EIR in a memorandum, noting the importance of not losing the opportunity to have trails designated in the Trails Master Plan constructed with connections to those trails when development in this area occurs.

- C. Southeast Area Specific Plan – Jessica Shalamunec, Planning, briefed the Committee on this project. She noted that no new submittals had been received from the applicants.

Chair Mendenhall expressed concerns with the planned level of service along Kammerer Road, and stated that road corridors designed for expressways/freeways are not appropriate locations for trails. He recommended below grade considerations for Kammerer Road should grade separations become needed at major intersections. Lowered major highways disrupt surface street routes less than above grade overpasses for connectors and could provide additional flood protection in emergency situations.

He also recommended the specific plan concentrate commercial land uses along creeks, noting that creeks have natural advantages for trails. Trails along creeks meet numerous Trails Master Plan goals to include connecting neighborhoods to commercial destinations and providing environmental access to scenic and natural areas. Creek trails utilize areas typically restricted from development, thereby requiring less

developable land from developers. Trails along linear terrain features such as creeks usually possess few vehicle crossings, thereby improving trail user safety.

Ms. Shalamunec noted that the current proposed land use plan in this area included office uses south of the existing creek.

The Committee suggested Greenbelts should be zoned from the Creek Trail into commercial and retail areas to provide access to those areas not adjoining the creek.

The Committee agreed there was no need to provide equestrian trails in this area.

The Committee recommended a more aggressive zoning posture to assure alternative transportation routes were fully integrated into the entire specific plan area including trail friendly neighborhood designs.

D. Annual Report of Committees – The Committee prepared a summary of their 2007 activities for the City Council to be included in a report on the activities of all standing committees of the City. John Smoley, Planning, requested one or two Committee members present this report at the February 13, 2008 City Council meeting. The Committee developed the following list of accomplishments and goals:

- Committee accomplishments:
 - Completed Trails Master Plan, adopted by the City Council in January
 - One committee member, Chair Mendenhall, named Elk Grove Cycling Advocate of the Year
 - Completed 32 reviews of development projects
 - Assisted staff in compiling initial scopes of work for priority trail projects identified in the Trails Master Plan
 - Briefed Planning Commission and City Council on trails issues in the Elk Grove Promenade
 - Addressed one letter to the Elk Grove Citizen stating the Trails Committee's position on the Elk Grove Boulevard-Waterman Pharmacy project (application #EG-06-1022) in response to several articles that misrepresented this position
 - Coordinated with City drainage section to ensure trails along creeks would also meet requirements for drainage access roads
 - Formally requested City Council devote one fulltime staff position to oversee trail planning, funding, construction, and maintenance
 - Sent representatives to participate in the Cosumnes Community Service District's Park Facilities Master Plan public input process
- 2008 Goals
 - Comment on projects early in the planning process especially in the case of large-scale projects such as regional plans, specific plans, and other documents of similar scope
 - Continue to reprioritize priority Elk Grove trail projects in the Trails Master Plan
 - Give direction to grant writing volunteers
 - Continue working on trail planning with Cosumnes Community Services District staff
 - Continue to collect best practices from around the country and world to plan, finance, and build trails
 - Conduct short, regular educational briefings for the Planning Commission and City Council on aspects of development that significantly impact trails such as road-trail intersections, signage, and sidewalk/trail obstructions

- Continue to implement the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and work with staff to identify and consistently utilize clear thresholds for replacing existing infrastructure like bicycle lanes with vehicle lanes
- Update Trails Master Plan maps during the June meeting to reflect changes
- Develop and annually update a map of existing off- and on-street bicycle facilities (trails, bike lanes, and bike routes) for use by members of the public

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' FORUM

- A. The Committee requested staff begin searching for funds to construct the planned trail extending from the intersection of Elk Grove Creek and Laguna Springs Way to the civic center, noting that the project will probably result in widening and straightening a meandering sidewalk to become a trail.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Update on Stoneridge at Elk Grove (formerly Horizons at Elk Grove), EG-04-791, 8515 Elk Grove Florin Road - The Committee requested staff investigate the status of the planned trail running through this project.
- B. Update on projects north of Sheldon Road in the Calvine-99 Special Planning Area abutting the planned trail in this area - The Committee requested staff investigate the status of the planned trail running through projects in this area.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned around 8 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 Laura Gray at (916) 478-3620. 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/>