

Elk Grove Rural Road Standards: Workshop I
October 17, 2006 at 6:30pm in City Hall
Meeting Notes

BIG ISSUES OUTSIDE THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- General Plan – reconsideration and amendment of Circulation Plan that is consistent with the other policies regarding the rural character of the area and need to preserve it. Residents believe that the Circulation Plan is flawed in terms of traffic modeling, roadway sizing, and noise element and mitigation requirements for roadway improvements. Concerns were also raised that the Circulation Element may conflict with the SACOG connector alternatives.
- Consider the need to develop or establish a Community Plan for this area, not just a roadway plan and standards. Most recognized that this is not a task that can be rolled into the road standards effort and that any delay of that magnitude could be detrimental to this effort.
- Residents need to get involved now in the current update of the Citywide road standards and the Trails and Bike Master Plan work
- Irrigation/Sprinklers at High school on Bond Road need to be controlled
- Can we redirect the traffic to the highways-rather than rural areas? Is there City funding for Highway 99/Grant Line Road- can we pursue increased funds (State/Federal) for a ring road to get out of the residents backyards?
- Turning movements in and around the area are failing
- Can zoning changes affect/inform this process? Can we look at establishing a horse zone (e.g., LA County), agricultural heritage district, or other ag preserve area through zoning or some other tool in conjunction with this effort?

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING RURAL ROAD STANDARDS

General Comments

- Request that the City be fair minded and let this process evolve
- Need to set the foundation - establish what the rural area is, a definition for rural roads (address both physical attributes and function), and a definition of a 4-lane arterial, which is listed, but not defined in the General Plan.
- Group definitely does not accept the roadway sizing as fact and are concerned that they cannot look at 2 lane cross section when we may be dealing with 4 or 6 lane roadways.
- Need to understand timeline for these road improvements – is it build out in 2025?
- Need to include principles that we will continue to support the rural area
- Reiterate General Plan **values** that are scenic in this area
 - Natural Landscape
 - Except can be a liability issue because people get too close to the livestock (near the property line)
- Rural Road Reflects residents need and services for people who live there
 - Farmers/Agriculture

Specific Comments

- Sheldon Road should be 2 lanes
- Keep Roads as is (no change) – natural state with fog lines
- Why can't we look at 2 lanes with 1 turn lane in lieu of a 4 lane road?
- Residents support the concept of designing each road individually

- Road improvements are a quality of life issue - some expressed concern that mitigation is not adequate for road improvements – care more about new residents than existing
- Road standards should identify appropriate mitigation (e.g., noise barriers, hedges)
- Need to address signals and intersection improvements
- Need to accommodate ag vehicles on these roadways for travel and turning movements (e.g., horse trailers, tractors)
- Rules for farm vehicles and signage warning drivers and animals of their presence because roads are dangerous for ag vehicles. Group discussed whether there should be livestock crossings like “17 mile drive”
- Need to mitigate for livestock along the roadway
- Traffic Calming:
 - Speed limit enforcement with cameras - are the cameras against the state law?
 - Speed Limit – can we establish special speed control the area (e.g., 35 mph)
- Can we tie speed limits to the Rural Roads?
 - Speed limit only for Rural Roads (different from the rest of the city)
 - Share with Horses
- No Medians (?) Do we have to have them?
 - Negative impacts on circulation for residents
 - Why is it needed?
 - Why does it make sense?
- Need to know how bike/trails will be incorporated or not on rural roads
- Equestrian crossings need to be addressed
 - Connect Crossings with pathways/trails
- Need to address standards and access for mail service/delivery improvements
- Can we measure fence heights in this area from the crown of the road, rather than the grade of the property?
- Native landscape - even drought tolerant plantings-may need irrigation or water to get started. Consider area East of Bader to create water tank/os/rural area for water resources. An idea: in the Sheldon area, east of Bader, create a rural park atmosphere with a disguise well to irrigate the landscape
- Utility placement-SMUD/PG&E- coordinate for undergrounding
- High power lines (Western Power)-need to understand restrictions
- No lights under high power lines (may be problem with lights proposed at the intersections of Sheldon and Waterman and Sheldon and Bader.

FOR SUBSEQUENT WORKSHOPS

- Set Basic Rules for Meeting Participation (Respect) to ensure that people don't talk out of turn and prevent others from providing comments
- Consider activities our break outs into smaller groups for more direct/individual participation and feedback
- Keep a running list of big issues that may be outside the project scope and provide input about options on these items moving forward

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

- Continue e-mail notification (keep addresses private)
- Consider additional postcard notices – especially for residents abutting affected roadways. If another notice is sent out, consider expanding notice to those AR-5 areas north and south of the west end of the plan area.

Workshop I: October 17, 2006

- In terms of bringing in experts to advise, residents requested outside support that is not partisan (e.g., Town of Woodside, Portola Valley, Los Altos Hills, Oakdale, and Greenstone - El Dorado County)
- Also consider whether it's appropriate to bring in other speakers in the future (e.g., Trails Committee, SACOG to talk about connector roads, ADA expert)
- Request that references are made to the Rural Road Standards in the new citywide standards
- Update Project Website on a regular basis (www.egplanning.org/rural_roads/)
 - Create group email as blind copy
 - Post resources
 - Post comments from Workshop I
 - Post Agenda in advance of subsequent meetings

Project Contact Information

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