

Rural Road Standards Workshop #6 (May 08, 2007)
Meeting Notes

Handouts

- Meeting Agenda
- March 20th Workshop Summary
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Traffic Counts
- Annotated Outline for Rural Roads Improvement Policy
- Annotated Outline for Rural Road Improvement Standards (dated March 20, 2007-same document distributed at previous workshop)

Action Follow Up

Staff will place the results of the traffic counts on the rural road website by the end of the week. At the next workshop staff will bring the list of issues outside of the project scope. Staff will also provide an overlay map of the trails in the rural area along with a staff person familiar with the plans.

Rural Road Improvement Policy/Traffic Counts

David Robinson, an engineer from Fehr and Peers explained the results of the traffic count study. The counts were measured 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, during the several weeks during the months of March and April, 2007. The major roads involved within the study were Sheldon Road, Bradshaw Road, Bader Road, Bond Road, Pleasant Grove School Road, Grant Line Road, Wilton Road, and Waterman Road. Altogether there were 14 locations for measuring the traffic counts. Traffic counts also included vehicle classification, such as differentiating between type of vehicle such as trailer, truck, etc.

Q: Are the counts taken for the whole day? What is the timing of the counts taken? Is there a break down hour by hour with results of the traffic count?

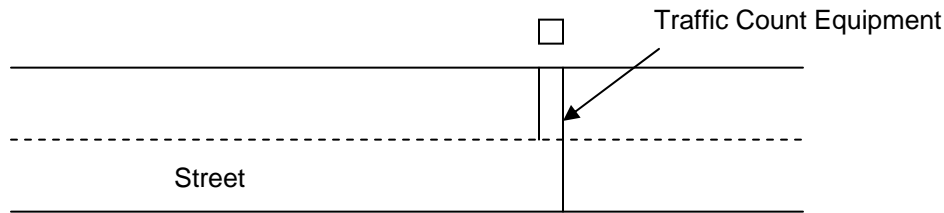
A: The counts are taken 24 hours a day in 15 minute increments.

Q: What is the difference with taking counts during the summer months compared to March and April?

A: The results are different due to the school schedule. Most schools are not in session during the summer, so the counts are typically lower.

Q: At the location of #1 on the traffic counts map, it seemed that the counter going eastbound is not correct or not getting accurate counts for Sheldon Road. Residents seem to notice that there are two 1/2 s of traffic count equipment.

A: David showed the residents a diagram of what the equipment on the roads should look like.



Q: Why are the westbound counts higher than the eastbound counts?

A: The counts are actually pretty close to being balanced, which is normal for results. A resident mentioned that trucks use Grant Line Road everyday as part of their route, which can change the counts and make them a little off balance.

A brief discussion regarding future projections for road improvements was introduced by a resident. He mentioned that rural character and stated multiple times he does not want to see the rural character be forgotten during this process and future processes. A reminder from the residents is that the rural area is unique and the policy is for when there is the need for improvement, which may be never.

Q: How is Calvine incorporated within the traffic counts results? What is the guess of the existing volume?

A: Calvine Road has numbers similar to Grant Line Road, probably would start at 15,000 vehicles per day.

Q: Will the traffic counts change the lifestyle of the rural area?

A: The improvement policy will slow down the process, for instance, if the improvements are not needed they will not be built. The purpose is to maintain the rural area for as long as possible.

Residents briefly discussed the General Plan. At the May 03, 2007 Planning Commission Hearing, the commissioners brought up the topic of the General Plan as it relates to rural road standards. A concern from the beginning of the process is that the General Plan has inconsistencies between the land use and circulation element.

Q: Will the new traffic counts affect the Bond Road Widening?

A: Jim Estep, Assistant City Manager shared with the residents that a memo to the City Council will be delivered this week. The memo will recommend postponing the Bond Road Widening due to the new traffic counts which show the widening is not needed now.



A resident commented that new yellow stripes have been painted along Bond Road, which means there is no passing allowed. They were happy to hear this and see that this process is making a difference within the rural area.

Another topic for the evening was an article printed in the Elk Grove Citizen of a city employee stating of future plans for Sheldon Road increasing to 4 lanes. Residents asked that all employees be on the "same page".

Rural Road Improvement Standards

Lisa Burke discussed the Annotated Draft Outline Improvement Standards dated March 20, 2007. Residents suggested that staff should be more detailed with the area of the rural area. Need to add rural residential land uses to the definition of the rural area.

The second area of concern is the use of medians in the document. Lisa Burke stated that medians and center turn lanes are not included in the cross sections for a Two-Lane Collector Road. Most residents did not want medians included in any of the road way cross sections as they are not rural in character. At least one resident thought a median was a good idea since he would like the ability to turn left out of his driveway. Additionally, some thought medians should only be used in order to preserve oak trees.

Staff stated that 6 lanes roads are included within the standards document since they are in the General Plan. There cannot be any conflict with the General Plan. Residents are not in favor of including a 6-lane cross section in the Improvement Standard Document.

The third request for making corrections to the standards is separating the Path/Bikeways section. Also, both shall accommodate multi-users and be accessible for equestrians, pedestrians, bicyclists, and etc.

The last two requests were to maintain the drainages throughout the rural area and that sound walls not be an option for noise mitigation. Walls do not express rural character and do not belong in the area.

Next Steps

Staff informed the group that there will be two more workshops, on June 19 and July 24 from 7-9 PM at the City Hall. Residents can access information from the project website: http://www.egplanning.org/rural_roads/