



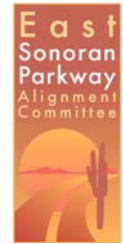
City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department
East Sonoran Parkway Alignment (ESPA) Committee

Meeting #3

March 23, 2005

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

NOTES



Date Issued: April 20, 2005

Participants: Steve Bowser, Tatum Highlands
Wes Brown, Tatum Ranch
Virgel Cain, Tatum Ranch
Jim Davis, Desert Ridge
Representative Clancy Jayne, Chairman
Jim Kunkel, Northeast Phoenix
Lou Lagrave, Dove Valley
Beverly Montgomery, Tatum Ranch
Bob Newman, Desert Ridge
Bernard Pleskoff, Dove Valley
Phil Richards, Parks Board

Observers: 3

Technical Support: Chaun Hill, PE, City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department
Cynthia Peters, City of Phoenix Parks Department
Josh Bednarek, Assistant to Councilwoman Neely
Barry Ling, PE, Kirkham Michael Engineers, Project Manager
Kristine Taylor, Kirkham Michael Engineers
Dan Cleland, Cleland Group Landscape Architects

Facilitator: Kristin Darr-Bornstein

The following meeting notes set forth our understanding of the discussions and decisions made at this meeting. If you have any questions, additions or comments, please contact the author immediately. If we do not hear from you within 10 days, we will assume that our understandings are the same. We are proceeding based upon the contents of these meeting notes.

Welcome and Introductions

Kristin Darr-Bornstein, Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., welcoming those in attendance to the third meeting of the East Sonoran Parkway Alignment Committee. Kristin explained that the Committee roster had been updated once again. Virgel Cain volunteered to keep time for this meeting.

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Project Status

Clancy Jayne, Committee Chairman, explained that March would be a busy month for the project. The Committee field trip scheduled for March 26 and the community open house scheduled for March 30. Chairman Jayne encouraged Committee members to try and make it to both events.

Chairman Jayne provided an update of the project progress thus far, including a discussion of the notes from the February Committee meeting, project website, project e-mail update, Project Flier #1, Input Status Matrix, Committee field review, March open house, and October open house, as follows.

February Notes

Chairman Jayne asked if everyone received the notes, which Committee members indicated that they did, and had no comments. Therefore, February notes were approved as final.

Project Website (<http://phoenix.gov/STREETS>)

Chairman Jayne reminded the Committee that the principal goal of the website is to communicate with constituents. The February notes and March agenda were added to the website, and six comments and/or requests for information have come to our team through the website. Chairman Jayne indicated that these comments and requests mean that the website is meeting its goal.

E-mail Update

E-mail update #2 was scheduled to go out later the week of the meeting announcing the March 30 community open house. There are 44 names on the e-mail distribution list, including the project team and the Committee. Chairman Jayne asked Committee members to let anyone know who asks about the open house.

Project Flier #1

- The first project flier was distributed as follows:
- 3,500 Tatum Sun Times
- 3,500 Tatum Talk
- 2,000 Northeast Phoenix Independent
- Electronic distribution to and by Committee members

Copies of the flier were made available at the meeting for Committee members to distribute as needed. Bernard Pleskoff noted that everyone in Dove Valley Ranch received a postcard paid for by the HOA using the language for this project. Chairman Jayne explained that the project team tried to address the issue of publications not reaching people by notifying everyone possible. He asked Committee members to help reach anyone that may have been missed and explained the pdf of the flier was available on the website. In addition, Tatum Talk had a black and white insert of the flier thanks to Councilwoman Neely's office. Lou Lagrave also indicated that an e-mail went out through his neighborhood and beyond.

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Councilman Jayne expressed the project team's appreciation for everyone following through on this and helping get the word out.

Input Status Matrix (Handout)

Kristin handed out the project Input Status Matrix and asked everyone to review the items on the matrix. She noted that a couple of questions have arisen about the length of the process. Committee members were asked to use this matrix as a reference tool to give consistent answers about the same kinds of comments that may be heard. Chairman Jayne reminded the Committee to use the entire workbook as a resource. The matrix update is also on the website for the public to review at any time.

Committee Field Review

The Committee field review was scheduled for Saturday, March 26 at 9:30 a.m. Directions and meeting arrangements were provided on a handout. Chairman Jayne encouraged Committee members to attend, and explained that the field review would be an important activity to augment this evening's presentation and would greatly assist Committee members when it is time to assist in developing alternative solutions in May and June. Committee members were reminded to wear comfortable clothes and good shoes, and to please be on time.

March Open House

The public open house was scheduled for Wednesday evening, March 30, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. here at the Community Center. Committee members reminded that their attendance would be crucial to the success of the open house, where the goal is for participants to focus on providing input on the work done so far (goals, facts, needs). Committee members also were encouraged on behalf of Councilwoman Neely to bring constituents along, as resources for the City at the open house would be limited.

October Open House

The date of the October open house needs to be changed from October 12 to October 19 because of the schedule of essential team members. We will publicize this change in a timely manner.

Q&A

Q: Will we respond to written questions at the March open house?

A: We will present what we as a Committee have worked on, including the goals/goal statements that people can comment on (interactive visual display). We will present all of the information we are presenting tonight to set the basis for the analysis as we move into May and June. We are going to ask the community to comment on that in October. March sets the stage for the study. Again we need your support at the community open house. Summarized information from tonight will be available, and people can ask questions and provide comments so everyone

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has the same basis. There will be no court reporter or formal presentation. At this point we are trying to get community feedback on the work we've done thus far. We will gather input but not respond at the open house. We will provide a synthesis of comments received at our April meeting and will respond to comments later.

Chairman Jayne added that people felt before this study like things were done in the dark. It is difficult sometimes for people not to get an immediate response but when they do, it will be hard and fast.

Q: It would be helpful to get professional proposals from people as opposed to complaints.

A: That is a good point. We always try to ask people “why” and try to get down to the bottom of the reasoning behind their comments and concerns.

Presentation—Fact and Needs

Project team members Barry Ling, Dan Cleland, and Cynthia Peters from the City of Phoenix Parks Department presented information about features within the study area that will have an effect on potential alignments for the Sonoran Parkway. These elements include utilities, drainage, existing roadways, environment and aesthetics, planned and existing parks facilities and land purchasing, and land use. The purpose of the presentation was to present existing conditions of the study area and how they relate to what the project needs to address – these features also would be what the Committee would be looking at in the upcoming field review, and what would be presented to the public at the open house. All of the graphics in the presentation also were presented on boards around the room.

Q&A

Utilities

Q: Does “conflict with lines” mean not crossing lines? What is preferable?

A: We want to prevent criss-crossing as much as we can. We can go underneath the poles of larger lines in the northwest.

Q: Where are the underground lines?

A: The only underground lines we know of is the water reclamation line just east of Cave Creek Road and south of Tatum Boulevard.

Typically the City tries to run offset of lines up to 69kV and tries not to relocate them. The City can run parallel to lines up to about 69kV but can't afford to move the lines.

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Q: Does this mean that the power lines on 40th Street are not to be moved because they are the larger ones?

A: The larger utility lines on 40th Street definitely present concerns, especially since 40th Street is only built out to half of its planned size.

Q: Will the Black Mountain Parkway be on east or west of those poles?

A: We do not know yet, but typically the City of Phoenix offsets the roadways from the existing power lines on either side.

Q: Have noticed out on the ground in Tatum Ranch that the planned alignment of the Black Mountain Parkway will be very challenging because of existing utility structures.

Q: The Black Mountain Parkway is going up east near the golf course – where is the power line in that area?

A: The line veers to the northwest in that area, away from the planned alignment of the Black Mountain Parkway.

Drainage

Q: Has the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designated any of the drainage areas as requiring 404 permitting?

A: The amount of fill that will need to be placed over the washes will be enough that we will be dealing with the Corps when crossing washes – that will come later on down the road. We only want to cross Cave Creek Wash once due to the expense.

Roadways

Note: There is substantial roadway information, and at the next meeting we will provide this in table format so the information will be easier to digest and work with.

Q: There is adamant opposition in the Dove Valley area – people want the Black Mountain Parkway to go along the west side of the golf course.

A: The Committee will be able see some of the constraints to that during the field review. This is not to say that it is not possible, but there are substantial constraints (landfill, golf course, etc.)

Q: Is the 110-foot right-of-way existing?

A: Yes.

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- Q:** Is anyone studying the option to move the Black Mountain Parkway to the west of the golf course and landfill?
- A:** No. This is an existing alignment. The traffic study determined that four lanes would be needed, but not yet – whenever traffic counts prove that they are needed, that is when the City would study a realignment. This could be addressed by the City at a future date.
- Q:** What is a 40-foot half-street?
- A:** This is where the City built half the street and dedicated the other half of the right-of-way for future improvement. These streets typically have room to construct the other half-street when it is warranted.
- Q:** Is there room for a median too?
- A:** Yes. There is low traffic now so there is a low priority to widen those at this point; however, at some point they will be widened.
- Q:** Regarding access at the elementary school, all that will be needed are places for the busses and children to get on and off the busses.
- A:** Chaun Hill will present traffic modeling later in the fall to see what impacts different alternatives would have on traffic to help rate alternatives.
- Q:** What does the “A” designate?
- A:** The “A” on these graphics designates the largest, widest cross-section the city has.
- Q:** Does the City have the full right-of-way up to the County line?
- A:** This is unlikely.
- Q:** What happens if the City needs it?
- A:** The City would either purchase the necessary right-of-way or make developers donate right-of-way and provide offsite improvements. However, we are not talking about this now – that’s just hypothetically how it would go.
- Q:** How did the original plan to use Dynamite get changed to Tatum?
- A:** Two factors entered into this decision. First, the preferred location of the Sonoran Parkway crosses Cave Creek Wash at a point much farther north than the general plan now shows. Second, the Black Mountain Parkway became a major north-south connection to SR 51
- Q:** It seems like if people in the know have gone through all these studies that this Committee is more of a token committee to advise constituents why it is the best way – don’t see any changes being made here.
- A:** There are geographical limitations – sometimes information and education is part of it.

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Q: So is this Committee being used merely to relay what is being done to our constituents?

A: The answer is a resounding no. We are not there anymore – there has been outcry to look at other alternatives. Everything is out on the table again.

The connection of Dynamite Boulevard to the Beeline Highway was stopped because of bald eagles, but they not endangered anymore. Things change. Nothing here is whitewashed. Some facts of reality we have to deal with, but aside from that we have a lot to work with. The decision is ultimately made by policy makers – we are here to make a recommendation.

If this Committee recommends an alignment along Dynamite, we will have to present it back to everyone, but we will make that recommendation as a group.

Q: The Sonoran Parkway has to hook up to a major road, even if they are country narrow roads now. We must face the fact that these are going to become major thoroughfares.

A: We need all of this input from the community at large to come up with the best solution – not just the few that raised opposition about Dynamite.

It also may be different for some of those people now – they are selling their land for a lot of money – things change. One of our goals is that when we get there, this is where we want it to be.

Q: We thought this was a white wash process. It is amazing with at all the notices that went out we have only three people here.

A: The fliers we sent out do focus on the open house next week – that is what we are trying to encourage so we will have substantial data.

Suggestion: The team might also want to add to list of considerations the upcoming field review that the west side of 40th Street is lined up with cars for kids in soccer. There will need to be additional parking at that park when this is made into a four-lane road.

Q: Will there be development to the west of that? Even if you move the road 50 yards to the west to buffer homes and the park, will that present a problem?

A: That is something we will look at when we are determining alternatives – the pros and cons of options in different areas.

Q: How will the high school be affected by the Black Mountain Parkway?

A: It will be an arterial – a lot of high schools are on arterials.

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Environment and Aesthetics

During 14-month study we looked at viewshed analysis both to and from the roadway. We looked at a number of things. The plants in the study area are generally upper Sonoran, and are not rare. The area east of Cave Creek Wash is mostly mesquite with plant communities right along drainage corridors. Though the plant communities found within the study area are typical of those found in the Upper Sonoran desert communities it will still be important to minimize their disturbance or removal for several reasons. The vegetation, heaviest in the drainage corridors, plays an important role in providing habitat areas for the wildlife communities. In addition, the Mesquite and Ironwood tree cover is a major component of the viewshed corridors for users not only of the preserve but also of those passing through on the parkway. The preservation of the planting communities along the wash corridors serves not only to preserve the wildlife habitat areas but also represent many of the travel corridors and passage ways used by the wildlife, hikers, and equestrian enthusiasts. The maintenance of these pathway linkages also serves a much greater service area. In the recent master planning of the Reach 11 recreation area and preserve, the City of Phoenix took extensive measures to coordinate the planning of its pathways to eventually link with Cave Buttes Dam Recreation area and the Sonoran Preserve. In the development of the Sonoran Parkway design we have taken drainage crossings, which typically are looked on as “design constraints” to utilize their existence as an opportunity to provide “aesthetic linkages” for the wildlife and human users of this native indigenous area.

Q: Do we plan to irrigate along the re-vegetated roadway?

A: During the construction of the roadway the indigenous material along the construction corridor will be “harvested” to salvage the native plants and seed. This plant material will be re-installed to blend the roadway into the native environment. It is common practice to set up a “temporary” irrigation system to initially establish the plants and then to “wean” them off the irrigation supply over 18 to 24 months until they are re-established into the native desert water and drought cycle.

Planned and Existing Parks Facilities and Land Purchasing

Q: There is a park planned adjacent to the east of Black Mountain Parkway in Dove Valley Ranch that is not shown on the map.

A: This is planned but do not know where we are with it.

Suggestion: That will have traffic impact – suggest that be included in our thinking.

Land Use

The two key facts to consider regarding land use are the complexity of the whole process, and the fact that a lot of the land is 3.5 to 10 dwelling units per acre planned and how that affects it. Third – what are places built out at where traffic will be dumped? Impact of traffic volume. A State Land representative and a member of the Planning Department will be here at the next meeting.

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- Q:** When you build in a desert area, doesn't the machinery disperse wildlife? Do they return?
- A:** Yes, they do return. Tatum Ranch is a good example. The drainage ways in that area used to be concrete. Now there are all kinds of wildlife up there. It takes time to revegetate back to the natural environment.
- Q:** Are there any archaeological concerns?
- A:** Yes, there are several archaeological sites in the area, but none are significant. Archaeological sites will be identified later on in the environmental study process.

Overall Q&A

Besides the questions and answers brought up during the presentation, the Committee was asked if there were any other questions.

- Q:** The area of influence includes 56th Street, parallel to the Scottsdale border. Should we look at this as an additional reliever to Tatum?
- A:** We will be looking at 56th Street as a north-south connection. However, there currently is a piece of private property that could block that move in the future and it will not affect our study too much since it is not an adjacent roadway.
- Q:** Does 56th Street continue? Is there a break in 56th Street?
- A:** 56th Street is composed of paved and dirt roadway sections. There currently is a piece of private property that is blocking the continuation of 56th Street.
- Q:** The General Plan map does not accurately depict 56th Street – it shows it going all the way through.
- A:** There is a disconnected area in there. We will show you that during the field review.
- Q:** The City of Scottsdale ends at Jomax – does Phoenix go on to connect to Loop 101?
- A:** 56th Street has an interchange with Loop 101 and will be built north as development continues.
- Comment:** There are several things that are decided/planned. We are here to connect into the next phase. In these committees everyone is heard and things are changed. This is a very effective process.
- Q:** 64th Street will go over the freeway and connect north to Deer Valley. Maybe take a look at that as well as a north-south option.
- A:** The design of the 64th Street interchange with Loop 101 includes roadway that extends north to Deer Valley and south to Mayo Boulevard and is under design now.

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- Q:** Received information regarding the planned number of lanes on 56th Street and 64th Street.
A: Please forward that e-mail to Kristin Darr.

Review of Draft Project Goals

The Committee was presented with a draft of the project goals that the group began to formulate at the February meeting. Kristin reminded the Committee that what they were receiving tonight was a very rough draft with the idea that the Committee would help in working on refining these to present as the Committee's goals at the upcoming open house. The project goals are very important because they drive the way we look at alternatives. The Committee was asked to do their homework and get back to the project team by Monday, March 28 at 5:00 p.m.

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MEETING EVALUATION RESULTS

1. What is your overall rating of the effectiveness of this meeting?

Average Score: 3.4

Number of Responses: 11

Comments:

- Pretty good – questions okay – stimulated thinking.

2. What about this meeting was most valuable to you?

- Existing highways – plans and needs.
- Always information.
- Information on arterial streets.
- Overall view and picture.
- PowerPoint presentation.
- Specific discussion on roads that may be concerned with this project.
- Questions about utilities near roadways and City plans on roadways – future changes and updates like schools, residents' access to roads.
- The exchange of ideas and communication with the presenters.
- Seeing visuals.
- Current and projected development and plans.
- Discussion of options.

3. What would have improved the effectiveness of this meeting?

- Less concern about expansion of existing streets.
- A lot more time.
- A little too much data in general for the non-technical types.
- More time – lots of information presented.
- Handouts of maps displayed on easels.
- Overlay handouts.
- Chaun has a lot of useful knowledge and information. Need to get her closer to the group so we can hear everything she says.

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4. How do you rate the effectiveness of the facilitator?

Average Score: 3.7

Number of Responses: 10

Comments:

- Kristin, you're great!
- Not required as much as previous meetings.

5. How do you rate the meeting team's potential effectiveness?

Average Score: 3.4

Number of Responses: 10

Comments:

- Some good, some fair.
- To be determined.
- Undecided as of yet.

6. What other comments do you wish to offer?

- My concern is access to proposed park at Tatum/Cave Creek and future Black Mountain Parkway.
- I like the room configuration – the Committee is closer together and you can hear the Committee's comments.
- Full agenda.
- Looking forward to Saturday's field trip and next week's open house.
- Some don't know much about total area we need to consider.
- I am concerned about the rapid dismissal of the idea to move Black Mountain Parkway (at Dove Valley Ranch) west of the golf course. Just last month Mr. Herp indicated the concept would be "studied." What changed in a month? To dismiss the idea by indicating there is a golf course in the way does not constitute a study of the question. There will be issues with every concept offered.

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