

ARROYO DE LOS CHAMISOS CROSSING

PHASE IB PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

This document summarizes the types of comments and questions received during the Arroyo de Los Chamisos public input process. Questions and comments were received via email, telephone calls, and as input gathered at the April 31st public meeting. The comments and questions received have been grouped together by general topic, with an associated response provided below.

CONCERNS REGARDING INCREASED TRAFFIC

The Phase IB traffic analysis demonstrates that the proposed improvements provide the greatest benefit to the regional transportation system based on overall traffic congestion. This includes a decrease in traffic volumes on Avenida de las Campanas, Camino Carlos Rey, Zafarano, and Vegas Verdes. Traffic will increase at intersections along the Richards Avenue corridor; therefore, the recommended alternative includes intersection improvements to achieve an acceptable level of service at these locations.

CONCERNS REGARDING CUT THROUGH TRAFFIC INTO VISTA DEL PRADO NEIGHBORHOOD

The traffic modelling completed for the project does not predict cut-through traffic; however, the redesigned Rodeo Road/Richards Avenue intersection will provide the capacity and level of service to accommodate any increase in volume. The next phase of this project will evaluate current baseline traffic on residential streets in this area and then following implementation of the proposed improvements, the city will continue to capture traffic volumes comparing them to baseline measurements to determine if there is a need and/or opportunity for mitigation.

CONCERNS ABOUT POTENTIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

Any impacts to private property required to construct the project will be determined during the design phase and impacts will be minimized as much as possible. Any proposed impacts to private property, even temporarily for construction, will be communicated directly with property owners during the next phases of design, and prior to any construction activity.

CONCERNS ABOUT NOISE, AIR POLLUTION, LIGHTING, AND LANDSCAPING

Potential environmental impacts will be further evaluated during Phase IC of the NMDOT Location Study Process. This will include consideration of noise, lighting, air pollution, hazardous materials, and other resources required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). All lighting proposed will follow the Night Sky Protection Act to eliminate light pollution in the area. Landscaping and other aesthetic elements will also be considered in the next phases of design.

CONCERNS ABOUT WHAT TYPE OF CROSSING STRUCTURE TO INSTALL

The design considerations for the potential crossing types proposed for the Arroyo de los Chamisos and the Arroyo de los Pinos include concrete box culverts (CBC) or bridges. The two options have different construction and long-term maintenance costs and storm drain considerations as well as potential safety and aesthetic issues that must be considered. A bridge maintains the natural arroyo bottom and limits the supporting structures/piers in the arroyo with lower long-term maintenance costs in the arroyo. A single CBC would provide a narrower crossing, cost less to construct but have higher long-term maintenance costs.

CONCERNS ABOUT IMPACTS TO THE ARROYO RESULTING FROM THE CROSSING STRUCTURE

Both types of crossing structures would be designed to accommodate the design-year storm events with some additional clearance, referred to as freeboard. The proposed crossings will be consistent with those upstream and downstream of the proposed new crossing at Richards Avenue.

CONCERNS ABOUT SPEED BUMPS AND TRAFFIC CALMING

The existing traffic calming elements will remain along the north segment. Along the south segment, between Rodeo Rd and Arroyo de los Chamisos, design elements aimed to maintain the speed limit will be considered such as buffered bike lanes, raised medians, narrower lanes, and other aesthetic features.

CONCERNS REGARDING THE “NO BUILD ALTERNATIVE”

The “No Build Alternative” was evaluated during Phase IA and Phase IB. As a result of the Phase IB analysis, the project team recommends a preferred Build Alternative that combines features of the Phase IB Alternatives to continue into Phase IC for environmental investigations and Phase ID preliminary design. The No Build will remain in the analysis for comparative purposes; however, the No Build alternative does not meet the established purpose and need of regional connectivity under the project development process.

CONCERNS REGARDING TIMELINE

The consulting team is currently contracted to deliver the Phase IB Report. The City is seeking funds to advance the project through environmental investigations, and preliminary and final design. Currently there is not a definitive timeline for project completion, but each of the next phases will require public involvement and include reporting on project schedule.

CONCERNS ABOUT PARKING AND DRIVEWAY ENTER/EXITS

Access to all existing driveways located within the north segment will remain. On-street parking is being proposed where sufficient space exists (without impacts to properties), which will provide a buffer area for backing out of driveways. A nine-foot-wide parallel parking width is being considered along the west side to allow for car doors and the separation needed for bike lanes.



CONCERNS ABOUT THE TRAIL CROSSING

The intersection of the Arroyo Chamisos Trail with the Arroyo de los Chamisos crossing will be evaluated closely during preliminary design. An at-grade crossing with appropriate signage and pavement markings will be provided for all scenarios. A grade-separated crossing will be evaluated for engineering feasibility during preliminary design.

CONCERNS REGARDING GAME & FISH PROPERTY WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

The City's property management section is coordinating with the New Mexico Game and Fish to possibly purchase the property. The city is aware that regardless of ownership, the proposed improvements will require a portion of the Game & Fish parcel for roadway construction.

CONCERNS ABOUT IMPACTS TO THE EXISTING DISC GOLF COURSE, LOSS OF OPEN SPACE, AND MAINTAINING ACCESS TO THE ARROYO

The project team recognizes the concerns regarding the existing disc golf course in the area and are considering how to mitigate the impact and/or relocate the disc golf course during design. The project team also recognizes the local use of the adjacent open space and arroyo for walking and other activities, and we will continue to consider design options that preserve that access and ensure the area is positive place for people to recreate.

