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PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Date: March 16, 2009 **Project #:** 08-0379.000
Project: Sunset Avenue Preliminary Engineering & Design Study
Subject: **Public Workshop Summary**

OVERVIEW

In October 2008, the City of Mascotte in association with Lake County initiated the Sunset Avenue Preliminary Engineering and Design Study. The study is being conducted to identify roadway improvements to Sunset Avenue from Palmetto Drive to County Road 33, a distance of approximately 1.4 miles.

A Public Workshop was held on February 24, 2009 at the Mascotte Civic Center at 6:00 pm. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the study and seek public input on roadway improvement concept that has been developed. The event was advertised in advance through direct mail notifications to property owners and tenants, letters to public and elected officials, and advertisements in two local newspapers. In addition, a project website was set up at <http://www.sunset-avenue.com> which contains information pertinent to the study.

The workshop was held from 6 to 8 pm and conducted in open house format. City and County staff along with members of the study team were on hand to discuss the project and answer questions. An overview presentation was given at approximately 6:30 pm, followed by an informal question and answer period. The presentation highlighted the:

- Study process and the project needs;
- Concept development and analysis
- Study timeline
- Public involvement opportunities

In attendance were nine (9) members of the public, eleven (11) members of City and County staff and five (5) members of the study team. One (1) comment form was received at the workshop, and no additional comment forms were received by mail during the public comment period that ended on March 6th, although the study team will consider and continue to incorporate public input if possible as additional comments are received. The following discussion provides an overview of the input received during the Public Workshop.

SUMMARY OF INPUT RECEIVED

Comments

Comments received at the meeting are listed without response.

- Ms. Marge Strausbaugh (City Manager) – The City of Mascotte is not funding this project. The County is funding the ongoing study and design through impact fees collected within this Impact Fee District. County Road 33 will be the City's next major project which will also be funded through impact fees.
- Sidewalks are located too close to the houses.
- The configuration of the intersection at CR 33 and Sunset Avenue prohibits trucks from making the turn onto Sunset Avenue.

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- The CR 33/Sunset Avenue Intersection has limit visibility the speed limit should stay low.
- The “hook” configuration at the CR 33 / Sunset Avenue intersection prevents accidents and saves lives.
- If the boardwalk is extended as shown conceptually in the presentation, alternate materials should be used to prevent vandalism.

Written Comments Received

Comments received within the 10 day comment period are listed below without response.

One (1) written comment form was received at the meeting. The comment received mentions concerns for school buses, bus stops and student safety along Sunset Avenue.

Question/Answer Session

The question and answer portion of the workshop is summarized below.

Q. Will the speed limit stay the same? It should not be increased.

A. There is no change being proposed to the current posted speed limits.

Q. How far off the road will the sidewalks be placed?

A. Generally, the sidewalks will be approximately 7 to 8 from the roadway. This may vary in the section south of SR 50.

Q. Is the road going to be curbed?

A. Adding curbs to the road may create permitting issue due to stormwater run-off.

Q. What will happen with drainage by Sunset Lake?

A. There may be opportunities to utilize City-owned parcels for stormwater treatment and provide a short section of curbing adjacent to Sunset Lake Park. This would also be compatible with providing an extension of the existing boardwalk feature at the park.

Q. Will large trucks be allowed on Sunset Avenue?

A. There is not a plan to prohibit truck traffic along Sunset Avenue. However, the current volume of truck traffic is minimal. As the corridor continues to develop, truck traffic associated with construction activity may be present, but this is temporary. The expanded pavement section that is proposed will help accommodate the larger trucks and lessen the negative impacts to the condition of the pavement section that currently exist.

Q. Will lighting be added?

A. The study team will look into this.

In the time since the Workshop, Lake County has provided their Lighting Justification Warrant worksheet, which is based on the methodology recommended by FHWA through NCHRP 152. This objective evaluation produces a numerical score based on geometric, operational, and environmental factors present within the corridor. Based on the specific characteristics of Sunset Avenue, the evaluation has produced a total score of 78.5 points. A score of at least 85 points is required to meet the lighting warrant conditions.

While lighting has not been to be warranted through the Lighting Justification Analysis, the study team recognizes the City’s desire to provide lighting within this corridor and will continue to

identify and explore options with respect to this issue. One opportunity may be to request that the electric service provider install lighting fixtures on the existing utility poles where electric service is already available. This can be done at little to no up-front cost to the City, although this would involve a longer-term operating agreement associated with the cost of operating the lighting.

Q. Is the parcel on the north end of the roadway zoned commercial?

A. The parcel on the corner of Sunset Avenue and CR 33 is zoned commercial. Any development that occurs at the location will be required to conduct a traffic impact study to evaluate traffic impacts. Future development of this parcel could also present an opportunity to reconfigure the intersection to enhance its functionality.

Q. What is Lakeview Estates?

A. Lakeview Estates is a subdivision with the capacity for 21 homes.

Q. Do the improvements to Sunset Avenue take into account utilities (fire hydrants, water mains)? There is a need for fire hydrants.

A. Utilities within the corridor have been identified through early coordination with the City and utility providers. The locations of above-ground and underground facilities will be surveyed or otherwise documented as part of the design phase of the project. Coordination with the utility providers will be conducted regarding the location of existing facilities and any anticipated impacts associated with this project.

ACTION ITEMS

- Public Workshop de-briefing with City/County Staff to document input received
- Incorporate input from Workshop and document appropriately
- Public Comment Period ends March 6th – document input received
- Perform Lighting Justification Warrant Analysis as requested by Lake County
- Finalize the concept development and present update to City Council