

Foothills Phase III Informational Meeting
Detailed Minutes
August 15, 2022
City Hall Council Chambers

Staff Present: David Sypher, Isaac BlueEyes, Virginia King, Denise Hastings, Andrea Jones
Souder, Miller & Associates: Doug Mize Jr., Raymond Smith (via Zoom)

17 residents signed in to the meeting

Meeting started at 6:00 pm

David Sypher opened the meeting, with a brief reason for meeting. He introduced Project Engineer, Virginia King.

Virginia King briefly described the project and turned over to project designer, Raymond Smith of Souder, Miller & Associates.

Raymond Smith of Souder, Miller & Associates explained the detail on the project along with a PowerPoint presentation.

Meeting is open to the public's input:

*Resident, Ron Hicks of 7160 Foothills Dr, expressed concern about their travel trailer, it is too long to go thru roundabout at Rinconada now. Is unsure if a second roundabout will work for others. Culvert issue on Rinconada they face now, NE side culvert is a concern for a wheel dropping into the culvert, take that into consideration for next roundabout design. Also, a lot of drivers speed thru Foothills, a knoll there also causing a visibility issue when looking out for oncoming traffic, would like the knoll cut down.

Some were asking if engineers will be visiting with property owners before actual construction takes place.

Virginia explained how Right of Way acquisition is being handled right now for project, and that company (Tierra Right of Way) will be visiting the property owners directly.

Doug Mize Jr, requested configuration of trailer size, he wants to know length of trailer that is having problems going thru roundabout at Rinconada.

David Sypher, confirmed the ROW contractor will be contacting residents directly and encouraged residents to set up appointment with himself, Isaac BlueEyes or Virginia King to discuss further options on the project. Will hand out business cards at end of meeting.

Raymond Smith, thanked public for their comments.

*Brian McCarty, 7631 Tuscany Way, said his street is off Lakewood. Was told that Ladder 1 had gone thru the roundabout at Rinconada, they have very good drivers to get a long truck with a 30 ft trailer like that to get thru the roundabout. He says he feels confident going thru himself, has hauled trailers a long time. (His trailer is 28 ft tip to tip, attached to a four-door truck with tandem axle.) Culvert at Rinconada is a problem, if roundabout at Lakewood is the same, dimension wise, it will be problematic, wants clarification from SMA on the painted medians or will they be concrete. The Splitters on the drawing is what he's referring to. Very tight squeeze to get thru the roundabout now, rolling tires on the curb, maybe 6 inches to keep tires on road and on the curb. So concrete barriers, on the next roundabout, will be impossible to get thru. Doesn't understand the point of roundabouts needed. Why change Lakewood, more traffic, what is the issue? Curious why the roundabouts. Very narrow road by the Lutheran Church on Lakewood, doesn't think this is a good idea.

*David Sypher added, to contact Doug Mize JR at SMA with concerns on design detail. Invites everyone to be involved and contact Doug. Doug at SMA, 505-325-7535. He will apply all detail and run a model.

*Larry Rapp, 6400 Lakewood, says roundabouts are good idea to slow down traffic, he says it also discourages people to travel Main St. But he has a 34-40 ft motorhome maybe larger, now this maybe an issue if the one on Lakewood is added, says it may not be safe. In the winter time someone was driving all over the roundabout. He believes it is costly to add roundabout, and says No to roundabout. Will try and call Doug when has a chance to discuss further. Phone number was provided to him.

*Glenn Fuller, at 6990 Foothills Dr., lived at location for 8 years now, has a 42 ft -5th wheel, roundabout will be a major problem. Doesn't understand why a roundabout is needed, what's the concept for this, and all the tax money that's going into this? IF we want to slow down traffic, put in speed bumps, or a 4-way stop. He doesn't see the "practicability" about this, and will not be able to haul his trailer thru at all now.

*Trenton Keeling, at 8668 Foothills Dr., has additional properties in the area but is "not directly impacted" he states putting in a second roundabout is not a good idea. Has a travel trailer as well, 25 ft. Driving thru one roundabout is a pain. Culvert is a problem for everyone, cars being destroyed by it and semis getting stuck in the roundabout at Rinconada. Has pictures of cars during winter getting stuck at roundabout, "cars in the dark" as well? There is a need to slow down traffic though, says stop signs maybe a better option for slowing traffic, given the cost. Says at Rinconada, no one is slowing down, because of the hill at Foothills more momentum coming down the hill, so people cannot really slow down. Too many repairs happening now at Rinconada. States the ladder truck is able to turn a lot better than a regular truck. Says he's been involved since beginning, Phase I and seems like more people were in attendance at meetings. Believes very, very small amount of people that were in favor of roundabouts at previous meetings.

An avid outdoorsman, recreation life. Says trails not as nice looking with crusher fines.

Maybe a 4 way stop, more police presence, speed bumps instead of roundabouts. The big trucks still enter and ruin the roundabouts now. No to Roundabouts. Put in something that the community wants and not what someone else wants

*Dave Sypher, stating the ladder truck did not use the double steer. Reason for no sidewalk is they had listened to previous input.

*Vince Cimino, 5800 Wildwood, question for Engineers, will the scope review look at existing drainage on Wildwood? There is a big retention pond near his house, will this be reviewed? If not, why not?? He states there is always clean up in this area. A lot of traffic in the area, day and night. During construction, contractor doesn't put up reflectors or signage, for backhoe, dump truck, a trench hole 6 ft deep, nothing is marked for Safety. Something bad may happen.

* Virginia King, stated a speed study was done in 2014.

*John Larson, 8540 Foothills Dr., way up above it, has a trailer as well. He is a retired truck driver. Says many people do not know how to pull trailers, they need to take a driving course. Also talks of how speed bumps are mentioned, but then has not heard of the long elongated speed bumps that are effective on slowing people down. These are designed to be hit at 20-25 mph; unlike the short ones that need to be driven over at 2 mph that will tear up the front end of the cars. There are 2 bicycle parks, one is not open, other is not finished but it barely opened. All the traffic going to the parks, will have to go thru the roundabouts, will it be worth it to spend all this money on it?

* Isaac, Speed policy is in place for COF. Roundabouts are for traffic calming. Thought this was a good option. Stop signs require the drivers to be compliant. Speed tables are the lower elongated speed bumps, designed for traffic at 25 mph or less.

*Trenton Keeling, Would a 4 way stop be better? Why the roundabout option?

*Isaac, 4 way stops not a good option, studies have been done. Drivers just need to follow speed limits but compliance is just not there.

*Brian McCarty said that's why we took out 7 traffic lights on Broadway, and now there's a 4 way stop at Broadway & Schwartz, near his business, Farmington Heating, they're just waiting for someone to plow into their office and when he gets killed, then we can all remember this conversation we had this day.

*David Sypher, nationwide studies have been done for the effectiveness of roundabouts, and other traffic yielding methods. This seemed to be most effective. A federal guideline states a stop sign is not to be used for speed control.

*Trenton Keeling, at Rinconada there is a "massive" increase on vehicle damages, accidents.

*David Sypher, wants Isaac & Doug to look into the amount of accidents happening there at Rinconada. Follow thru with more info and ideas.

* Ron Hicks asking why put a roundabout at Lakewood, its trapping them in? Move it north and put it at the entrance of the Lutheran church instead.

*Donald Jones, 5060 Antelope Junction, agrees with everyone there in removing the roundabouts at Rinconada and the new one on Lakewood. Says cannot turn south in RV, it's a joke. Not happy at all, have to take extra traveling to get out of area with their RV. NO roundabout needed. Dig them all out, this isn't a big city, keep it simple.

*Trenton Keeling, tells everyone to follow up on this project.

*John Larson, asking how to go thru a roundabout with a rig? Not possible.

Group discussion talking about measurements of trucks, backhoes.

*David Sypher, telling everyone step up to the microphone to speak so it will be recorded.

*Karen Bayless, 7301 Foothills Dr, wants to have diagram of exactly where this will be happening. Says never seen anything about this, besides the presentation and maps hanging in lobby. Doesn't want a profile, wants aerial view.

*Donald Jones, complaint on walking trail, comparing the trail to others in America, and ours isn't nice at all, we have an awful one. Nightmare trying to cross roads as well at roundabout.

*David Sypher, bike paths are on the street, input was taken from previous meetings. Other separate trail is for people who wanted to ride horses on the path as well.

People in crowd say no horses at all in the area.

*John Larson, says path is too narrow on Foothills.

*Brian McCarty, says since he's the bad influence on speaking from the floor, he will be at microphone. Crusher fines is an issue, they do get scattered on the road, bicyclists don't go down the bike paths at all; sweeper needs to be going down the road to keep it all clean. Bicyclists should pay tax for riding on the roads too. Not safe for bicyclists they're riding in the middle of the street. Wants them to get registration, pay insurance and gas taxes.

*Trenton Keeling, No horses in the area at all in 20 yrs hasn't seen a horse in area. There are lots of walkers, cyclists, but the surface is not solid; they want something that is more durable. Wants another public meeting or poll on this roundabout, people need to vote on this. What do the people want?

*David Sypher, we are listening, the project went thru the public process, there were a lot of people who gave input. Roundabouts are cheaper than signals.

*Brian McCarty, is the road going to be reconstructed? Because it's a roller coaster.

*David Sypher, yes please refer to web site as well. We will put a link on Next Door app.

*Amelia Gonzales, 6320 Highpoint Dr. doesn't live in the area, just wanted to get an idea on what was happening. She doesn't like curbs, wants a more country, rural, natural look. Doesn't want to look like a subdivision.

*John Larson, Can we do a demonstration with cones to see how people can get thru roundabouts?

*Isaac BlueEyes, this was already done at San Juan College parking lot.

*John Larson, never heard about this demonstration.

*David Sypher, this was not a public demonstration, public was not invited. Asks the crowd, does anyone want to attend a demonstration, they can personally try and pull their truck and trailer through this demo? No one answers.

*Trenton Keeling, seen the notice on Friday didn't designate where the notice was that he seen?

*David Sypher, 3 weeks ago letters were mailed out to the residents that will be directly affected, published in Daily Times legals twice, it was posted on FB, on COF website and Traffic message boards.

*Trenton Keeling, he doesn't look at the newspaper.

*David Sypher thanks everyone for coming.

*Denise Hastings, announced questionnaires will be available to fill out on the project and to leave them in basket at front. (Only one was filled out by Vince Cimino)

Business cards handed out at this time by David Sypher, Virginia King and Isaac BlueEyes

**Meeting adjourned 7:19 pm

