

Meeting Summary
Sheldon/Wilton Community Workshop #1
April 20, 2009

The meeting was kicked off by Tom Zlotkowski, executive director of the Connector, and Ben Strumwasser of CirclePoint. Strumwasser acted as the meeting facilitator.

Zlotkowski gave a brief presentation with an overview of the project and current status. Strumwasser described the plan for the workshop (break out groups) but since the number of attendees was smaller than anticipated, the meeting was conducted as one large group.

Two questions were asked of the group:

Community Values Question

What do you like about your community today? What do you want to see preserved in your community?

Brainstorm Question

In general, how do you prefer to see the accommodation of regional and local growth and travel demand addressed in your community (e.g. expanding existing corridors, creating new corridors, enhancing alternatives modes, etc.)?

Each participant was asked to take a few moments and jot down answers to the questions. Responses to both questions, as well as questions raised by participants, are below. The responses and questions are divided into four categories: community issues, regulatory and environmental issues, project purpose and need and general.

What do you like about your community today? What do you want to see preserved in your community?

Community Issues

- Preserve rural quality of life
- Control growth
- Keep old town Sheldon intact
- Preserve quiet
- Preserve rural living environment
- Preserve historic character
- Preserve current businesses
 - Agriculture
 - Businesses in the Cosumnes River Corridor
- Maintain quality of life, preserve ag lifestyle, peace and quiet
- Preserve Bert's Diner
- Preserve local access – ingress and egress
- Preserve the community's ability to determine it's own destiny

Regulatory and Environmental Issues

- Maintain flood plain protection
- Preserve riparian ecosystem in the Cosumnes River and Deer Creek corridors

- Protect air quality – reduce greenhouse gases
- Limit noise impacts
- Don't allow new transportation projects to create negative impacts to waterways

Project Purpose and Need

- Incorporate transit, especially in areas where it exists
- Encourage multi-modal aspects

General

- Don't let transportation solutions make traffic impacts worse
- Provide better safety between Bond and Calvine Roads—don't make the current situation worse
- Protect the water quality of domestic wells

In general, how do you prefer to see the accommodation of regional growth, local growth and travel demand addressed in your community (e.g. expanding existing corridors, creating new corridors, enhancing alternatives modes, etc.)?

Community Issues

- Prefer no local road – solve it with transit
- System of local roads/arterial and collector + transit
- Need additional capacity to handle increased traffic without impacting local established communities
- Create “lean” solutions – don't sacrifice the community for this project
- Separate local and through traffic
- Limit leapfrog development
- Infill – don't allow development beyond current boundaries
- Don't make local roadways the solution for goods movement
- Alternative 3A is very devastating to communities, residents and businesses
- Alternative 3A was a shot across the bow
- Consider Alternative D with minimum signals – continue it north
- Don't preclude local traffic
- Don't accommodate demand by sacrificing community
- Don't let improvements degrade communities and existing facilities

Regulatory and Environmental Issues

- Apply the most current thinking to project solutions versus the apparent 80's and 90's thinking – develop more global solutions
- Disagree with the bypass – it could be costly and disruptive to the ecosystem
- Please include the “Tom Franzonia” bypass/causeway alternative in the environmental study
- Look at bypass and improvements to Grant Line

Project Purpose and Need

- Provide alternative modes of transportation
- Maintain Urban Services Boundary
 - Accommodate improved safety for all modes of transportation
 - Maintain farm vehicle circulation
- Improve transit to offset demand
- Comprehensive cost-benefit study of improved impacts needs to be completed
- Preserve transportation corridors for the future

- Coordinate with SACOG's MTP 2035 traffic studies
- Include anticipated improvements in technology and work with MTP 2035
- Demonstrate the need to improve capacity
- Utilize and improve existing corridors and roadways
- Incorporate the Blueprint and MTP process into planning
- Incorporate broader studies and results and the best available data into the planning
- Study/analysis itself should be properly developed so the data is meaningful
- Current technological advances need to be incorporated into planning

General

- Appropriate signalization to improve safety (especially at Grant Line and Excelsior)
- Reminder: the City of Elk Grove at one time endorsed the bypass alternative
- Elk Grove is working to build local job centers
- Next time we meet, we should look at maps of non-road based solutions
- Look at alternative investments to accomplish project goals

Questions that resulted from the growth accommodation question are below:

- Why is the Connector the most current solution?
- How does the Connector reduce traffic? Most jobs are in Sacramento, not Rancho Cordova.
- What's the nexus between Measure A and MTP/Blueprint?
- How will public input be incorporated into this planning in a meaningful way?
- How trapped in the Waterman Rd. and Grant Line EIRs is the project?
- How will the project comply with AB 375 and AB 32?

There were a number of questions/comments about the next meetings, which are captured below:

- Please have a timeline as a handout at the next meeting, specifically for the CEQA process
- Provide more specific information about the purpose of the next meetings
- Make sure that the scoping process is described
- If there is no closure tonight, will there be other opportunities to provide input into the process?
- Please put SACOG's Blueprint map on the web site and provide it as a handout at the next meeting
- Please have maps of the other types of information/alternatives

General questions/comments throughout the meeting are captured below:

- Engage neighborhood associations more fully
- Provide the development schedule so we can understand the overall schedule better. More detail is needed, particularly NOI/NOP information.
- Growth inducement was not on the list of community concerns noted to date