

Elk Grove Citizen ONLINE

NEWS

Sheldon outreach continues over proposed connector road

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By Cody Kitaura - Citizen Staff Writer

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Sheldon residents will get a glimpse of three possible routes for the Capital Southeast Connector project at the start of an upcoming weekend-long workshop, a consultant studying the area said last week.

John Hykes, a senior associate and project manager with Berkeley-based Design, Community and Environment, said he has spoken with about 125 people in his outreach office at 8973 Grant Line Road. He held drop-in hours there throughout June, and will be available for questions from noon to 8 p.m. on July 1.

The office was opened to study what the area could look like if Grant Line Road is turned into a four to six-lane expressway as part of the Capital Southeast Connector Joint Powers Authority's (JPA) plan to ultimately link Highway 50 in El Dorado Hills to Highway 99 and Interstate 5 south of Elk Grove.

The project is slated for a 2025 completion date.

A preferred route has not been chosen, Hykes said, but a limited-access roadway along Grant Line Road is one option. A weekend-long workshop beginning July 9 will focus on specifics for that route. Other alternatives include a raised road through the nearby Cosumnes River Floodplain or leaving Grant Line Road as it is.

If the limited-access roadway is chosen, the expressway would close all driveways on a three-mile stretch of Grant Line Road in Sheldon, and would only have a few entry points, Hykes said. Possible entry roads could be Bond, Wilton and Calvine roads, he said.

Hykes said a previous proposal to have frontage roads running along Grant Line Road likely wouldn't be feasible, but added he's open to hearing suggestions from the community.

"Part of the weekend-long design workshop is to get input on these alternatives," Hykes said.

That workshop is being held the weekend of July 9 and will focus on three different versions of a limited-access roadway along Grant Line Road. See the infobox "Multi-Day Design Workshop" for a complete schedule.

Hykes said his goal is to find the best possible option should the JPA board choose to use Grant Line as its chosen path. That option will be presented to the board in August, and it will later decide whether to use it or another alternative.

Dan Halley, who has lived in Sheldon for 16 years, doesn't want to see the Grant Line Road option chosen.

"There's nobody in this area that's going to be using the road," Halley said as he left the Sheldon outreach office last week. "This is not for the people in this community."



Visitors to the Capital Southeast Connector JPA outreach office are given information about the project and are encouraged to mark locations of their wells and other utilities on a map.

He said the main focus of the connector road was moving people through places like Sheldon, regardless of the impact it might have there. He believes that the bypass alternative through the floodplain would be a better choice.

"If they want a four-lane or six-lane highway, they should find somewhere else to put it," he said.

Tom Franzoia, a Sheldon resident, is more receptive to the project. He currently works as a "liaison" between the JPA and the community, and said his 10 years in the area helps him make connections and gather input.

"I know everybody out (in Sheldon), pretty much," Franzoia said, noting he works about 20 hours a week on JPA outreach.

JPA board approves \$2.6 million budget

The JPA may spend up to \$150,000 over the next fiscal year for outreach and advocacy, Executive Director Tom Zlotkowski said last week.

The JPA board approved the project's 2010-11 fiscal year budget in a June 25 meeting in Rancho Cordova. Total expenditures are \$2.6 million, and most of that funding comes from Sacramento County sales tax revenue, Zlotkowski said.

Each of the five jurisdictions that make up the JPA – Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento County, Folsom and El Dorado County – will each contribute \$10,000 to the project, and the board has more than \$600,000 in unspent funding, according to a budget document.

Multi-Day Design Workshop: July 9-12

Community Meeting No. 1

Issues and opportunities, community vision

July 9 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)

Location: Pleasant Grove Elementary School, 10160 Pleasant Grove Rd.

Walking Audit

Walking tour of Grant Line Road study area to discuss concerns and ideas

July 10 (10 a.m. – noon)

Location: 8973 Grant Line Rd., Suite 100

Community Meeting No. 2

Small group design workshop

July 10 (1 – 4 p.m.)

Location: Pleasant Grove Elementary School

Community Working Group (CWG) and Community Open House I

Drop in to see how the plan is taking shape

July 11 (2 – 4 p.m.)

Location: 8973 Grant Line Road, Suite 100

CWG and Community Open House II

Drop in to see how the plan is taking shape

July 12 (2 – 4 p.m.)

Location: 8973 Grant Line Road, Suite 100

Community Meeting No. 3

Conceptual Circulation Plan and Vision Plan

July 12 (6 –8 p.m.)

Location: Pleasant Grove Elementary School

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