



Lehi Elders' Breakfast

Date: September 2, 2009

Location: Lehi Community Center

Handouts: Project Fact Sheet

Participants: Community to Provide Sign-In Sheet

Project Team: Jennifer Jack, SRPMIC-ECS Project Manager
Esther Moyah, SRPMIC
Misty Dayzie, ADOT Project Manager
Julian Avila, ADOT CCP
Michael Gorton, HDR
Michael LaBianco, HDR
Peggy Fiandaca, Partners for Strategic Action, Inc.

The Project Team was invited to make a presentation at the regular monthly Elders' breakfast in Lehi. The purpose of the presentation was to provide attendees an overview of the SRPMIC Transportation Planning Study, solicit input regarding issues or concerns that should be addressed and to inform participants about upcoming Community Workshops.

Project Overview

Esther Moyah, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) thanked everyone for giving the Team an opportunity to provide an overview of the Long Range Transportation Planning Study. She introduced the Team members and introduced Misty Dayzie.

Misty Dayzie introduced herself as the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Project Manager. She explained that ADOT is working together with the SRPMIC to study various transportation needs within the Community. Over the next 18 months, there will be many opportunities to get involved, provide ideas and voice concerns.

Misty introduced Michael Gorton with HDR (Transportation Consultant Project Manger) who used PowerPoint slides to discuss the type of issues that the Study will address. Michael explained that the Study will address roadway safety issues, walking and bicycle routes, cut-through traffic concerns and public transportation for Community Members to get to the doctor, work or shopping. All of these issues impact the Community's quality of life. Michael explained the Study's outcome is a long-range plan for transportation improvements within SRPMIC. He encouraged their involvement at one



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of two upcoming Community Workshops. The workshops will have the same format and presentation on two different evenings at two different locations.

October 19, 2009; 5:30 – 7:30 PM
SRPMIC Community Building

October 22, 2009; 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Lehi Community Center

Michael explained that the meetings would include a brief presentation about the Study followed by questions and discussions. Tribal staff, ADOT representatives and planning consultants will be present to answer questions about the Study.

Discussions

Michael introduced Peggy Fiandaca, Public Involvement Coordinator who facilitated a discussion of issues and ideas that participants suggested should be considered during the Study. Following is a highlight of the ideas expressed:

Roadways

- Mesa Drive is very dangerous at night.
- The right turn only on McDowell Road is dangerous for Community Members. It was expressed that this approach should not be repeated. Community Members need to be able to make left runs on McDowell Road without having to make a U-turn.
- Keep roads cleaner. Need to have trash picked up more often.
- Roads need to be better maintained.
- Need to provide a left turn at McKellips Road going east from Pima Road.
- Oak Street (in Lehi) needs to be widened and reconstructed. There are no sidewalks and traffic is speeding along Oak Street.

Cut Through Traffic

- Non-Community Member traffic is coming into SRPMIC at Alma School Road, Indian School Road, Chaparral Road because of the Scottsdale Community College, and the area around Thomas Road and Loop 101.
- When Gilbert Road is closed, there is considerable cut-through traffic.
- A Community Member mentioned that she gets stuck in her driveway due to the amount of traffic at Thomas Road and Loop 101.

Safety

- A concern was mentioned that debris is not adequately picked up after accidents. The glass left behind damages cars and could cause additional accidents.



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- People do not stop at stop signs. There needs to be better enforcement.
- Trucks are not following posted signage.
- People are speeding throughout the Community.
- Traffic calming techniques such as speed bumps should be explored. Speed bumps were removed from Palm Lane because they were improperly installed.
- Speeding is a problem at McDowell and Dobson Roads.
- Speeding is a problem at Indian School Road and Chaparral Road.
- Speeding and ignoring signs are a problem along Gilbert Road and along Indian School Road.
- Need speed control on unpaved roads.

Transit

- Public transit is important to Community members. Potential destinations include the casino, library, shopping mall and health center.
- There needs to be a smooth transfer between bus systems so people can get to medical appointments, shopping, work and other activities.
- Transit is also important for young people who may not have a car.
- The senior van is not always available and a reliable transit system could be a substitute.
- Transit should be provided so Community members can be connected to regional activity centers and be able to get to health facilities.

Pedestrian Facilities

- There is an overall lack of sidewalks throughout the Community.
- There are safety issues on Oak Street sidewalk. It is not compliant with ADA.
- School bus shelters are needed throughout the Community so children do not have to stand out in the rain or heat when waiting for a bus.
- There is a need for a crosswalk at Alma School and Thomas Roads. Students are crossing in this area.

Trails

- There is a need for equestrian trails throughout the Community. Currently, Community members use back roads or fields on horseback.
- A question was asked that if equestrian trails were developed, would non-Community members be allowed to use it. The project team advised that this would be a SRPMIC decision.

Bike Lanes

- Bike lanes are a good idea to connect to schools and the college.



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Air Quality

- Air Quality is a concern of Community members. It is important for the Study to explore alternative fuels that will improve air quality and air quality impacts on the Community's quality of life.

Trespassing

- Trespassing was mentioned often as an issue. There are no trespassing signs posted but non-Community members do not obey them.
- There are outsiders trespassing in the riverbed picking rocks and they do not get in trouble.

Pima Road Development

- There has been an increase in traffic along Pima Road and it will continue to grow as development occurs. It will be important to keep that traffic out of Community residential neighborhoods. Limiting traffic control or managing the movement of the traffic will reduce traffic coming onto the Community. An improved Pima Road could keep traffic off the Community.
- It will be important to have good signage regarding trespassing and staying out of residential areas.

Other Issues

- It was mentioned that there should be nicer landscaping along roads such as Gilbert Road. When Gilbert Road was widened and improved, nicer landscaping was installed on the City of Mesa side of the road and it is better maintained than on the SRPMIC side. The responsibility for maintaining landscaping along Gilbert Road should be investigated.
- McKellips Road area near Hayden and the 101 freeway gets washed out from flooding. Drainage comes from the Community, enters Scottsdale and is redirected back to the Community. This is a joint issue to be addressed with the City of Scottsdale.

Closing Remarks

Peggy thanked them for their ideas and encouraged their participation at the upcoming Community Workshops. If they had additional ideas or comments, they could write them on the Comment Cards on each of the tables and give them to Misty Dayzie or Jennifer Jack.



Comment Cards

Following are comments received at the Elders' Breakfast written on Comment Cards.

The main concern I have is the speeding on Chaparral, mostly a.m. traffic heading west, as I live along Chaparral. There are police parked down the road sometimes, so that helps control speeding. Suggestion: City transit to go through Salt River, possibly on McDowell Road only – make pick up/drop off at designated stops.

You need to ask the bus from Town to come farther into the Community.

You have not worked on McDowell Road in Lehi area and you are thinking about covering the ditch along McDowell Road, I think that is a bad idea. I will be losing my arrow weeds' and we need them as part of our culture. I know there was two elder's the Ownes Family and they wanted the cover ditches, it is not fair that they get what they want. Ask the people in Lehi area. We don't want a covered ditch.

The McDowell Road in Salt River area, there are no left turn and you have to make a u-turn at the intersection, and if you are pulling a horse trailer it gets a little dangerous, and why did ADOT not put cattle guards along Gilbert Road and Hwy. 87 if someone dies from hitting a cow. I hope they sue the hell out of ADOT. ADOT needs to be fair, if they are going to work on the east of Gilbert Road they need to work on the west side. You know you are not fair with the way you deal with us.