



Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project

Trail Advisory Group Meeting #6

January 29, 2014

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Trellis Hall, Citrus Heights

Project Overview

The City of Citrus Heights is studying the feasibility of establishing a multi-use trail system within the City's 26 miles of creek and SMUD corridors (the Study Area). The study will identify existing conditions, constraints, opportunities, alignment options, phasing options, and cost estimates for a network of multi-use trails for use by bicyclists, walkers, joggers, wheelchair users, and other non-motorized uses.

The City's goals for this project include:

- Improve Mobility
 - *Create new ways to get between local destinations*
- Provide Connections to Complete Streets
 - *Design roadways for all users (pedestrians, bicycles, and cars)*
- Become More Sustainable
 - *Improved air quality*
 - *Reduced greenhouse gases*
 - *Reduce automobile traffic*
- Improve Recreation Opportunities
- Enhance Natural Environment
 - *Improve water quality*
 - *Reduce flooding risks*
 - *Improve access to natural areas*
- Improve Public Health

Attendees

Representatives from ten of the Trail Advisory Group (TAG) stakeholder organizations attended the third Trail Advisory Group Meeting for the Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project. Eighteen additional stakeholders and community members signed in and approximately 15 additional members attended the meeting as observers. The attending TAG organizations were:

- Area 4 Agency on Aging
- Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce
- Neighborhood Watch
- REACH - Quadrant A (areas 1, 2, & 3)
- REACH – Quadrant B (areas 6, 7, & 8)
- REACH - Quadrant C (areas 4 & 5)
- REACH - Quadrant D (areas 9, 10, & 11)
- Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
- Sacramento Area Creeks Council
- WALK Sacramento

Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project Trail Advisory Group Meeting #6

Meeting Goals

- Provide an overview of community engagement efforts
- Recap feedback received on Feasibility Report and present revisions made

Community Engagement Overview

Gladys Cornell (Outreach Manager, AIM Consulting) provided an overview of community engagement efforts completed as part of the year long process. In addition, she provided a summary of the Community Open House meeting held on January 14th. Over 150 community members attended, the project team utilized the input received to be incorporated into the final feasibility report.

Revisions to Feasibility Report

Kate Kirsh (Project Manager, Foothill Associates) provided an overview of the revisions made to the Feasibility Report in order to reflect input received from the TAG and the community.

Comments and questions from TAG members regarding edit the feasibility report:

- The report now generally outlines the overall concept for the project, what happens next?
 - The report will be presented to the City Planning Commission and City Council, the report is not being formally adopted but will be used to inform how other documents are updated such as the general plan and the bikeway master plan. The next steps would then include detailed analysis and design of individual segments, as each individual segment moves forward an extensive community engagement process would be implemented.
- What is the timeline for the final draft of the report?
 - The project team will have a final draft to the City for review by February 7th; the report will then be placed on the project website before it is presented to Planning Commission and City Council.
- I understand that this project will take many years to implement; I appreciate the steps that have been taken to begin making this project a reality. It would be great to have a community amenity like a trail system.
- I have noticed that about 10 miles of bike lanes have been painted within the City and they seem to slow traffic down; will additional bike lanes be added as trail segments are implemented?
 - Yes, additional bike lanes that may be needed to continue connections are identified on the maps.
- When the TAG toured trails in Folsom, it was mentioned that trails can positively affect property values, do you have any data on that?
 - The TAG identified property values as a potential concern at one of the first meetings. The project team met with real estate professionals to ask them questions about the effect an adjacent trail system can have on property values. It seems that there is a very individualist response to the presence of a trail near a property; some home buyers view

Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project Trail Advisory Group Meeting #6

it as an amenity and some do not. However, they did note that in communities where there is an established trail network there tends to be a bump in property values compared to comparable properties. With the example of Folsom, as the trail system became more developed the City began to use it as part of their branding campaign.

Input from TAG members:

Following the feasibility report discussion TAG members were asked to provide their input on two items: key observation from this year long process; and considerations and suggestions for moving forward.

Comments from TAG members:

- This has been a good experience and process. I have been surprised about the pushback from the community because it seems that many people did not actually read the report or look at the maps; a majority of the segments are mostly on public land. Moving forward I think it will be important to continue to engage neighborhoods so they feel more involved in the process.
- I have been impressed with the thoroughness of the process. Moving forward it will be important to continue to respond to the community's concerns.
- The project team has done an excellent job being very thorough considering this is just a feasibility report. A key observation is that privacy is a huge concern and that is well documented in the report; I think the project team has addressed this issue. Another observation is that people are not involved in their community; if you want to get involved join your neighborhood association. Moving forward I think seeing is believing. Once the TAG saw the trails in Folsom we saw the great opportunity this project was for our City. I understand that Citrus Heights is very different from Folsom, but if we focus on public land and do what makes sense first we can let people see what it looks like and let them see what is possible.
- The field trip was the most illuminating part of this process. We were first able to see what we were working with in Citrus Heights and then see a built out trail in an established community. We did see a section of trail in Folsom that was built out after the neighborhood was established. This example is worth looking at in more detail. Citrus Heights is different but it seems like once a trail is established it becomes a real asset to the community and can create positive things. Moving forward, based on feedback from the community it is important to close the information loop, involve the community, and make sure concerns are addressed. We need to continue the dialogue.
- I came into this process thinking about how this project could negatively affect property owners. But I agree, seeing is believing. The trails in Folsom created beauty around the property and changed the attitude of home owners once they saw what an asset the trail was. I think in Citrus Heights properties will have to be addressed on a case by case basis, but we were able to see what a valuable asset a trail can be to a community. I learned a lot and appreciated being involved. Moving forward we need to continue to work with the community.
- I think it is important for community members to understand what a feasibility study is and that the entire project will not come to fruition next month. We are looking for ways to improve the

Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project Trail Advisory Group Meeting #6

City that we live in; we are not trying to disturb neighborhoods we are trying to make them better. This project can improve our whole community. Moving forward, I think a comprehensive executive summary is important so people can learn about the project without having to read the whole report.

- What stood out the most for me was looking at opportunities and constraints and the preliminary screening of all the segments. The analysis was very thorough and looking at the opportunities we had a chance to envision the entire network. Moving forward it would be good for decision makers to walk the trail segments as they move forward in the planning process. You get a very different perspective when you actually go out and walk the area; it gives you more of a feel for the community and the surrounding area.
- I have been skeptical of this project all along because I live on the creek and am concerned for my privacy. However since I walked the Folsom trails I am on the fence, privacy is important but a trail system can be a nice amenity for a community. Moving forward, the project team has been listening to the community's concerns throughout the process and will continue to.
- I think this has been a very good process. I know a lot of community members appreciate the creeks in the City as amenities. There has been a lot of degradation to the creeks since the City inherited them from the county over 20 years ago. A trail system will have impacts to the creeks and the surrounding wildlife; but even without the trails the creeks are becoming more and more degraded. I can see that with this project the City is trying to make this a better pace for residents. It is a shame that the fear and mistrust from the community is affecting the more feasible parts of the study. Moving forward the City needs to keep listening. I think comments from the community have been listened to and the plan has been adjusted based on those comments.
- I am concerned about all of the opposition coming at this late date. I have lived in the City for over 39 years and helped to establish the City as a City. I think this project is good for our community. I would urge others to go look at Folsom and walk their trails. I would also urge residents who feel they were not informed to get involved with your neighborhood association. The entire City has active associations and they are working to make sure residents have a way to learn about things that are happening in the community and have their concerns heard by the City Council. Go to your neighborhood association meetings and get involved in your community. I think this is a really good thing for our City and it is sad to think that I may not be around to see it established. Moving forward I think the City should focus on the trail segments that are on public land first. The City has had a very open process; they are trying to make sure that concerns are heard.

Feedback on the Engagement Process:

In addition to the discussion, TAG members were asked to provide their feedback on any and all aspects of the engagement process for the project. Comments are included below:

- **Facilitated discussions with an appointed Trail Advisory Group:**

**Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project
Trail Advisory Group Meeting #6**

- The TAG meetings were well organized and efficient. I think the make-up of the group was appropriate. Foothill is the technical expert- no need to include another trail engineer.
 - The discussions were productive.
 - The facilitators did a great job keeping the discussions moving and on point. I am amazed at the thoroughness of the feasibility study!
 - Well conducted. Good supporting materials. Good communication. All comments welcome and discussed.
 - The AIM group did a great job on explaining every step of the way, listening to our concerns, and getting back to us with our issues at the next meeting if they didn't have a response right away. The community was well informed of upcoming meeting workshops. I would have wanted a copy of the PowerPoint presentation so I could write my comments or concerns during the discussion.
- **Field trips to view existing conditions in Citrus Heights and the Folsom trail network:**
 - Excellent- maybe even some more walk time would have been beneficial.
 - Wasn't able to attend field trips, but they are a great idea.
 - I was unable to participate in the field trips but understood that they were helpful.
 - These were the most eye-opening parts of the process. Where we went in Folsom, the trail seemed to go in after the homes were built so it is a situation similar to ours.
 - Very useful.
 - This was an eye opening experience for me. I was not for this project until I walked the Folsom trails. Maybe the team could post a map of the Folsom trail that the TAG visited. Then residents could check it out too and see a completed trail project.
- **Community Workshops:**
 - Based on the uproar, seems another workshop would have been helpful. Suggestion- might have been helpful to break out the priorities and do a workshop focusing on the priority of trails identified. Maybe we took on more than we could chew.
 - Well attended and a good idea to get community input.
 - Both workshops were helpful. The community turnout was positive.
 - Good format.
 - The word "workshop" confused me. I thought it would have several separate areas for different issues. The community workshops were more like a forum which is good too.
- **Interactive Online Comment Tool:**
 - Good- just needed to maybe have the city promote it more, as well as other community groups.
 - This has been well-used by community members to provide their input.
 - I did not use this tool so I have no comment except that it is a good idea for those people that use computers more than going to a meeting.

**Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project
Trail Advisory Group Meeting #6**

• **Final Thoughts on Feasibility Report:**

- Very Thorough.
- Very well done. Don't let the negative comments stop or slow the report/process.
- Great job! 8.13 Segment A-13 the map is incorrect. Resident is talking to Casey regarding this.

Next Steps:

- City Planning Commission Presentation: Wednesday, February 26th 7:00 pm City Council Chambers, 7117 Greenback Lane
- City Council Presentation: Thursday, March 27th 7:00 pm City Council Chambers, 7117 Greenback Lane

Public Comments

Following the TAG meeting, members of the public provided questions and comments:

- I felt that communication about the project was lacking. There was no indication of a trail along Cripple Creek on the website. I feel that prices were underestimated and bridges were too big. There was a lack of professional planning. Did any of the project team members walk the segments? I am concerned for the loss of trees. We are not Folsom; those trails were all planned as houses were being built.
- I am concerned for flooding and fires. I have lived through two floods on Pretty Girl Court. I don't want a retaining wall, flood impacts are expensive to fix.
- I want to see what percentage of public land is backing up to homes.
- How many bridges? Bridges become dams; I am concerned for the bridge near Brokenbow Way.
- Property owners along the greenbelt cannot have a fence. And we already have homeless people along the creek; a trail will only make it worse.
- I am concerned for the Police being able to patrol the trails.
- I lived near a bridge in San Jose that became a hangout for homeless people and drug deals. I am concerned the trail would cause the same type of activity in Citrus Heights.
- I am concerned for the Coyotes that currently live along the creek and native oak trees. Oak trees should not be cut down, especially near segment C 22 and 23.
- In the Greenback Woods area our TAG representative should have gone door to door to every person that lives along the creek and told us about the project.
- If everyone in area 3 is against the trail will it still get built? Will the Council consider "no"?
- The number of attendees from the community meeting indicates that you are not reaching out enough. Creeks are living entities that move so how will that be addressed? Just because it is a natural area doesn't mean it has to be developed. I am concerned for the wildlife and the loss of a beautiful natural amenity.

Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project
Trail Advisory Group Meeting #6

Questions and comments provided on comment forms:

- Do we still have a chance to stop trails in Area 3? How many signatures can stop the trail project in area 3?
- We have noticed that many people such as city of Citrus Heights employees do not live in Citrus Heights. Why should these people be allowed and consulted to make decisions about our city? How many foot bridges are planned? Every new bridge is going to become a dam in high water. How much will just 1 bridge cost? Have you seen flood photos? Just high water you need to see the photos of high water for the properties that are right on the creeks. Need a meeting so people can perhaps post their pictures on the website to show them. The Cripple Creek area is our backyard. It is where children play- where our dogs can freely chase balls and run. Are our dogs going to have to be on leash now when people are running/walking with their kids and pets? That is very unfair to the homeowners. Some backyards are unique. We have back lawns we mow. Vegetation we keep controlled and keeps the creek clean. We bring attention to the City when trees fall or big branches will block the flow. Send us notifications of all upcoming meetings. Please respond.
- People bring crime to any public area. There isn't enough police for major concerns let alone property crimes and vandalism. Waste of public funds to patrol and build. Lowers property values so not as much tax revenue for the city. Extreme cleanup for the city another waste of funds. Disturbing animals in the area so they do not have habitat. They do not need more disturbances. Pollution from garbage, human waste, dog feces. Public drinking, drugs, sex, etc. on trails, robbery, murder. Extreme drain on police and CH departments. No more privacy, people walking, drinking all hours of the day. Funding is questionable. Extreme fire danger especially drought years like these last two. This was not told to property owners about this project.