



Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project

Trail Advisory Group Meeting #3

July 8, 2013

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 eight of the Trail Advisory Group (TAG) stakeholder organizations attended the third Trail Advisory Group Meeting for the Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project. Five additional stakeholders and community members also attended the meeting as observers. The attending TAG organizations were:

- Area 4 Agency on Aging
- 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
- WALK Sacramento

Meeting Goals

- Discuss outreach efforts to date
- Present opportunities and constraints analysis and receive feedback

Stakeholder Engagement Update

Gladys Cornell (Public Engagement Manager, AIM Consulting) opened the meeting with an update on community outreach activities to date including the community workshop, community survey, and TAG

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field trip. The project team hosted a community workshop on May 14th that was attended by over 150 community members. The workshop provided valuable feedback to the project team including over 100 comment cards. In addition, highlights of the community survey were shared which included over 300 responders. Information about the workshop, community survey results, and TAG field trip are available on the project website at www.chcreektrails.net.

Community Concerns Discussion

Gladys Cornell (Public Engagement Manager, AIM Consulting), Kate Kirsh (Project Manager, Foothill Associates), and Sergeant David Moranz (Citrus Heights Police Department) discussed public safety concerns that have been raised by community members, and potential solutions that can be implemented through environmental design and public safety measures. Comments and questions included:

- Who will maintain the trails?
 - *Response:* The City would be responsible for maintenance however there are different models that can be explored such as the “Adopt a Trail” program.
- Will the community have an opportunity to provide input on what types of amenities the trail may have?
 - *Response:* It is too soon in the process to discuss amenities in detail; however this study will identify opportunities for amenity “nodes” and options for placing them along the trail.
- Can the trails be designated as non-smoking areas?
 - *Response:* Yes, some communities have designated trails as non-smoking areas.
- Will the Police Department patrol the trail?
 - *Response:* Yes, CHPD currently have a bike team that is deployed to patrol parks and community events.
- Will the trail have a running/walking path along with the paved portion?
 - *Response:* Standard trail design calls for a 10’ paved trail with 2’ of decomposed granite on either side; that is the “best case scenario” where there is room.
- What will be used to stabilize the creek banks?
 - *Response:* There are many options to look at including using rocks or trees to stabilize banks along with additional creek side vegetation.
- What about lighting along the trail? I see it as having pros and cons because we do not want to create light pollution but also a dark trail can be dangerous at night.
 - *Response:* There are multiple options related to lighting trails. If the trail will only be open from dawn to dusk, then typically lights are not necessary. If the trail will be open for longer periods of time, then different styles of lighting can be used to light nodes or portions of the trail without light spilling into adjacent houses. Lighting will depend on the setting and usage expectations.
- How will the design of the trail address public safety concerns?
 - *Response:* Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CEPTED) is a tactic employed by CHPD to create safe conditions in City parks and can be used in trail design. For example, CHPD removed a large number of low hanging branches in Rusch Park to create longer sight lines in the park especially at night. Even without lights, trails can be engineered to reduce crime and enhance safety.
- How is the concept of public safety concerns included in the feasibility study?

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- *Response:* The project team is currently working on two reports: the background analysis and feasibility analysis. The background analysis section will discuss public input about the trail system, issues identified such as public safety, and techniques that were discussed to mitigate concerns. The completed report will be used as a framework as the project progresses into design and construction and therefore community concerns will be recognized as important.
- How do you take the elements of public safety and fit them into the context of the neighborhood that the trail will be in?
 - *Response:* As the project progresses into design and construction, the City will maintain a community involvement process which will likely include conversations and meetings with neighborhoods and adjacent property owners. The feasibility study will have a checklist of community concerns to be considered as a part of the ultimate trail design.
- What about people who don't want the trail behind their house? Do you involve them now or during implementation?
 - *Response:* The City is encouraging community members to get involved now and to remain involved throughout the process. Right now we are trying to identify which segments are most compatible for trail development from a technical perspective. Once that is established, we'll start to factor in other variables such as connectivity to destinations and "fit" within neighborhoods based on community input. These factors will collectively be used to identify priorities for eventual implementation. This is where the Feasibility Study will end. In the future, as trail the City begins to implement individual segments there will be additional community involvement opportunities where residents can provide input on specific aspects of alignments and trail design as well as strategies for trail management.
- What about home owners who are concerned about their property value with the addition of a trail?
 - *Response:* The project team recently interviewed real estate professionals who live and work in the Citrus Heights and Roseville area. They noted that there is not a general sentiment regarding having trails near homes but that it is more personal preference. Some people see a trail as an amenity and others do not want to live close to a trail. Typically in communities with established trail systems there is a bump in the desirability of property, people want to live there and seek it out.
- My neighbors want to know when to get involved and provide their input.
 - *Response:* As a TAG representative you are tasked with being an ambassador to your constituents and to represent their perspectives at these meetings. We would like you to share information from TAG meetings with your organization or neighbors and communicate back to the project team about what you are hearing. It is important for the project team to hear from the community, regardless of their opinion, so that we can understand their concerns and so we have a project that is responsive to community concerns.

Opportunities and Constraints – Priorities for Further Technical Study

Kate Kirsh (Project Manager, Foothill Associates) presented a map illustrating priority areas for further technical study. The project team is currently examining over 80 segments that comprise Cripple, Arcade, and Brooktree Creeks and the SMUD utility corridor that connects Citrus Heights and Orangevale. Each of these segments has its own characteristics that will affect the feasibility of trail construction. Each segment was scored based on ownership, natural resources, corridor width, and topography. The evaluation does not include consideration yet of whether or not adjacent property

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owners are in favor of or opposed to a trail. It also does not include evaluation of the connectivity value of a given segment. These considerations will be factored in later in the process as the project team starts to establish priorities for implementation. We will also be examining the options for how segments intersect with the existing road network as another factor in assessing ease of construction.

Segments were ranked showing priority for further study as follows:

- High: Trail construction in this segment appears to be technically feasible with relatively few issues (12 miles in 41 segments).
- Moderate: Trail construction in this segment appears to be technically feasible but with a few challenges (6 miles in 16 segments).
- Low: Trail construction in this segment appears to be technically feasible but there are some significant challenges (5 miles in 16 segments).
- No Further Study: This segment has such limited potential to accommodate a trail that it does not merit further analysis (2 miles in 10 segments).

An example segment illustrating each rating category and the rationale behind how it was ranked was then shown to better illustrate the process. TAG members were encouraged to share the map with their organizations and to direct residents to provide comments to AIM Consulting so their input may be factored into the process.

Comments and questions included:

- How were individual segments defined?
 - *Response:* Start and end points were segmented by looking at similar conditions such as ownership, corridor width, and vegetation.
- If during this phase a property owner was to step forward and give the City an easement, would that potentially bump a trail segment up into a high priority?
 - *Response:* Potentially if the property owners approached the City, but at this point we are assuming that there would have to be a right of way acquisition or selling process with a willing private property owner.
- Will the PPT be available on the project website? It will be useful information for TAG members to share with our constituents.
 - *Response:* Yes, all information shared at TAG meetings will be available on the project website.

Next Steps

- What will the project team be working on until the next TAG meeting in the fall?
 - *Response:* The next deliverable is the Background Analysis Report that will summarize public input to date, what we learned during the preliminary screening analysis, and the opportunity and constraints analysis. Each of the 80+ identified segments will have a complete analysis report including a map, location length, ease of implementation, and why we think that. The report is expected to be finished at the end of September. The TAG will then review the report before it is posted on the website for other community members.
 - Next TAG meeting and Field Trip – September/October
 - Project information is available on the project website at www.chcreektrails.net

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Feedback received from TAG members via comment cards included:

Community Workshop and Survey:

- Feedback on community concerns/opportunities identified?
 - I read the summary of the survey and it was helpful. Not all interested individuals are computer savvy and it might have been helpful to have the survey as a handout for the TAG.
- Others you think we may have missed?
 - My neighbors do not attend the area meetings. Maybe a flyer could be included in our utility bill like the City did for other projects showing the link to the project website.

Public Safety

- Did the project team sufficiently address public safety concerns?
 - Yes, they were also open to other safety concerns other than the presentation.
 - Yes, in light of the recent media attention to the American River bike trail (walkers vs. cyclists and speed etc.) safety is huge.
 - I think this will continue to be a concern. However the openness of the process should alleviate most of this.
- Other suggestions?
 - General comment – your meetings are well organized, efficient, and have lots of good information.

Opportunities and Constraints – Priorities for Further Technical Study

- Comments or input on segmentation?
 - Would be more interested in seeing how the segments were prioritized and reasoning behind it.
- Comments or input on how individual segments have been rated for further study?
 - I do not agree with a couple of ratings from high to low but I'm waiting to learn more about how segments were prioritized.
 - Seems reasonable based on the analysis. The priorities for particular segments make sense.
 - The map is very helpful.