



Meeting Minutes

Project: Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection Study

Purpose: Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) Meeting #1

Date Held: April 7th, 2008

Location: Summit Christian Church, High Country Room
7075 Pyramid Highway, Sparks NV

Attendees: **RTC:** Doug Maloy, Michael Moreno
CH2M HILL: Cindy Potter, Leslie Regos
Jacobs Carter Burgess.: Jim Caviola, David Dodson, Steve Oxoby
SWG Members: See attached sign-in sheet.

Copies: Attendees, File

NOTE: The next SWG Meeting will be held on Monday, June 23, 2008 from 5:30 – 7:30 at the Spanish Springs Library, 7100A Pyramid Highway, Sparks, Nevada (Lazy 5 Park Complex). A meeting reminder will be sent 2 weeks in advance along with an agenda.

Summary of Discussion:

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Doug Maloy welcomed the group, thanked them for their attendance and for their participation.
- Leslie Regos gave an explanation of the intent of this meeting.
- SWG and PMT members introduced themselves.

2. Project Overview & Goals

- Leslie gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following project issues (See attached PowerPoint presentation):
 - a. Study corridor history:
 - i. Development of the RTC's Pyramid Corridor Management Plan and its recommendations, "Package C".
 - b. Study goals:
 - i. A collaborative process to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and preliminary engineering of a preferred alternative.
 - c. Study details:
 - i. Study area.
 - ii. Study schedule with approximate milestone dates.

- d. Team organization:
 - i. The RTC (the lead agency), NDOT, FHWA, consultants and sub-consultants work in collaboration with the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Project Steering Team (PST) and the general public. The roles for each group were defined.

The Role of the SWG

- a. Communicate community needs and vision.
 - b. Advisory body to the PMT.
 - c. Initially will meet every other month, eventually will meet quarterly.
 - d. Serve as point of contact representing the body of each individual organization.
 - e. Provide input on proposed study alternatives.
 - f. Communicate project information to individual organizations and general public.
 - g. Serve as an extension of the Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection Study team.
- e. Intent of the Purpose and Need.
 - i. It is the backbone of the NEPA document.
 - ii. It establishes existing conditions to which the agency is proposing significant taxpayer investment and environmental impact.
 - iii. It discusses the relationship between existing and desired conditions.
 - f. Review of the study development process:
 - i. Federal funding and significant environmental impacts initiate the NEPA process.
 - ii. Benefits of the NEPA process.
 - iii. Coordinating and participating agencies involved.
 - iv. Public outreach.
 - v. Environmental justice.
 - vi. Alternative Screening (See handout).
 - vii. Study Milestone Schedule.

3. Proposed Protocols and Working Agreements for the SWG and the PMT.

- See handout, highlights include:
 - a. Proposed attendance expectations.
 - b. Proposed meeting format, documentation and internal communication.
 - c. Proposed Process for Making Recommendations.
 - d. External communication protocol.
 - e. Proposed ground rules for working together as a team.

4. Review and Discuss Draft Purpose & Need (See handout):

- Need to address existing congestion.
 - a. Level of Service (LOS) Defined.
 - i. Related to time delay at intersections.

- ii. Related to density and speed on roadway segments.
 - iii. LOS E can be the most efficient in relation to traffic volumes.
 - b. The current RTC LOS standard policy for arterial roadways is currently LOS D inside McCarran Blvd. and LOS C outside McCarran Blvd. during the AM and PM peak hour.
 - c. The RTC is recommending that the local agencies adopt changing the design requirements from LOS C to LOS E for regional roads with year 2030 projected average daily traffic volumes in excess of 27,000 ADT.
 - d. The existing LOS on Pyramid Highway from McCarran Blvd. to north of Queen Way is E and F during the AM and PM peak hour.
- Need to address existing and forecasted population growth.
 - iv. Projections include 2040 numbers.
 - Need to address travel inefficiencies.
 - Need to address existing safety issues.
 - Need to address existing and future regional access needs.
 - Need to be consistent with the current regional and local plans.
 - It is crucial to define the Purpose and Need correctly.

5. Standard Meeting Dates and Times

- 4th Monday of the month from 5:30 to 7:30, approximately every other month
- Next meeting will be June 23rd, 2008 at the Spanish Springs Library 7100A Pyramid Highway Sparks, NV (Lazy 5 Park Complex)

6. Questions & Comments

- *Will there be additional capacity provided by NDOT to US395 to accommodate the potential increase in traffic volume generated by the completion of a Pyramid & US 395 connection?*
 - a. Other regional studies are ongoing (Example: Pyramid/McCarran Intersection).
 - b. NDOT completed the Washoe County Freeway Corridor Study which detailed the improvements needed to the existing freeway infrastructure based on forecasted population and traffic growth. The Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection was included in this study and ties into the master plan completed by NDOT to address regional needs.
- In addressing the regional access needs, individual property owners, both commercial and residential might be adversely affected. Direct access to Pyramid Highway could be cut off.
- *Will traffic volumes and other data be presented?*
 - a. Yes, traffic data has been collected and will be presented for the first time during the public meeting on 4/15/08, and at future SWG meetings.
- *How can the forecasted population growth numbers be trusted when past forecasts were incorrect?*
 - a. This is a valid concern and forecasts are recognized as being approximate, but population growth is expected regardless.
 - b. Should show how population growth forecasts are determined.
- *Are there plans for a west to east connection from Pyramid over to Vista Blvd?*
 - a. An east/west connection from Pyramid to Vista Blvd. is included in the study.
- *Have any roadway alternatives been developed?*

- a. At this stage in the project, there have only been discussions amongst the team of potential interchange locations. Alternatives have yet to be studied or developed.
- *What is the status of the Sun Valley Western project? What would happen to the LOS along the Pyramid corridor if this project were to take place?*
 - a. The West Sun Valley Arterial project is part of the recommendation of the Pyramid Corridor Management Plan ("Package C"), and is also a part of the 2030 plan, however it is considered a separate project from this one and is not considered as high priority for the RTC at this time.
- It appears from the project study map that any alternatives developed in this area would just be creating new "bottlenecks" or pinch points at different areas along US 395 and at McCarran.
 - a. This intent of this study is to find a solution to traffic issues along the Pyramid Corridor and to provide an alternative route east to west. We can not solve all of the regional traffic issues with this one study. We need to work in conjunction with the other studies ongoing in the region to best manage new traffic being introduced to other facilities and locations.
- *There is a free right turn being designed at the Pyramid/McCarran intersection, will this affect traffic volumes along the Pyramid corridor?*
 - a. This is a short term solution to the existing traffic issues at this intersection and it is assumed that the need for improvements along the Pyramid corridor and an east/west connection will still be warranted.
 - b. The consulting firm (Parsons) working on the Pyramid/McCarran intersection is a sub-consultant to Jacobs Carter Burgess on this project and we will coordinate with them closely.
 - c. Currently there are only three north/south alternatives to access the Spanish Springs area and existing traffic is currently accessing US 395. This situation will not change, and one of the intentions of this project is to study more efficient north/south routes and US 395 access alternatives.
- *What effect will the Southeast Connector have on traffic numbers along US 395?*
 - a. We will be working with local agencies and our own traffic experts to incorporate regional plans and forecasted traffic volumes into our study.

7. Next Steps

- A public meeting will be held next week on 4/15/08 at the Lazy 5 Community Center from 4:00 to 7:30. A display with existing and forecasted traffic volumes will be provided.
- The next SWG meeting will be held on June 23rd, 2008 at the Spanish Springs Library 7100A Pyramid Highway Sparks, NV (Lazy 5 Park Complex)
- After the June meeting it will be decided if the SWG should move to quarterly meetings.