



ROADS & TRANSPORTATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 20, 2022

SUBJECT: El Rio Public Outreach, Meeting Minutes

Location: Rio Del Valle Middle School – Gymnasium/Auditorium
3100 N. Rose Ave. Oxnard, CA 93036
Parking in front of the building.

Time: Monday, October 20, 2022, 6:00pm to 9:00pm

SPEAKER LIST:

Christopher Solis, Project Manager
Charles Alvarez, Real Estate Services Manager
Dave Jackson, Senior Real Property Agent
Darren Arrieta, Engineer IV, Active Transportation Grant Program Writer
Valeria Lopez, Spanish Translator
Cat Robles, Spanish Translator

Other Agency Attendees:

JoeAnn Heredia, Engineering Technician IV
Yvette Perez, Staff Services Specialist, Title VI Coordinator
Joshua Patricio, Engineer II
Sohil Bhakta, Engineer III

1. Introduction by **Dave Jackson**

“Hello everyone, and welcome to this meeting about the **El Rio sidewalk project** that the County’s planning to construct in 2024. I’m Dave Jackson with your Ventura County Public Works Agency and I’d like to introduce the rest of us. First, from our Real Estate Services division – and with a message for you in Spanish - is my coworker Valeria Lopez.

Valeria’s Introduction

Hola a todos y bienvenidos a esta reunión sobre el Proyecto de acera en El Rio que el Condado planea construir en 2024. Soy Valeria y trabajo en la Agencia de Obras Públicas del Condado de Ventura. Si necesitan traducción, por favor de avisarme a mi o a Cat Robles para traducir.

Thanks Valeria. Our manager is here too, that’s Chuck Alvarez. You might recognize our names from the letters that many of you received last week, inviting you to this meeting. From our Public Works Transportation department, we have Project Manager Christopher Solis... JoeAnn

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Heredia... Yvette Perez... Sohil Bhakta... Darren Arrieta... Josh Patricio... and Cat Robles who will also be helping with translating this evening.

We're all very excited to present this public improvement project to you... and to give you an opportunity to help us do a little more for you where the new sidewalk will meet your existing driveways. And we'll do all of this construction... at no cost to you! So keeping that in mind... lets welcome Project Manager Chris Solis up here to give us an overview of the project. Chris?"

2. Project Overview by **Christopher Solis**

The purpose of the project is to provide safe connecting routes towards the local schools especially among students, increasing & improving connectivity to local businesses, parks and to slow down traffic in the El Rio Community. The Project consists of constructing pedestrian improvements on Walnut Drive, Cortez Street and Stroube Street in the El Rio area and were selected based on public outreach survey.

The proposed Improvements include the construction of concrete sidewalks, accessible ramps, crosswalks with rectangular rapid flashing beacons, traffic calming intersection improvements, community mailbox replacements, drainage improvements, and stormwater treatment Best Management Practices.

The County has adequate Right of Way to construct the proposed improvements which will maintain one residential travel lane in each direction, a parking lane on each side of the street, curb & gutter, sidewalk, and space for drainage improvements.

The improvements are on existing residential streets that have existing features such as driveways, fences, walls, and mailboxes. Those existing encroachments will have to be removed from the right of way. Where possible, some exceptions or accommodation will be made by temporarily relocation and replacement or modified so the new improvements conform to existing.

The County will contact you requesting permission to be on your property for the purpose of:

- matching the grade such as matching the elevation of your driveway to the grade of the top of the new sidewalk
- matching walkway, or steps by reconstructing to meet new walk
- removal of trees, shrubs or landscaping within Right of Way
- relocating and or replacing mailboxes
- removing & relocating fences and
- other features in order to build the new improvements.

This work will be done at no cost to you.

This project will serve as a spine for future projects to branch off from and provide connectivity in the El Rio Community to promote active modes of transportation, advance efforts to achieve

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greenhouse gas reduction goals, enhance public health and to benefit disadvantaged communities.

3. Active Transportation Plan Public Engagement by **Darren Arrieta**

The County of Ventura, Roads & Transportation Department is developing an Active Transportation Plan for the entire Unincorporated Ventura County. The plan will be a roadmap for implementing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure projects.

Similar to how the County asked the community of El Rio to provide input on where they would like improvements and what type of improvements, they would like in the El Rio Community. The County is now asking all residents to provide input on where in the Unincorporated County you would like pedestrian and bicycle facilities and what type of facilities you would like. Just like this sidewalk project will connect El Rio to the neighboring schools, places of worship, The Collection at River Park, and local medical facilities and stores. The County is trying to figure out our next projects to apply for grants and/or construct to connect other communities in the County to their neighborhood destinations.

The Active Transportation Plan is highlighted in the Ventura County General Plan as a need to help achieve some of the Countywide goals of improving public health and reducing environmental impacts by reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.

We know that the residents of El Rio are passionate about their community and the County, and we welcome all input and engagement for the County of Ventura Active Transportation Plan.

Please visit our project website at <https://atplan.vcpublishworks.org/> where you can take a survey, provide input on an interactive map of the County, and provide your email address to stay connected.

The Survey will ask questions similar to what we asked the El Rio Community when we applied for this sidewalk grant, however it is a bit more comprehensive for the entire County and asks for more specifics.