

EL RIO PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC MEETING  
10-20-22

1. How long will the construction last?
  - a. We estimate 4 months to 6 months to complete the project.
  
2. Who will be responsible for relocating the water meters? Will the residents be required to adjust the meters?
  - a. Ventura County Public Works Agency (VCPWA) will coordinate relocation of Water District facilities such as water meters, Fire Hydrants and Valves affected by the work.
  - b. If the water district is under a franchise agreement with the County, the cost will be the responsibility of the water district and its constituents. If the Water District proves it has prior rights then the VCPWA will bear the cost of the utility relocation work.
  - c. Where simple adjustment of meter boxes to grade are necessary, its likely that work will be covered by the VCPWA Contract.
  
3. How wide is the road right of way?
  - a. The Right of Way is 60 feet wide.
  
4. There are speed humps on Stroube St. Can speed humps be added to other streets and incorporated as part of these improvements?
  - a. No, the project will only restore the Speed Humps on Stroube.
  - b. Bulbouts are proposed at the intersections and serve as an appropriate traffic calming countermeasure.
  - c. Speed Humps may be added to other streets but requires a separate process and is outlined in the County Speed Hump Policy.
  
5. Does the Fire Department have a say in regard to speed humps?
  - a. Yes, Fire Department approval is one of the 7 Warrants that need to be satisfied to have Speed Humps on a residential Street.
  
6. During the rainy season, there is flooding that occurs at the intersections. Will that be addressed as part of this project?
  - a. Yes, the Project will be extending the Storm Drain from Orange Drive to the intersection of Walnut Dr & Cortez St & intersection of Walnut Dr & Alvarado St.
  - b. Stroube St will be constructed with cobble infiltration galleries in the parkway; the same design applied to Kenney Street near Rio Real Elementary School.
  
7. Our neighborhood is very dark. Can we request streetlights to be installed on our streets?
  - a. Yes, but not as part of this project. In the unincorporated areas of the County, streetlighting is only provided through designated County Service Areas (CSAs). Specifically, designated special assessments are collected to pay for the streetlights. A small portion of the El Rio Community was annexed into CSA 14 for streetlight purposes, but the vast majority of the community is not part of CSA 14. If property owners are in an area with an existing CSA and desire installation of additional street lighting, please contact the Traffic section of Public Works Agency – Roads &

Transportation via our website: <https://vcpbublicworks.org/rt> or by phone at 805-654-2063. Once received, the request will be evaluated to determine the need for added street lighting and, if valid, forwarded to Southern California Edison (SCE) for installation. It should be noted that SCE will only cover the cost of installing streetlights mounted on existing poles. If a stand-alone streetlight is being requested, the cost of installation is borne by the requesting party.

8. How does this project relate to the Active Transportation Plan?
  - a. This project is funded by the Caltrans Active Transportation Program Grants applied for by the Public Works Agency, Roads & Transportation Department for the Community based on feedback from Public Engagement Surveys.
  - b. The County of Ventura is developing an Active Transportation Plan (AT Plan) to serve as a roadmap for implementing pedestrian and bicycle facilities within the County's unincorporated communities. Please take the Survey <https://atplan.vcpbublicworks.org/> and help us develop the project recommendations, policies, and priorities of this Plan.
  
9. Will we still have parking available to us and what kind of parking will we have?
  - a. Yes, one lane of parallel parking on each side of the street will be provided.
  
10. When construction of the sidewalks begin, will we still have access to our homes?
  - a. Yes, access to each property will be maintained to the extent practicable. Access will only be restricted when it is prohibited by the Construction activity such construction of the driveway. The restriction will be temporary, and we will make every effort to inform you well in advance so you can plan accordingly.
  
11. How long does the concrete have to cure?
  - a. It usually takes 3 to 7 days for the Concrete to cure and gain strength. We typically plan on not allowing traffic to ride on the new concrete for a minimum of 10 days so that it does not get damaged.
  - b. The Contractor will have cones or will have taped off the area indicating that use or access is prohibited. Once the cones and tapes are removed, this will indicate that the facility can be used.
  - c. Adequate notice will be provided to ensure you are able to plan your parking and access before it is temporarily taken away by the work.
  - d. Should use or access be required due to an emergency, access will be provided. The work may need to be redone in some cases but this would be due to the Emergency Incident. Otherwise, we request your cooperation and accommodation so we get a good product that lasts.
  
12. Can we have another meeting like this in Spanish? There are several residents who did not attend this meeting who probably would if it was held in Spanish.
  - a. Yes, we initially planned for the meeting to be Bi-lingual but made a last-minute adjustment based on the door survey taken during the sign-in process. Two Spanish speaking interpreters were available to talk directly with the Spanish Speaking residents.
  - b. The interpreters are available to meet or talk to anyone that has questions about the project.
  
13. I have a fence and landscape that appears to be in County right-of-way. Will I have to remove it?
  - a. Yes, if the fence prohibits the construction of the sidewalk. We shall not remove any features in the right of way that does not need to be removed as part of the project.

- b. If you do have plants or other features in the Right-of-Way that you wish to keep, please plan to relocate those facilities before construction.
14. What if we do not want a sidewalk?
- a. The sidewalk is for the community and the Board of Supervisors has approved the project. We are therefore required to execute the project.
15. Will the mailboxes have to be relocated? Where will the mailbox be relocated to? What kind of mailboxes will we have?
- a. Yes, we have coordinated with the USPS and have tentatively agreed to replacing the individual mailboxes with clustered mailboxes. There will be 2 Clustered Mailboxes per block, 16 units with an outgoing slot and 2 Parcel boxes.
  - b. Outgoing parcels will need to be dropped off at the USPS or other delivery service or request a pickup from the USPS or delivery service.
16. What if we do not want the County on our property (Not sign Permit)
- a. Each resident has the right to deny access to the property but they Agency is willing to conform the work with each private property and incorporate the cost into the project. If permission is not granted to the Agency by the property owner, then the property owner will have to pay to the onsite improvements themselves.
17. Bulb-outs. They will be removing parking for corner homes
- a. California Vehicle Code 22500, where it is illegal to park in a crosswalk and intersection.
  - b. Yes, in some cases. We will revisit the design and see if we can minimize the impact. But as part of the ATP Grant, the bulbout traffic calming measure is to be incorporated into the project.
  - c. More information on Bulb-Outs:  
<https://www.ite.org/pub/?id=2a288a67%2D0a3d%2D00d2%2D9e87%2Dc82b9ebd6171>
18. What size width will the sidewalks be?
- a. The sidewalks will have a minimum of 4 ft in width.
  - b. Sidewalks on Stoube will be 6 ft wide
  - c. Sidewalks on Walnut and Cortez are 5.5 ft wide.
19. Will any utilities be relocated?
- a. Yes, fire Hydrants, Utility poles, water meters, sewer cleanouts and gas meters will have to be relocated and /or adjusted to conform to the new improvements.
20. When will we be constructing improvements on the other roads in the community?
- a. Our target Construction dates for this project is Spring/Summer of 2024.
  - b. We have no scheduled plans for the other streets in El Rio. The development of the Active Transportation Plan will help the Ventura County Public Works Agency decide which projects to pursue next in the County. You can help your community by going online (<https://atplan.vcpubliworks.org/>) and taking the Survey.