

Ramona Community Planning Group
Ramona State Routes Subcommittee
FINAL Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, August 3, 2022
Teleconference Meeting

Access for Members and the Public
Call in number - 978-990-5330
Access Code - 8612750

1. Call to order – meeting called to order by Dan Summers at 6:04pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Torry Brean
3. Establish attendance and a quorum
Attendees: Torry Brean, Lynn Hopewell, Robin Joy Maxon, Elio Noyes, Maya Phillips (joined at 6:08pm), and Dan Summers
4. Absent: Deb Foster
5. Assign taking of minutes – Lynn Hopewell volunteered
6. Approval of the order of the agenda – motion to approve agenda made by Torry Brean, 2nd by Lynn Hopewell. Motion approved 5-0-0-2 (Deb Foster and Maya Phillips absent)
7. Approval of minutes from 6/29/22 – motion to approve minutes with Dan Summers corrections made by Robin Joy Maxon, 2nd by Torry Brean. Motion approved 5-0-0-2 (Deb Foster and Maya Phillips absent)
8. Identify public speakers – Ed Simon and Eva Vorce regarding Mussey Grade and Hwy 67 intersection.
9. Monthly update from Caltrans on status of State Route 67 projects by Marvin Canton

Dan confirmed that Marvin got agenda. He had.

- a. Update on SVC Multimodal Project EIR progress

Marvin Canton said the Environmental report is still in biological study stage they're also finalizing the retaining wall and impact of it. They have a couple of property owners that haven't given them approval to do the study. They're checking with their legal team on how to move forward. Once he has concrete information he'll share. Torry asked is the legal team issue a standard process or something we should be worried about? Marvin said it's a standard process but without knowing how things go, as they still have several parcels they need. The legal team has a certain process that he can't get into. It's their last option after doing letters, phone calls and knocking on doors. They're doing another round of door knocking. This is the last step. Torry asked we're not talking about eminent domain seizures we're talking about access to property to do the EIA. Marvin said yes that's where they are so studies can be done. Torry assumes at some point there may be a property seizure, i.e. eminent domain, and that's where a fight may ensue. So, they're just looking to do soil samples. Marvin said yes. But property seizure is out of his knowledge and that's why it's with the legal team. Marvin will learn more and see what can be shared and let us know. Torre wants to know what road blocks may be in the way of the project. Marvin said there's been some parcels that have been completely

unresponsive doing all three stages. What he understands from the legal team if they move forward, he's unaware of what can happen.

Dan Summers said what he's hearing is that it's not unusual to have some property owners refusing to cooperate under these circumstances and are to be expected. If that's the case, there are legal steps to take to complete the environmental part. What he believes Torre and he are curious about is how many people aren't cooperating? Marvin doesn't have the answer at this time but will get back to Dan on that. It'll remain on the agenda for next month so it can be covered then. Marvin will research this.

b. Update on repaving SR 67 project

Marvin shared that the project has started construction, updating guardrails at different sections. The other thing being done under contract is that they're also doing the removal of the boulder near Mina de Oro. Working with a contractor on that and once everything is done, the boulder will be removed. The next step is to update curb ramps in Ramona, and he'll get the schedule and share that. Right now, guardrails, then curb ramps, they'll be doing potholing to determine where underground facilities i.e., traffic signals are at. That's all the updates at this time.

Torry is curious about the crosswalk issue on Hwy 67, that should be starting this month. Marvin asked location. Torry said Main St. and 7th St. Marvin said he's asking about CA project, still trying to get bidders on board. Contract plans have been put together, now they're doing the bidding process for it. It's supposed to start late summer this year. But it'll be done between this summer and next summer. It's the first time they've done something like this.

Torry said we're undoubtedly the first and happy to be the first community, and that we'll work with them. All agreed. Will be added to agenda for August 31, 2022.

c. Update on Mina De Oro shoulder project

Marvin shared that the project has been completed. Dan Summers said he hasn't seen any equipment. Marvin shared that the project completed on June 30, 2022. Robin Joy Maxson said the shoulder widening seems to end abruptly, with shoulder space. What's the width between the channelizers and curb, it doesn't look like you could have two vehicles traveling abreast? Marvin said the way the location was done, it was the tightest location, the idea in the case of an emergency they'd rip up the channelizer and the lanes would be reduced to 11' but would need to check for actual measurement. Robin is that a standard lane width. Marvin said 11' is what's used for highway lanes, there's some criteria they need to fulfill and would in case of an emergency. The shoulder was a temporary solution for a problem in that area. Robin asked how quickly could the channelizers be taken out. Marvin it's basically a tractor like a scraper and they get scraped off, cut in an emergency. Robin said the abrupt end looks like people would be popping car tires there. Marvin hasn't seen that but would need to look at and could talk to contractor to fix the problem. Usually there's limited

funding and they can't go any further. Dan said on the widening on shoulder there is no curb on the outside, also there's some gaps where the shoulder widening goes along, then stops and there's a gap and it picks up again past the gap and then it comes to an abrupt end. Marvin said he'd have to drive it, where there wasn't enough pavement to delineate, they could only do a certain amount. The idea was to get the maximum length with maximum width. Dan recommends that Marvin drive it, there's at least one gap and a curb and it abruptly ends, and a car would have to drive over the curb. Dan guesses it was a funding issue and they didn't complete the project. Marvin said it was based on the engineer's plan and he'll have to go over it. He'll check into it. Dan said what we envisioned was a longer project that wouldn't have gaps or an abrupt end into a curb. Item will remain on agenda until Marvin has a chance to view the project.

Dan asked about boulder timeline. Marvin has no time line on boulder. Once he has timeline from resident engineer will let us know.

d. Update on "Welcome to Ramona" sign

Dan Summers said a number of people have embraced this project including the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Amen and there are many hands working on this project. Dan asked if Robin agreed with that. Robin said yes. CalTrans is working on the project too. Dan asked if it's ok to take off our agenda. Robin asked Marvin what he thought. Marvin said he'd like to keep it on the agenda. Lynn Hopewell shared that Jim Piva attended the Ramona Design Review Board meeting the previous Thursday and shared that the sign would be going over 10th St at Main St since banners couldn't be hung over Hwy 78. Marvin said that when they reached out, they brought it up they were looking at three different locations, Hwy 67, and Hwy 78. Robin said they're proposed locations. Marvin they're looking at funding. Keep on agenda. Torry Brean said there was talk about how the signage wouldn't occur on the state route but on the side route. We want it on Main St. sounds like there is dialog happening to make this happen. He feels that it should happen. We would have banners across Main St. until they weren't allowed. But if they have to be at Main St. and 10th so be it, but if they can be on Main St., it's what he'd like to see. Marvin said that's what they're working toward, signage across Main St. Torry wanted to make sure Jim Piva was aware. Robin said Jim Piva is aware of this and he'll be at the August 25th meeting regarding the signage across Main St.

e. Update on improving the Mussey Grade/SR 67 intersection

Dan Summers said when we left off, we were talking to Marvin about addressing the intersection immediately along the lines of how we addressed the road in front of Cheers and Boll Weevil. We believe we're in the same place at this intersection. The pavement is coming apart. Two solutions, regardless of the paving project with CalTrans would be 1) come in with a temporary repaving and repainting of the lines in the intersection, knowing that it would be done permanently, 2) would be to contact another contractor who would move the intersection up on is list and improve immediately. Torry suggested making Hwy 67 two lanes in each way. Dan said we talked about a signal but that takes years of analysis. But need the

pavement redone as soon as possible. Dan spoke to Marvin, and he was taking it to a higher authority. Marvin took to a higher authority, and they said it doesn't indicate that it meets standards to be done now. The corridor director said he'd be happy to come and discuss with us further. Dan said we'd like to discuss this with the gentleman. Dan said that intersection is as bad or worse than the roadway near Cheers. Marvin is working with traffic office, and that's information he has. He'll let them know we're interested.

Robin Joy Maxson wanted to make sure the public was given a chance to speak. Dan gave them a chance. Ed Simon lives on the Quail Rock Rd so he uses that intersection multiple times a day and agrees that it's deteriorated so much that you can't distinguish the line for turning onto Hwy 67 from Mussey Grade and traffic is travelling fast around the corner. Not clear where the lane ends or begins. There have been multiple people complaining that it's so poorly lined when they're making the left from Mussey Grade to Hwy 67. During high peak times it's dangerous. If it can be clearly lined showing where the road goes that would be helpful. He can speak as a driver that drives through the intersection daily. Dan is in agreement with Ed. Wonders if Marvin has driven that section. There's about 250' that could be described as a pot hole that motorcycles are leery about driving, he hears that from the Lt. with the Ramona Sheriffs Dept. Doesn't know how a highway inspector could look at that and pass it. Dan said we look forward to talking with Marcello or Sam Amen.

Dan gave Eva Vorce time to speak. Eva had nothing to share, she seconds everything Dan said as she's a motorcycle rider as well. Move on as we didn't accept the determination that the intersection can wait until paving project and that we believe it needs immediate attention.

Torry considers it one of his greatest derelictions of duty. They addressed the "gravel pit" which was part of Hwy 67 near Mussey Grade years ago. Someone from CalTrans drove the road and said we'll fix this, this, and not drive that Mussey Grade area and not see that it needs to be fixed. There have been nonfatal accidents recently. His question for decision makers is how many people need to die before it's repaired? Robin said as Ed was saying can't we at least put some pavement on it and include lines. Just repaving that section and relining. Dan is of the impression that it is not in anyway acceptable to delay the total repair of the intersection with replacement of pavement and lines on the road. If Marvin drove that area he'd understand. And delay is not an option.

Ed shared that his daughters, son-in-law and children were t-boned and fortunately they survived.

- f. Update on Mt. Woodson Trail signage – Marvin Canton shared the investigation has been approved and the County is applying for the permit. When the permit comes in the traffic offices will make sure they'll include the signage. Dan asked is it going to be installed at the same time as the parking lot or ahead of the parking lot? Marvin said it would have to be at the same time as the parking lot. Lynn Hopewell said

she's not happy but understands from other meetings that's how it is. Surprised that there haven't been any fatal accidents in that area.

- g. Response to the SVC Multimodal Project Draft
Dan Summers said we've written a letter in response to the draft proposal regarding the San Vicente Corridor project the team has produced and we're not happy. Dan asked Robin Joy Maxson to share the jest of the letter. Robin said it was submitted to Melina Carrera and put onto the SANDAG website and then everyone was prompted to include individual feedback. What we need in conjunction with what the physical group worked on, is a full 4-lane highway for evacuation and safe travel and that's what the letter talked about. There were a lot of DMC rules that have been discussed. We need the 4-lanes for safety and visitors. Robin asked Dan if she missed anything. Dan said it's a letter that Robin and Dan wrote. Four years ago, we started a campaign to add 2-lanes to Hwy 67 with two failed evacuations and the response from CalTrans is a small band aid, they made 232 proposals of which 84 are related to bike improvements, wild animal crossings, electrical charging stations, but no lanes. Clearly because the State and County are engrossed in the Clean Air Act, and they aren't going to budge on rural highway. Even though they're putting additional lanes on I-5, I-8 and I-78. Dan shared that he wrote a column in the Ramona Sentinel and sent CalTrans a copy of that article. In the column he said, "the climate change lobby believes that climate change is an existential threat and will hit in 8-10 years, what we have in Ramona is a head-on accident, or people dying in their cars due to a fire". Marvin knows that the group received the letter and are addressing the letter and comments they received. The team will have a response by September 16, 2022.
10. Concerns of members - None
11. Future agenda items
 - a. Update on SVC Multimodal Project EIR Progress
 - b. Update on repaving SR 67 project
 - c. Update on Mina De Oro Shoulder project remedy
 - d. Update on "Welcome to Ramona" sign
 - e. Update on improving the Mussey Grade/SR 67 intersection
12. Date of next meeting – August 31, 2022, 6pm
13. Adjournment – motion to adjourn made by Lynn Hopewell, 2nd by Elio Noyes. Motion approved 5-0-0-1 (Deb Foster absent). Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.