

Ramona Community Planning Group  
Ramona State Routes Subcommittee

FINAL Meeting Minutes for  
February 1, 2023  
Telephonic meeting

Access for Members and Public  
Call in number- 978-990-5330  
Access Code- 861-2750

1. Call to order – meeting called to order by Dan Summers at 6:03pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Elio Noyas
3. Establish a quorum and attendance  
Attendees: Torry Brean, Lynn Hopewell, Robin Joy Maxson, Elio Noyas, Maya Phillips, and Dan Summers  
Absent: Deb Foster
4. Assign minute taking – Lynn Hopewell volunteered
5. Approval of the order of the agenda – motion to approve order of agenda made by Torry Brean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robin Joy Maxson. Motion carried 6-0-0-1 (Deb Foster absent)
6. Approval of the 12/28/22 minutes – motion made to approve minutes as presented by Elio Noyas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maya Phillips. Motion carried 6-0-0-1 (Deb Foster absent)
7. Recognize members of the public who wish to speak for 3 minutes or less on matters within the jurisdiction of the Ramona State Routes Subcommittee, but not on tonight’s agenda. - None
8. Monthly update from Caltrans on SR67 and SR78 projects (Sam Amen, Cynthia Hoffman, and Diana Barreto from CalTrans), Steve Sadler (Ramona resident, when Dan asked him if he had questions said he’d gotten his answer).  
Dan Summers welcomed Cynthia Hoffman. Cynthia said she may not have updates every month but will address concerns that may come up. Dan asked Cynthia if she got tonight’s agenda. Cynthia said she’d not seen the agenda for tonight.

a. Update on major SR67 paving project –

Dan Summers shared that we know guardrails have started being put in. Once a month we ask for an update on the project. We know April is to be the kickoff. Asked Cynthia if that's still the date. Sam Amen said yes April is still scheduled to be the start date. The guardrail doesn't require a certain temperature. But pavement needs a certain temperature to lay it, so it's been suspended. The contractor is currently working on installing the broadband. Sam said Dan should have something next week. Dan said what we're asking for is the stage of this enormous project and asked if any of the subcommittee members had questions for Cynthia or Sam. Maya Phillips said we haven't heard back about the railing where the call box is at. (Check w/Maya on rest). Dan let Cynthia know about the call box on the east side of Southbound 67 with a wide shoulder. They installed a guardrail where the call box is at and we asked about this but haven't heard back on this issue. Cynthia said there's safety aspects of this. Sam said he can ask Victor what's happening with this. Sam asked, if it was in the budget. Cynthia said it's a safety issue as the public has to go behind the guardrail to use the call box. Has a level of safety between them and the traffic. Robin Joy Maxson said the guardrail keeps the call box behind the guardrail, we had the ability to pull off on a large area to access the call box, now they have to go forward and walk back to the box. They've put the broken down driver in a precarious situation by having to pull off up the road and walk back. Suggested she look at Google earth. Dan shared that if you access the call box from highway, you're actually blocking a lane, it doesn't make a lot of sense. Would appreciate them looking at the situation and addressing this issue. Lynn Hopewell asked about the missing channelizers. Dan said there's about 150 channelizers between Cloudy Moon and Mina de Oro where channelizers have been removed. Are there plans to replace the channelizer. Cynthia said that's one of the things she needs to bring up. She's reached out to the maintenance crew and hasn't heard back from them. They're design so that's not what they do every day its what maintenance crews do. Dan said Cynthia can understand why that's a concern and appreciates her looking into it and getting back to Dan. Maya added about the call box and guardrail, same subject Robin brought up. Dan said Maya is correct. When the guardrail was put in we took away a wide shoulder where

people could stop with car problems we've lost that access to a very wide and safe shoulder. Cynthia said when they put in guardrail it's between a hard object, it's about public safety. It wasn't put in to limit access to shoulder. Call boxes are easy to move as opposed to a hard fixed object, that drivers might crash into. Dan believes when she looks into this she'll see it's up against a wide shoulder that's safe where drivers can pull off. Suggested she look at it so she can understand our concerns.

- b. Update on installation of traffic signal at Mussey Grade Rd. and SR67  
Dan Summers shared that a stop light is proposed at Mussey Grade Rd. and State Route 67. This light wasn't an ask from the Ramona Community Planning Group (RCPG), we wanted that section repaved and stripped. When CalTrans looked at it they decided that putting a stop light in was the safest alternative. Sam Amen shared the process for installing a stop light and that materials are hard to get right now. Dan said we're asking for update on light if anything is available. Cynthia said she's not sure if Sam is still on call, but she's aware of the project and going to address the issue soon. Sam said his understanding is the traffic team drove the area this week and they are working on the programming. Which means they're working on getting the funding, they have enough justification for a signal. They need to work with legal, it's taking longer than expected. Dan thanked Sam for the information on personnel issues, they don't have enough staff at this time to fill all needs. Cynthia said it's on their radar and trying to push forward.
- c. Update on timeline for downtown crosswalk installation –  
Robin Joy Maxson asked what about the ceremony for improved crosswalks. Cynthia said the project has been awarded, they do expect to begin construction before the summer. Robin said we heard the third week of March. Cynthia said that's what they heard but don't want to over promise so that's why it'll be finished during the summer.
- d. South Bypass between Mussey Grade Road and Dye Road has been added to the Trails and Transportation Agenda for February. Further discussion.  
Dan Summers said many years ago there was a San Diego County road plan for a southern bypass, it would be a road that went from Mussey Grade Rd. east and would tie in to Dye Rd. This would reduce traffic at Mussey Grade Rd. and Hwy 67. This bypass has resurfaced and we're interested in this and wondering if it's a good addition to the stop light. We'll be researching that and bring more information forward that we can

share with them. Torry said as we look into this the road in question is actually on plans as Dye St., which connects from Mussy Grade Rd. to Cecelia Jo Rd. It'd probably be beneficial for people in the morning, but the traffic backs up at Hwy 67 and Dye Rd., which may be an issue. Thinks the signal would be a good solution. Concerned that the signal would undo all the good work done at Hwy 67 and Dye Rd. Would hate to see a Mussy Grade light go in which probably wouldn't have additional lanes, think there's probably solutions to that. Torry also believes the best solution is neither, but treat the road the same way that Archie Moore Rd. was treated. Where at Archie Moore Rd. and Hwy 67 there's a big wide merge lane which makes it relatively safe to turn onto the highway. If the same thing was done at Mussy Grade Rd. think it would solve the problem. Although to do that they'd need more land, pavement, etc. One thing that could solve this is if we were to build a new road, a Hwy 67 off ramp to access Mussy Grade Rd. It would be fairly inexpensive to build and would allow the existing turn lane to now be used. Before we get too deeply down the road thinks this is a valid solution. Robin Joy Maxson said to Torry's point, about replicating the Archie Moore Rd. merge, she thinks CalTrans should explore this idea. The Archie Moore Rd. interface from a complete stop, they're going down a grade so they can pickup speed. The traffic going down is a gradual up grade. At Mussy Grade Rd. they'd go from a dead stop to going up a hill. Not sure why it's happening at Archie Moore and Hwy 67 the channelizers are remaining in place. At Mussy Grade Rd. the channelizer and stop sign keep being taken out each day, not sure why. Dan said to Sam and Cynthia that he believes we have brought up options for the Mussy Grade Rd./Hwy 67 intersection. All good options. Think moving forward we owe it to the public to look at all the options. Explore all possibilities before moving forward. Cynthia said she agrees and will definitely work with traffic operations to bring these comments and ideas up to them for their input. Dan thinks it would be helpful for anyone challenged by this intersection to go and see what's being discussed. Look at what takes place at Archie Moore Rd. and see if it could be applied at Mussy Grade Rd., along with the bypass and signal.

9. Update on SR67 Improvement Project. This is the parallel project underway and separate from the San Vicente Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Project.

Dan Summers let Cynthia Hoffman know that the RCPG has been lobbying CalTrans and the State to turn Hwy 67 into a 4-lane highway due to evacuations and safety. According to statistics the road is dangerous. Dan has done a lot of research and gathered information regarding this topic. SANDAG responded with the multimodal plan, at least a year in the making. It included 232 proposals. Dan listed the improvements that we're discussed. It had everything you could imagine but the two lanes we requested to help evacuate Ramona. Dan thinks it's imperative that the State Route 67 project look at this work before any decisions are made, that they hear what we have to say regarding adding two additional lanes. Last year we delivered 12 letters to each SANDAG representative and CalTrans, all requested two more lanes on Hwy 67. Dan listed who the letters were sent to regarding this. His research also included 30 years of information about why two additional lanes aren't added to Hwy 67. He'd like to share this information with their group. Whenever Cynthia would like he can attend and share articles, letters, and the two failed evacuations. Cynthia said Diana Barreto did contact her regarding this she did research but hasn't read letters yet. The project is underway and currently in the environmental process, having struggles as some property owners don't want them on property to do environmental study, the property owners don't want the road widened. They're two years out before a final decision. There'll be a presentation to first responders on Hwy 67. The plan is to present to first responders in the next two months. Once they get a response they'll take that information to the public. What the proposal for Hwy 67 is and what evacuations are. They take our input seriously but have challenges with other property owners. Dan said we understand the hurdles they have in getting studies done. And knows that there's legal action that will take place. Sam shared that CMCT controls the growth and what it'll look like in the future. The RCP is the one controlled over the area, it's currently seen as four lanes, the environmental document is widening the whole road 15 miles moving up the lanes. Whatever meets the needs of the project. Will work with the community to make sure the project is successful, need to make sure that the input from all communities is being addressed. They'll work with us, they're part of our community. Dan said sounds like we have a lot in common regarding safe evacuation, just what means of evacuation will take place with the San Vicente Multimodal plan is separate from the State Route 67 improvement project. They cross over in some areas but are separate entities. Dan wants to share with them

that our planning group has accumulated a great deal of research on that topic. Dan is officially asking to address the State Route 67 project to share what information he has, it's imperative that they hear our research in addition to input from others. So, asking for that opportunity. Cynthia said they are going to first responders first, so they understand evacuation route since they are part of the community even though they don't live in the community. After that they'll reach out to community next (RSRS Subcommittee). Robin asked is it possible for Dan to be part of the presentation to first responders since he's a first responder? Dan said he would be happy to attend, since he's on the advisory board for San Diego County. Cynthia said the invite will go out to first responders. Diana said their main point of contact is Carl Schwettmann, Jr., CalFire/County Fire Authority Central Division Chief, CalTrans has been hosted by the Ramona facility and showed them the modeling. They have been part of the process. He would be the person that receives the invite, then they can ask him to invite people who could provide feedback in the room. If Dan knows Chief Schwettmann he could possibly have a conversation where they could open the meeting to Dan as well. They're also planning to include the CHP in the meeting. They want to make sure all responders are involved.

10. Announcements – Dan shared that since Medic 82 is fully staffed 24/7 think it's time to end the 3<sup>rd</sup> ambulance subcommittee. Will bring up at the RCPG meeting on 3/2/23.

11. Concerns of members – None

Torry commented on the way we word the agenda for the traffic light, since it said, "update on approved light". Doesn't believe it's been approved. To keep public from being confused reword to "update on discussion of traffic light". Dan understands his concern, he was putting it in as CalTrans had approved putting in a stop light, then comes planning, financing and installation. Thinks verbiage can be more accurate and less presumptive. Maya Phillips asked if the planning group needs to approve the light before it's done. Dan asked for Robin or Torry's input, but he doesn't think RCPG has a voice in the decision. Robin said they can support an idea, but RCPG doesn't make the decision. Maya asked does it mean that CalTrans will quit exploring other options since the signal is already in the works. Dan said they may believe if they put in a light than the other ideas aren't necessary. Dan shared that Sam Amen and another CalTrans employee explained the challenges they'd have to put in a stop light, the materials aren't currently

readily available. Thinks we have time to explore all the options and then discuss with CalTrans what our advisory position would be. Maya said her concern is once it's decided she doesn't want them to stop looking at other options. Dan understands her concern, that she doesn't want other solutions/enhancements to be discounted or not look at those options at all. Dan said we won't allow them to ignore the other options since we're an advisory position. We would advise what we researched and decided on.

12. Future agenda items
  - a. Explore southern bypass further and see what Transportation and Trails (TnT) comes up with.
13. Date of next meeting – March 1, 2023, in person
14. Adjournment – motion to adjourn made by Elio Noyas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maya Phillips. Motion carried 6-0-0-1 (Deb Foster absent). Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.