



Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project

Trail Advisory Group Meeting #4

October 2, 2013

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Trellis Hall, Citrus Heights

Project Overview

The City of Citrus Heights is studying the feasibility of establishing a multi-use trail system within the City's 26 miles of creek and SMUD corridors (the Study Area). The study will identify existing conditions, constraints, opportunities, alignment options, phasing options, and cost estimates for a network of multi-use trails for use by bicyclists, walkers, joggers, wheelchair users, and other non-motorized uses.

The City's goals for this project include:

- Improve Mobility
 - *Create new ways to get between local destinations*
- Provide Connections to Complete Streets
 - *Design roadways for all users (pedestrians, bicycles, and cars)*
- Become More Sustainable
 - *Improved air quality*
 - *Reduced greenhouse gases*
 - *Reduce automobile traffic*
- Improve Recreation Opportunities
- Enhance Natural Environment
 - *Improve water quality*
 - *Reduce flooding risks*
 - *Improve access to natural areas*
- Improve Public Health

Attendees

Representatives from eight of the Trail Advisory Group (TAG) stakeholder organizations attended the third Trail Advisory Group Meeting for the Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project. Five additional stakeholders and community members also attended the meeting as observers. The attending TAG organizations were:

- Area 4 Agency on Aging
- Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce
- Reach - Quadrant A (areas 1, 2, & 3)
- REACH - Quadrant C (areas 4 & 5)
- REACH - Quadrant D (areas 9, 10, & 11)
- Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
- Sacramento Area Creeks Council
- WALK Sacramento

Meeting Goals

- Provide an update on community outreach activities
- Present Background Analysis Summary Report and receive feedback

Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project Trail Advisory Group Meeting #4

Stakeholder Engagement Update

Gladys Cornell (Public Engagement Manager, AIM Consulting) opened the meeting with a reminder of the roles and responsibilities of TAG members:

- The TAG is not a decision making body, but an integral representative group who is responsible for providing important perspectives and feedback as the project team studies and evaluates alignments for the City. The Goal of the TAG is to identify community concerns and opportunities to enhance and fit the study recommendations within the context of the City's neighborhoods.
- TAG members need to reach out to their neighborhood groups and make sure they encourage members to get involved so their voices can be heard.

Casey Kempenaar (Project Manager, City of Citrus Heights) provided an update on ongoing community outreach activities. The project team has been attending REACH neighborhood meetings in order to discuss potential trail alignments in each neighborhood area in detail and receive feedback from residents. In addition, highlights of the TAG field trip were shared which included photos of trails the TAG visited in the City of Folsom. Information about the TAG field trip is available on the project website at www.chcreektrails.net

Background Analysis Summary Report

Kate Kirsh (Project Manager, Foothill Associates) provided an overview of the Background Analysis Summary Report that was sent to TAG members in advance of the meeting. The presentation included the structure of the report, purpose of the report, and methodology for analyzing segments. Following the presentation TAG members were asked to provide comments or questions about the report.

Comments and questions included:

- *Question:* If a segment of trail cannot be built along the creek corridor will the trail direct users to an on street path instead?
 - *Response:* Yes, users would be directed to an on street alternative. A priority of the project is to provide trail connectivity and connect trails to destinations.
- *Question:* Is grant funding available to fund different types of trails?
 - *Response:* Yes, there are different funding opportunities for different types of trails, for example on street improvements, commuter routes, etc.
- *Question:* Following the TAG review of the report, can the project team provide a summary of changes made based upon input received?
 - *Response:* Yes, the team can provide the TAG an overview of changes received and made to the report.
- *Question:* Page 11 of the report refers to "percent of reach covered." Can you define what reach means in this context?
 - *Response:* Segment is a less technical term for reach. The project team can define some of the more technical terms in the report.
- *Question:* Some of the segments of Brooktree Creek were rated moderate because they have an abrupt ending. Although they may not provide superior connections, some of these segments could be used for recreation purposes by the neighborhood.
 - *Response:* There are some areas where trails could be built but would dead end at a point. These segments would provide a benefit to the surrounding neighborhood but would not provide the benefit of connectivity. The project team will have to weigh these segments in the forthcoming feasibility report.

**Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project
Trail Advisory Group Meeting #4**

- *Question:* Page 14 refers to creek channels that have “undergone some incision.” It seems that some creek channels have undergone considerable incision not just “some incision.”
 - *Response:* The incision in creek channels is significant in some areas. The report could include more of a discussion about the range of incision in different areas.
- *Question:* Page 17 refers to bank stabilization and reinforcement. I would not like to see more retaining walls or concrete on creek banks, there is no mention of bank restoration or more natural approaches.
 - *Response:* We can add some discussion about natural bank restoration techniques that could be utilized.
- *Question:* Page 20 refers to possible creek crossings, are the crossings reflected on maps?
 - *Response:* Road crossings are reflected on maps, creek crossings are addressed in individual segment descriptions.
- *Question:* Page 21 refers to bridge standards as being at least as wide as the trail and a minimum of 12 feet of clearance between the bridge and the creek; is that a concrete standard or are exceptions accepted in some cases?
 - *Response:* The standard is more of a suggested guideline, there may be places where a trail is narrower than the minimum standard. This can be clarified in the report text.
- *Question:* Segment 1 for Arcade Creek in Sundance Park is technically in Orangevale but is part of this study. How will the City address this?
 - *Response:* The Orangevale Parks District is a partner on this project and will be using the technical information from the report to do their own outreach and see how the trail segment could fit into their community. There may be an opportunity to apply for joint funding for future trail construction since the segment makes a good connection between both communities.
- *Question:* Page 47 refers to heavy native vegetation growth, why does that not receive a high rating?
 - *Response:* In terms of constructability, more natural resources make a segment harder to construct.
- *Question:* Are any of the creek corridors critical habitat for endangered plants or animals?
 - *Response:* There are elderberry bushes and oak trees which are protected as well as the natural riparian habitat.
- *Question:* The 1st paragraph on Natural Resources, page 14 states “...the stream channel in Arcade and Cripple Creeks has not been significantly engineered and remains largely in a natural state.” Last sentence of same paragraph says, “...Arcade Creek main stem experiencing the greatest (incision) due to the urbanization of its watershed.” These two statements seem to be in conflict.
 - *Response:* The path and location of the Arcade and Cripple Creek channels have not been significantly changed (e.g., put into pipes underground and/or rerouted) but the depth of the channels have been made much greater due to increased stormwater flow from the surrounding urbanized landscape.
- *Question:* Does the report include a discussion about the future of the City such as planned development?
 - *Response:* That can be added to the report. There are some large parcels near creek corridors that may be developed in the future.
- *Comment:* I would like to see higher value go to longer segments; cyclists prefer to ride longer more connected trails.
- *Question:* How will TAG feedback be incorporated into other reports related to this project?

Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project
Trail Advisory Group Meeting #4

- *Response:* TAG and community feedback will be incorporated into the Feasibility Study that will be presented to the City Council.
- *Question:* Who approves or accepts the report?
 - *Response:* The report will be presented to the Planning Commission and the City Council. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council, and the Council will adopt or approve the report. This will allow for feasible trail segments to be incorporated into City planning documents such as the Bicycle Master Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, and the General Plan.
- *Comment:* This is really a very thorough document and I'm very impressed with all the hard work that has gone into it. I look forward to seeing the finished products down the road. The staff is to be commended.

Next Steps

- Next TAG meeting – December 4, 2013, Trellis Hall
- Community Workshop – tentatively scheduled for January 2014