

PORA ROADS, SAFETY & TRAFFIC, COMMITTEE

Minutes - June 30, 2010 Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members: Bob Jones, Jerry Alton, Tom Simek, Harvey Lorentz, James West, Jim Heger, Marie McDermott, Jo-Anne Jones,

MCDOT Representatives: Vicki Stewart, Dan Clements, Brenda Zambelli
PORA Board Representatives: Mike Trent, Merlyn Carlson

The PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee met at 1:30 PM, on June 30, 2010, at PORA.

Updates from County Representatives

Vicki Stewart reported for John Counts who is on vacation.

- Three new crosswalks have been completed with signs and striping.
- Heritage Drive striping is under redesign based on community concerns presented at the last RS&T Meeting.
- Camino del Sol road striping between R.H. Johnson and Beardsley is also being reconsidered based on community concerns.
- An audible signal will be added at Camino del Sol and R.H. Johnson to assist in pedestrian crossing.
- The El Mirage road project is progressing on schedule.

Jerry Alton asked about the location of the new El Mirage Road. Dan stated that will be essentially parallel to the old road but further to the east. It will tie in to the completed section of El Mirage near Corte Bella and connect to 303.

Daniel Clements

- Where the mill and overlay has been completed, the work crews will be coming back and readjusting the road surface at sewers and manholes.
- Tree trimming has been completed at R.H. Johnson, Meeker and Pyracantha. The County is also skinning palm trees.

There was a question about the white surfacing on some of the new overlaid roads. Dan stated that it is part of the process used, a coating of lime, and it will wear or wash away. Harvey Lorentz told Dan that the contractor had not properly notified residents in the area of the overlay. Dan replied that he had many complaints regarding this issue. He will pass the information along to the contractor so they will do a better job in the future.

Jim West asked what the cost of the road resurfacing was. Dan said including Sun City the project cost about three million dollars, and that included new concrete gutters and ADA ramps. This was essentially a federally funded "stimulus" project.

Questions were raised from the audience about the side white striping on some of our roads. Again, this is a very confusing issue for residents who continue to receive misleading information

about the purpose of these lines. There was much discussion. The solid white side lines are to indicate the shoulder of the road. As was pointed out at the last meeting by Posse representatives, they are NOT a golf cart lane nor a driving lane. However, golf carts will not be ticketed if they drive in the shoulder area. One problem that continually occurs is the speeding and impatience of some auto drivers who harass and verbally threaten golf cart drivers. It is safest to drive close to the curb. These striping issues must be clarified by the county and the Sheriff's office so that everyone knows what is allowed. The RS&T Committee will work to this end.

Old Business

Resident Concerns

- Camino del Sol Striping. Vicki has already reported that this issue is under consideration at the County level.
- Pedestrian Safety Update. Vicki reported that three of the requested crosswalks have been completed, and the audible signal will be added at Camino del Sol and R.H. Johnson.
- Traffic Calming Sign. Bob Jones reported for Harry Abramowski. APS has denied use of their poles for our radar traffic sign. Therefore, he has requested bids from three contractors for installation of poles for the mounting of the sign. Once the replies are received PORA will have a better idea of the total cost of the project.

New Business

Resident Concerns

- Dale Jenkins spoke concerning a safety problem with the new turn lanes on Heritage at 151st Avenue. He read a letter from Jim Kerns dated 6/18/10. Both he and Jim live within 4 houses of the affected corner. The main issue is that the turn striping leaves no room for parking in front of the homes facing on Heritage. Five homes on each side are affected. Jim's letter states that this deprives "20 homeowners the possibility of anyone legally stopping or parking in front of our homes; e.g., visitors, UPS delivery, Oxygen delivery truck..." etc., and "...the mail person...now has to stop directly in the lane of traffic to deliver our mail." Both Dale and Jim see the situation as very dangerous and likely to cause accidents. People are parking half on the sidewalk, which is illegal, and leaving tire marks. This all affects the value of the homes. One home near the corner is for sale, and the realtor has said that the fact no one can park in the street legally will affect the potential for sale of the home. They request that the county restudy this unsafe striping situation. A petition with 16 signatures objecting to the striping was attached to the letter. The original letter and photos showing the problem were given to Vicki Stewart. Dale read his own letter to the committee reinforcing the seriousness of the situation and requesting that MCDOT "investigate and provide corrective action regarding a solution to our problem."
- Walt Ray Mr. Ray had spoken to Bob Jones about the confusing striping. His specific concern was the solid white line marking the shoulder of the road.
- El Mirage Road Steve Kinnaman had asked for a clarification regarding the right turn lane changes

in the new El Mirage Road design. As he was not present, his e-mail was turned over to Dan Clements who will contact him.

PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee and Relationship with MCDOT

Letter from John Hauskins, Director, MCDOT -

Jo-Anne Jones explained that the authority of PORA to represent SCW residents in dealings with MCDOT had been questioned by a resident who had, at the May RS&T meeting, received a copy of the May 20, 2010 MCDOT handout PORA Roads, Traffic and Safety Committee, PROCESS AND PROCEDURE for MCDOT SERVICE REQUESTS and who believed PORA should not be representing SCW. In a June 10, 2010, letter of reply to that resident, who had written his concerns to Supervisor Max Wilson, MCDOT Transportation Director John Hauskins explained the history and working relationship between PORA and MCDOT. Copies of his letter were distributed to the committee, and Jo-Anne read several paragraphs from the letter presenting MCDOT's point of view. Key excerpts below:

“Since the mid 1980's MCDOT has looked to PORA as an unofficial representative of the Sun City West community regarding roadway concerns and, in turn, PORA has traditionally looked to MCDOT to evaluate and respond to the traffic and safety or roadway concerns they have brought forward. Representatives of MCDOT meet monthly with the PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee during open public meetings on a regular monthly basis.”

“PORA meetings are open meetings.... Members and nonmembers alike and all Sun City West residents have a welcome voice at PORA meetings.”

“From the MCDOT perspective, having a group or organization as a representative voice of a community when putting forth requests that may impact the community as a whole is an invaluable resource. As such, it is our intent to continue with the decades old working relationship with PORA. This, however, in no way means or is meant to be interpreted that the PORA committee is our sole source or conduit in the receipt of public issues or concerns associated with MCDOT roadways.”

There was no discussion.

Improving PORA Traffic Committee's Communication with Residents

Bob Jones acknowledged that the recent issues with road striping have made it clear there is need for better communication between the RS&T Committee, MCDOT and SCW residents. In the last two months, some changes have already been initiated.

- The committee minutes have been placed on the PORA website.
- Better use will be made of the PORA Newsletter.

Bob asked for other suggestions from the committee.

- A folder or booklet that explains the regulations regarding golf carts, shoulder lane markings, speeding dangers, etc. could be prepared and given to new residents and to all residents when they renew their dues. Jerry Alton volunteered to check with the RCSCW to see if they would work with

us on distribution. Preparing the information will involve working with MCDOT and the POSSE. Jo-Anne pointed out that it is imperative we get the information about not ticketing golf carts in the shoulder lanes in writing. So far it has been a verbal statement only.

- Bob asked committee members to give the improved communication project some thought. This is a special project for the committee to begin in the fall when it reconvenes.

Call to Public

Jim Swanson publicly thanked the PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee for providing a opportunity for Heritage Drive residents to present their concerns to MCDOT. He also thanked the MCDOT representatives for their willingness to reconsider and redesign the striping patterns originally planned for Heritage Drive.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned 2:50 PM. There will be NO meetings in July and August. The next meeting will be on September 29, 2010, at 1:30 PM at PORA.