

# Public Meeting Summary

**Date Completed:** October 11, 2016

**Subject:** Loop 202 (South Mountain Freeway) Community Meeting hosted by Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in cooperation with the City of Phoenix

**Meeting Date/Time:** Aug. 24, 2016 / 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Kings Ridge Preparatory Academy – Cafeteria; 3650 S 64th Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85043

**Meeting Format:** Community meeting with formal presentation at 5:45 p.m. followed by open Question and Answer session

## Meeting Statistics:

Thirteen people signed-in for the meeting; this number excludes project staff and others who elected to not sign-in. Two comment forms from one individual were returned at the meeting. No other comments were received via email following the meeting. Comments are included in this report.

## Meeting Notification:

Based on input from the Rio Del Rey Block Watch Captain and Homeowners Association President, as relayed through the community association management company, the meeting notification flier was sent via email before 12 noon on Aug. 16, 2016 to the 375 Rio Del Rey homeowners of record.

## Meeting Description and Information Presented:

Meeting attendees were greeted at the sign-in table and offered comment forms and South Mountain Freeway Project fact sheets in English and Spanish formats. Team members at the sign-in table explained the meeting format and encouraged attendees to visit the one information station for this meeting. The station featured a plan sheet identifying the planned location of the pedestrian bridge and provided attendees an opportunity to speak with project team members and submit comments on the comment forms.

The following is a description of the information provided:

- **Project description and schedule overview**
  - The pedestrian bridge will be designed and constructed by Connect 202 Partners (C202P), the developer team selected by ADOT to design, build and maintain the new Loop 202 (South Mountain Freeway) Project. Public art will also be incorporated into the pedestrian bridge in coordination with the City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture.
- **Planned location for pedestrian bridge**
- **Next steps**
  - City of Phoenix will hold a follow-up community meeting to share and obtain public input on the public art design concept.

- **How to sign up for project updates and invitations to project meetings and events**
  - **Call:** 1.855.SMF.L202 (para español: 623.239.4558)
  - **Email:** [southmountainfreewayinfo@c202p.com](mailto:southmountainfreewayinfo@c202p.com)
  - **Website:** [azdot.gov/SouthMountainFreeway](http://azdot.gov/SouthMountainFreeway)

#### **Summary of Public Comments:**

#### **1. Public input recorded on flip chart during Question and Answer Session following the presentation:**

- Question (Q): Will there be a bridge at Broadway Road?
  - Project Team Response: According to preliminary plans, the proposed Broadway Road alignment is designed to be elevated over the freeway.
- Comment (C): Riverside Elementary School District No. 2 is not in favor of the location shown for the pedestrian bridge; it is too far for the children to walk.
  - Project Team Response: Placement of the bridge must take into consideration a number of factors, which include impacts to right of way, location of Western Area Power Administration main lines, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
  - ADOT also has concerns about views into adjacent yards from the bridge
- C: Riverside Elementary School District No. 2 is concerned about children's safety.
- Q: Is this location a done-deal?
  - Project Team Response: Not necessarily; ADOT is looking for community input to determine the best location for the bridge.
- Q: This plan doesn't make sense – Why didn't ADOT and City of Phoenix planners have a better plan for the bridge?
  - Project Team Response: The pedestrian bridge was added to the Record of Decision's Commitments and Mitigation Measures<sup>1</sup>
- (C): The school district requests a re-analysis of how the bridge can be located within the community for safety reasons: there are concerns about children using the pedestrian bridge in winter months and when it is dark in the morning and evening, citing concerns about safety and security; in the past, there have been problems with the homeless in the area.
- (Q): Is the freeway elevated at Rio Del Rey?
  - Project Team Response: The preliminary design is at grade or slightly below grade.
- (Q): What about a tunnel like the Camelback Road pedestrian underpass?
  - Project Team Response: There are safety concerns with tunnels.
- (Q): Will the pedestrian bridge include lighting?
  - Project Team Response: In considering lighting, there are concerns regarding privacy of adjacent yards.
- (C): There are concerns about ADOT ramming through with a bridge design

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<sup>1</sup> Original response to question was "The bridge was added subsequent to the environmental process". It has been corrected to state that the bridge was, in fact, added to the Record of Decision.

- Given current right of way and construction constraints, this is the only proposed location for the pedestrian bridge. If the freeway design changes, other locations for the bridge would be possible.
- Q: Who has the power to change the rules in regards to freeway design?
  - Project Team Response: The developer team can take input back to ADOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), the decision makers for the project.

## **2. Public input received on comment forms:**

The comments below have been transcribed verbatim; however, some punctuation has been added/modified to facilitate readability. (Any items in italics are informational and not part of the original comments.) The comments are not ranked by priority or importance.

- Please flier all residents, a hard-copy to all residents in both Rio del Rey communities for the next meeting.
- I would like the ADOT team to consider the placement of the pedestrian bridge to close proximity to our community. You need to place the safe crossing of children and adults for the life of this freeway.

## **Next Steps**

This meeting summary, including the public input, will be shared with the meeting sponsors as well as the appropriate decision makers at ADOT, FHWA, C202P, City of Phoenix, and MAG for information and discussion. The meeting participants who provided their contact information will be entered in the South Mountain Freeway Project Stakeholder Management System to receive future project updates and invitations to public involvement opportunities. A series of Preliminary Design Public Input Meetings are planned to begin this fall to share updated design and construction plans for the freeway in addition to obtaining public input. The Project team will consider many of the suggestions and questions received in the development of public information materials for the Preliminary Design Public Input Meetings.

## **Attachments:**

- Copy of meeting notification flier
- Copy of PowerPoint presentation
- Copies of the comment forms