

Design Workshop, Inc.
Landscape Architecture
Land Planning
Urban Design
Strategic Services

Meeting Record

To: South Central TRC members
From: Stephanie Grigsby
Date: October 5, 2005
Project Name: NDOT Landscape and Aesthetics
Corridor Plan Amendment 2
Project #: 3560
Subject: **TRC Meeting #1 South Central
(Tonopah)
Central US 95/US 6/US 50 Corridor**
Meeting Date: August 17th, 2005
Start/End: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Location: Tonopah Convention Center
Copy To: Steve Noll, Susan Jones

Meeting Telephone Conference Call

Following are the minutes of the above referenced meeting. The following people were present:
RENIE YOUNGHANS – BEATTY HABITAT COMMITTEE & SOUTHERN NYE COUNTY COOPERATIVE
WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
RJ GILLUM – ESMERALDA COUNTY
TERI KNIGHT – NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
STRETCH BAKER – NYE COUNTY
JIM MARBLE – NYE COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
BERT BERTRAM – BEATTY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD
ANITA HAYES – TONOPAH DEVELOPMENT CORP
JACK HONEYCUT – GOLDFIELD WELCOME CENTER
VIRGINIA RIDGEWAY – NEVADA SILVER TRAILS
JANET ROGERS – BEATTY TOWN OFFICE
GARY ATKERSON – AMARGOSA VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD
RON BLAKEMORE – NDOT
SUSAN JONES – UNLV
STEVE NOLL & STEPHANIE GRIGSBY – DESIGN WORKSHOP

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Items in **bold** print indicate what action is required, who will perform the action and the deadline to complete action.

1. Welcome & Introductions – Ron Blakemore (RB)
 - a. Ron welcomed the attendees and provided an overview and expectations of meeting.
 - b. Steve Noll (SN) noted the other design team members and the role of UNLV and Mark Hoversten in the process of corridor planning.
 - c. Group introductions were made and SN passed around a copy of the previous corridor plan created for I-80. It gives an example of the final product of the corridor planning effort and gives you an idea of what to expect for the Central corridor.

2. Presentation of an Overview of Corridor Planning Process by SN
 - a. The process started with the Master Plan created by UNLV and NDOT. This plan set the policy for funding (up to 3% for landscape and aesthetics on capital projects) and the vision for Nevada's highways. Corridor planning is the next step of the process. It sets the theme, interprets the theme, and creates design guidelines to direct individual projects. Each project still has its individual design process and public process.
 - b. The opportunities and constraints phase establishes potential projects and analyzes the corridor's restrictions. The corridor is analyzed according to its visual character and visual analysis maps area created to show some of the more spectacular views.
 - c. The design synthesis phase establishes the themes and character for landscape design segments and identifies the projects that should move forward. The interpretation of the theme is typified through imagery and description. A matrix of landscape treatment types systematically organizes the combination of treatments. Examples of elements of landscape & aesthetics that are created include rest areas, place name signage, outdoor advertising, and noxious weed control.
 - d. The design guidelines provide guidelines for the corridor as well as a creating a cost analysis. The cost analysis provides a tool for NDOT that allows them to project potential costs that include landscape and aesthetics and to have a visual interpretation of what that treatment would look like. For new projects there is up to 3% of the project budget allocated for landscape and aesthetics.
 - e. TRC responsibilities were defined to include the following:
 - attending the 5 meetings
 - reviewing documents
 - talking to community members
 - informing your directors so that in the future when endorsement is asked for they will be up to date
 - informing constituents of upcoming public meetings (there will be two (2) public meetings during the process)
 - f. The website will have meeting minutes and updates and current documents that may be downloaded. It was requested that we provide a link to the Silver Trails website on the corridor planning website.

3. Group Discussion of the South Central US 95/US 6/US 50 Corridor

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- a. **RB:** NDOT has a policy to allocate up to 3% of the budget for capacity upgrades and new projects for landscape and aesthetics. Another program to facilitate projects is the 50/50 match program. We are looking at the 50/50 split to see if it can be reallocated. There is \$2 million a year that is provided under this program.
- b. **Question:** Can the 50/50 be in kind? **RB:** Yes. It has to be reimbursable. **Bert:** We have a project in Beatty that could use that program.
- c. **RB:** The transportation art program allows artwork to be displayed within the right-of-way. Enhancement funds are also available that can be applied for.
- d. **Renie:** The Habitat Committee is trying to get rid of tamarix. Would the match work for that? Can federal money be used for the match? **RB:** You can use federal money as the match for the 50/50 program, but the project has to be within NDOT right-of-way. The match is project specific, and the match starts when the project is approved.
- e. **Renie:** At the weed conference in Las Vegas they were going to get rid of the tamarix in Oasis Valley, and it hasn't occurred. Is Lori involved in the corridor planning process? **RB:** I don't know the status of that specific project, but Lori is involved in corridor planning. Applications for the 50/50 match are issued in October. We will let you know when to expect them.
- f. **Susan Jones (SJ):** The application for enhancement funds is very similar to the matching funds in order to make them more familiar for filling out. The applications for the matching funds are usually due sometime in March.
- g. **Question:** Who picks the contractor? Does NDOT choose or do we pick from a list? **RB:** We have to follow the state rules. We will help wherever we can.
- h. **Comment:** I don't feel we are getting our fair share of enhancement funds. Is there a method for changing that process? The interstates seem to have more support. **RB:** Make it known as an issue within the corridor plan.
- i. **Comment:** There is something you could do now. We have numerous signs around Goldfield. Some are nice; many are junk. We haven't been able to get anything done through Las Vegas. We have been unable to get rid of them. There are adopt-a-highway signs on US 95 by a family that is no longer here. The sign should be taken down. A highway signage program like the one for I-15 and I-80 would be nice. Nevada is world famous for the lack of rest areas. They are very important, and we currently leave a negative image to everyone. There is only one from here to Las Vegas. **RB:** We can note it in the report as a high priority.
- j. **Comment:** There needs to be a minimum standard for new projects that requires rest areas be considered.
- k. **Question:** What is the actual build-out date for the corridor plan? **RB:** We are trying to create the vision and provide a system of priorities and schedule projects accordingly.
- l. **Anita:** For the criteria, there is a requirement that we have to have landscape architect. This could present a hardship for smaller towns. Where in Nevada does the rural community go to for landscape architects? We need to know how to get landscape architects to us. **RB:** The ASLA northern section has created a rural assistance program to provide landscape architectural services to smaller towns. Landscape architects will go in teams of 2 or 3 to communities to help put enough information together to complete the process. **SJ:** The University also does things. It is student based, but there are

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semester long courses and individual projects. It has to be arranged in advance but it gets you the information and resources you need. We look for housing and meals to be covered. There is also a research office that tackles the projects on a yearly basis. You can talk to me or Mark Hoversten.

- m. **Question:** It would be nice to come up with a plan for rest areas that include shaded structures. Is there still a program for port-a-potties in order to provide facilities for areas that require services? It could be cost effective. There needs to be signage and pull-off at the right spots. There are maintenance issues too. **RB:** We will consult with you regarding the right spots to make sure rest areas and pull-offs are sited appropriately.
- n. **Dixie:** Can we find the projects that are currently happening? **RB:** There is a STIP (statewide transportation improvement plan). The projects are all listed there. It can be accessed at the NDOT website – www.nevadadot.com. It is noted that projects are not called out as being capital improvement projects within the STIP. It contains all projects, including maintenance.
- o. **Teri:** Is the build-out of all projects related to maintenance? **RB:** The matrix regarding landscape treatments and types is also used to project maintenance costs so the approximate maintenance costs would be determined and budgeted for. We are trying to do full planning.
- p. **Dixie:** Does that money come out of our budget? Do the communities have to worry about maintenance? **RB:** If it is a facility in town, we may ask the city to help out with the maintenance cost. It is really project specific. NDOT will maintain rest areas.
- q. **Jack:** What is the impact this could have on economics? **RB:** We are using NDOT money to build projects as much as possible. We are trying to make sure that we help the community and not hurt the economy. We are trying to address those needs as we create gateways to communities.
- r. **Bert:** Beatty is working on the types of projects you are talking about. Is there some way we can pull have these projects (gateways, signs) get assistance? **RB:** That is the perfect project for matching funds. **Dixie:** we are ready to go with the project and need the money now. And if we do any work between now and March, we won't get any credit.
- s. **Question:** Where we do we separate maintenance and beautification? **RB:** We have to enhance and beautify to qualify for beautification. Just painting a structure would be maintenance.
- t. **Janet:** What if it happens to be in private property? Can the town acquire the land and deed it to NDOT? **RB:** You might think of combining it with the river trails or pathways grants. The State Parks may be involved. **SJ:-** The value of the land could possibly be used as the match for the matching program if it the privately property was deeded over.
- u. **Action— Bert and Janet to send RB a letter describing the condition. RB to see if deeding private property over to NDOT would be accepted as a match. RB to check with NDOT right-of-way.**
- v. **Teri:** There is a precedent in Alamo with State Parks to deed land that qualifies as the match.
- w. **Gary:** 99.9% of the community of Amargosa is off of highway 95. The establishments are all off the highway. **Bert/Janet:** Think of signage and using the dunes as a resource.

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- x. **Bert:** Just to clarify, the pocket parks we are referring to be built in Beatty are small. They are places to sit and fit in. **RB:** Eric Glick is the state bikeways coordinator. Funding for bikeways is a good start for creating pocket parks.
- y. **Teri:** How do we get in touch with the state bikeways? **RB:** Call Eric, you will have to pass through the qualification.
- z. **Dixie:** Is there is a restriction on the type and size of signage? **RB:** Yes. **Dixie:** For example, what if we want to advertise and provide directional signage to the town swimming pool? **SN:** We need to work through advertising within towns for community with this process.
- aa. **Janet:** Can signs be added to the project or is it completed when it is done? **RB:** We plan to update the Corridor Plan every 5 years. And we will be coming back every time.
- bb. **Question:** Icons on signs need to be used. The signs done by state agencies and the federal government such as for parks and recreation areas are nice. **RB:** State Parks definitely use the iconic images, and it is what we are proposing. We are talking about places, history, museums, etc.
- cc. **SN:** Each community may have ideas of how people circulate in this corridor and how trails along the corridor may connect to trails within your community. If you have things that you have in mind please feel free to share them.
- dd. Virginia presented the Nevada Silver Trails program for US 95. The theme is “Come Alive on 95”. It was understood as the group got together that the common idea each person shared was that we all have the great outdoors in common. Bumper stickers are created with the logo “Come Alive on 95” and Bighorn Bob. Currently, the group has accomplished the following: a RV journal advertisement has been created, two websites URLs are reserved (nevadasilvertrails.com & nevadaus95.com), an advertisement for the Nevada tourism magazine. We will have bobble heads of Bighorn Bob, a newsletter will be printed, placemats with artwork for the Nevada Silver Trails will be available for restaurants, bumper stickers are available, and an eighty-minute CD will be available. Lt. Gov. Hunt will open and close the CD and it will be available in 30 days. Each town spotlighted along the route has approximately 5 minutes of information. The grant was awarded in July, and we are trying to get an outside person to donate the money for the placemats. The trail covers communities along US 95 and several others (15 major towns, 9 counties, and 6 territories).
- ee. **Question:** Regarding the bike-a-thon down US 95, how do they cross the cattle guards without getting off the bike? **SN:** Most people should be able to ride over it.

4. Next Steps and Summarization of Meeting

- a. **RB:** For the next meeting, we want to understand about all the local attractions and features for your communities. This includes local events such as county fairs and gold dust days. We want a record of places of interests, buildings, mines, railroads, anything important from history or cultural standpoint, famous people, transportation history, and tourist attractions. If you are able to bring that type of information with you, it will help to make the meeting smooth and successful. RB thanked everyone for coming.
- b. **SN:** For the next meeting does the 9th or the 17th work better? It was decided that the 17th of November at 11:00 worked best. The meeting will be from 11:00 to 2:00 and will

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include lunch. A public workshop will be held at 4:00 to 7:00 that evening. The report will be sent two (2) weeks to you prior to the next meeting.

- c. **Comment:** Is there a place on the website to notify the team of items such as historical or community resources? It was noted that the easiest way to provide the information is to email Ron or Stephanie. Stephanie's contact is sgrigsby@designworkshop.com and Ron's contact is rblakemore@dot.state.nv.us.

Next Meeting

Date: November 17th, 2005

Time: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: Tonopah Convention Center

www.ndothighways.org – corridor planning website

www.nevadadot.com – NDOT website

END OF NOTES

The record herein is considered to be an accurate depiction of the discussion and/or decisions made during the meeting unless written clarification is received by Design Workshop within five (5) working days upon receipt of this meeting record.

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