

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

Meeting Record

To: Ron Blakemore, TRC Members
From: Stephanie Grigsby and Jen Tarbet
Date: February 28, 2006
Project Name: NDOT Landscape and Aesthetics
Corridor Plan Amendment II
Project #: 3560
Subject: **Technical Review Committee
Meeting #3 South Central
(Tonopah)**
**Central US 95, West US 6, and
Central US 50 Corridor**
Meeting Date: February 16, 2006
Start/End: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Location: Blue Room, Tonopah Convention
Center
Copy To: Lucy Joyce-Mendive, Mark Hoversten,
Susan Jones, Richard Shaw, Steve
Noll, Barb Santner, Cindy Potter

Meeting Telephone Conference Call

Following are the minutes of the above referenced meeting. The following people were present:

SHIRLEY HARLAN, BEATTY HABITAT COMMITTEE
BERT BERTRAM, BEATTY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD
JANET ROGERS, BEATTY TOWN OFFICE
NANCY BOLAND, ESMERALDA COUNTY
TERI KNIGHT, HIGH DESERT RCD, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
MICHAEL O'CONNOR, NEVADA SILVER TRAILS
VIRGINIA RIDGWAY, NEVADA SILVER TRAILS
DOUG BAKER, NYE COUNTY
JONI EASTLEY, NYE COUNTY
JIM MARBLE, NYE COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
HEIDI BERTOLINO, TONOPAH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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DURK PEARSON, TONOPAH HISTORIC MINING PARK ADVISORY BOARD
LINDA TARVYDAS, TONOPAH TRUCK STOP
JAMES EASON, TOWN OF TONOPAH
STEVE NOLL, DESIGN WORKSHOP
STEPHANIE GRIGSBY, DESIGN WORKSHOP

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

- I. Welcome & Introductions – Steve Noll (SN)
 - A. SN welcomed the attendees, sent Ron Blakemore’s regrets for not being able to attend, and provided an overview and expectations for the meeting.
 - B. SN then asked the group for any corrections to the meeting minutes from the previous TRC meeting. Other than the items that were previously noted before the meeting, none were offered.

- II. Corridor Planning Overview and Project Activities – Steve Noll (SN)
 - A. Design Synthesis is the focus of this meeting. This stage of the plan considers the comments previously received and defines objectives and ideas for the landscape design segments.
 - B. The Central corridor includes portions of US 95, West US 6, US 50, Alt 95, and Alt 50. This TRC addresses the southern portion of this corridor.
 - C. Landscape and Aesthetics Program Elements
 1. Landscape Treatment Types
 - a. This matrix of softscape and hardscape types provides a systematic approach for NDOT to identify appropriate levels of treatment along the roadway for new projects.
 - b. Softscape
 - Levels of treatment include:
 - (i) Ground Treatment - NDOT uses this treatment quite extensively; it is effective in dust control.
 - (ii) Native Plant Revegetation – This treatment will be used widely along this corridor to revegetate disturbed areas.
 - (iii) Enhanced Native – This treatment involves greater densities of plants and may include trees as part of the plant palette.
 - (iv) Regionally Adapted – This low-water use treatment includes non-native species that are adapted to the environment and complementary to the landscape. It is useful in sites where an elevated treatment level is desired.
 - (v) Regional Ornamental – This is the highest level of treatment. Low-water use is still a requirement, however.
 - c. Hardscape
 - Levels of treatment include:
 - (i) Standard – The standard treatment is fairly simple and cost-effective. True place making requires higher levels of treatment.

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- (ii) Accentuated – This treatment contributes to place-making through the use of higher quality finishes. If there are areas of drainage, they are more highly designed.
 - (iii) Focal – This level of treatment is used most in rural communities. It is used to express the design character and involves a more artistic form.
 - (iv) Landmark – This treatment is the most elaborate and is used sparingly. It is appropriate for urban areas such as Las Vegas.
- 2. Statewide Place Name Sign Program
 - a. The place name program dovetails with “Come Alive on 95” and other tourism mechanisms to increase travelers’ awareness of features within the state. It uses iconic imagery to represent features, and could also be tied to an audio program. NDOT will use this program to address interpretive signage for the entire state.
- 3. Road Services
 - a. The Road Services matrix shows the range of service types from roadside pull-off to Welcome Center. The matrix shows the frequency of occurrence and the level of amenity provided for each level of service.
 - Welcome Centers may require partnerships with counties or cities to operate.
 - One goal is to identify the best pull-off spots for viewing.
- 4. Native Wildflowers
 - a. NDOT is looking at the use of wildflowers and forbs.
- 5. Invasive Weeds
 - a. This objective involves being diligent about addressing weeds, including maintenance and the prevention of the spread of weeds through construction.
- 6. Outdoor Advertising
 - a. There are methods to remove outdoor advertising or to address billboard design elements, such as height, color, and lighting.
 - b. Scenic highway designation allows jurisdictions to exercise greater control over billboards.
 - Scenic designation is proposed for two new byways (US 6, US 95).
- 7. Litter Control
 - a. Litter is a problem throughout the state. Litter-control is promoted so travelers know that Nevada recognizes the beauty of the state and wants to preserve it.
- 8. Main Street Approach
 - a. This is a new program for landscape and aesthetics. As yet, there is no state-level organization for this program. NDOT’s responsibility is limited, but they would act as a facilitator.
 - b. Main Street Approaches provide options to address the highway going through the heart of communities.
 - c. This program talks about a long-term strategy. There should be some effort put in on a state level to establish the program and give assistance to rural communities.
- D. Landscape Design Segments
 - 1. Landscape design segments are divided according to similarities in natural and cultural features. Two main segments are defined for the South Central region: Mojave Desert Vista and Silver Legends.

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2. The “Silver Trails” name wasn’t used because that program includes a larger area and is a promotional tool. “Silver Legends” was used as a planning tool to organize the roadway system but still recognizes the importance of mining in the area.
- E. Corridor Level Design Objectives
1. Corridor level design objectives are grouped into five categories. They provide a way to characterize different zones along the highway.
 - a. Community Interface – Design objectives address the interface between the highway and the heart of the main street or downtown area. Goals include:
 - Elevate pedestrian elements
 - Use traffic calming and streetscape plantings to enhance the downtown.
 - Organize the roadway to incorporate pedestrians and cyclists as an important part of the equation. Enhancements can be simple.
 - b. Community Transition – Design objectives address the highway from the centers of communities to their edges.
 - c. Managed Landscape Character – Design objectives are aimed at managing areas of growth at the edges of communities.
 - From NDOT’s perspective, the goal is to understand how to incorporate adjacent development. Communities and counties can use this designation for planning purposes. They can cooperate by ensuring adequate land for screening and use of berms instead of sound walls.
 - d. Preserve Landscape Character – Design objectives affect a good portion of the state. Primary goals are to keep the landscape as it is and to use a simple approach.
 - e. Scenic Designation – Scenic designation gives more clout to a highway to allow for preservation by limiting what can happen along the highway.
 2. For most of the highway, areas between towns are designated as “Preserve Landscape Character.” The entry to the town transitions directly into the “Community Interface” zone.
- F. Design Objectives for Specific Landscape Design Segments
1. Sections indicate the design objectives along the highway. The segment name is found at the top of the section. Design objectives are illustrated underneath and are ordered according to where they are recommended along the highway. For each design objective, softscape and hardscape treatment types are indicated.
 2. NDOT will be able to use the above information to determine design direction and to estimate costs for future projects.
 3. In addition, specific project opportunities are identified in relation to special features along the highway.
 - a. For example, a specific objective along the Silver Legends landscape design segment is to include verbage regarding the tourist information center in Tonopah.
 4. The Design Synthesis document includes imagery to illustrate the potential design of elements along the roadway. Please feel free to suggest additions or comment on the imagery.

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5. This document also includes interesting aerial images to show how the design objectives may be applied. These are illustrated in a bird's eye perspective, as if you were viewing from overhead in an airplane.
6. The next step in the planning process will involve prioritizing the opportunities. We will bring these back to the TRC for comments at the next meeting.

G. General Questions

1. SN paused to ask for any general questions.
2. **Comment:** Junk yards need to be addressed. Provide a summary of the NRS and potential for removing junk yards.

III. Break-out Sessions

A. SN asked the committee to divide into two groups to:

1. Review the design objectives along each segment.
2. Give input on the images that help to establish the identity of each community.
3. Review the design themes.
4. Provide any general comments on the document.

B. Group Presentations

1. One member from each group then summarized the comments generated from their group.

IV. Group Comments

A. The comments below include all comments generated by the group, organized by landscape design segment.

1. Mojave Desert Vista (US 95)
 - a. MM 14 (Nye County): A Brothel museum is located at SR 160/US 95 intersection.
 - b. MM 25-31: Provide signage for the high tech desert space museum that is planned in Amargosa and also for potential citizen's wilderness area north of the highway near the museum. (A proposal has been submitted for consideration as part of a national wilderness area.)
 - c. MM 38: Change name on specific features map from "Amargosa Dune" to "Big Dune."
 - d. MM 51: Provide signage for the camping area in the old ruins off the road at Carrara. There is potential for overnight RV parking.
 - e. MM 51: Consider the potential for a multi-purpose trail between Gold Center, Carrara, and Beatty.
 - f. MM 60: Provide recognition of the importance of the railroad in Beatty. Consider the potential to apply for matching grants for streetscape improvements.
 - g. MM 70: Clean up railroad stop at Springdale. (It was a historic site at one time.)
 - h. MM 70: Provide signage for Nevada test site by Springdale.
 - i. Near MM 75: Provide place name signage for dry lake bed at Sarcobatus Flat. Potentially include vertical elements to add art and interest to the salt flats.
 - j. Near MM 75: Provide signage for the Indian Reservation that is being designated near Sarcobatus Flat.

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- k. MM 94: Provide signage for Timbisha Indian Reservation at Scotty's Junction.
 - l. MM 94: Provide information regarding overnight RV parking (asphalt paved area) at the Scotty's Junction pull-off. It is a junction for Death Valley, Las Vegas, and areas to the north on US 95.
 - m. MM 4 (Esmeralda County): Provide signage for Timbisha Indian Reservation at intersection of US 95 and SR 266.
 - n. MM 4: Utilize a treatment at the US 95/ SR 266 intersection similar to the treatment of the US 95/SR 265 intersection. Encourage travelers to visit Lida and Gold Point. Provide a pull-off viewpoint with a kiosk and information about Lone Mountain, Silver Peak, the ruins at Blair, and recreational trails to increase interest in visiting these places and nearby communities.
 - o. MM 4: Provide signage for attractions along SR 266. There are great Joshua Tree forests, trails, a new building (castle) in Blair, and the Palmetto ghost town (the first mining town in Nevada).
 - p. MM 4: Limit signage for Alkali Hot Springs at the junction for Silver Peak. (Don't mark the junction.)
 - q. General Note: Plan in advance for retiring baby boomers and the associated increase in RV use. Provide overnight camping stops that are appropriately spaced. Provide rest area accommodations and places where overnight parking is allowed without a fee. Provide signage for facilities.
 - r. General Note: Consider the potential to include vertical elements at points of interest.
 - s. General Note: Provide rock collecting information for Beatty and other areas. Books for rock hounds are available. There are lots of places for rock collectors that could be incorporated as part of roadway tourism information.
 - t. General Note: Avoid giving the public too much information about features along the highway. Consider the implications of drawing people to historic features that are in need of preservation and management to make sure they aren't destroyed (such as petroglyphs).
 - u. General Note: Provide a guideline for the types of places to be designated as stops. For example, consider the potential for people to steal pieces from the site. Address major attractions in the corridor plan and allow towns and local entities to make the decisions regarding other features.
 - v. General Note: Include more information from Mercury up on railroad beds, especially as they cross the road and town at historic stops.
 - w. General Note: Consider coordination with recreational trail projects in Esmeralda County.
2. Silver Legends
- a. US 95
 - MM 19: Provide signage for Gemfield at Goldfield. Coordinate and complete signage for wayfinding.
 - MM 43-47: In Tonopah, add trees, sidewalks, and better lighting. Consider the use of low pressure sodium lamps for lighting in order to maintain night sky designation.

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- MM 43-47: Make the highway two lanes through Tonopah or three lanes with a turning lane to slow traffic and encourage people to stop at businesses.
 - MM 43-47: Rework verbage to promote tourist center in Tonopah.
 - MM 85: Provide signage for Tonopah and Hawthorne near Coaldale Junction. Currently there is large outdoor advertising on a trailer/old building.
 - MM 85: Provide interpretive signage for the Columbia Salt Marsh near the Coaldale Junction.
 - MM 0 (Mineral County): Provide signage to old town Candelaria.
 - MM 24: There are sea fossils northeast of Luning.
 - General Note: Communities can work with NDOT on potential transportation art projects.
 - General Note: Address dust problem southwest of Tonopah on US 6.
 - General Note: Trees could be Joshua trees or pinions if irrigation is not available.
 - General Note: For signage to off-highway areas, incorporate traveler information regarding water and services and provide emergency phone numbers. Include information in brochures.
 - General Note: Use colored rock (from Wonder Stone Quarry) for roadside treatments at town entries and along the highway to keep dust down.
 - General Note: Consider the potential to provide more passing lanes along US 95, such as a passing lane before and after Tonopah and additional lanes along the highway on steep grades. Significant rock blasting would not be necessary.
- b. US 6
- MM 25 (Esmeralda): Provide signage and kiosk with information at US 6/SR 265 intersection for Silver Peak, Blair, Lone Mountain, Lida, and Monte Cristo Recreation Area (proposed new state park).
 - MM 45: Provide interpretive signage for Miller's bird watching area. Coordinate with association. There is a potential to apply for grant money for signs and a viewing structure.
 - MM 54: Consider providing signage at SR 89/US 6 intersection for Crescent Dune in Smokey Valley. Be careful about publicizing the dunes to avoid damage to them. The dune in Amargosa is getting trashed.
 - MM 54: Provide signage for Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.
 - MM 60: Provide signage in Tonopah to indicate the number of miles to Lunar Crater, located on US 6 east of Warm Springs. It is a scenic byway.
 - MM 7 (Nye County): Provide sign at US 6/SR 376 intersection to indicate the number of miles to Belmont ghost town. It is one of the nicest ghost towns in Nevada, a state park, and home to the first court house in Nye County.
 - General Note: Consider providing signage for the Sedan Crater, a spectacular feature created by a hydrogen bomb.
 - General Note: Consider providing an observation post for viewing the Tonopah Test Range.

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- General Note: On the specific features map, change “Big Smokey Valley” to “Lower Smokey Valley” north of US 6.
- General Note: Make extensive use of native wildflowers wherever possible. Communities could help cultivate and gather native seeds.
- General Note: The “Singing Dunes” are a series of sand dunes in Nevada. They include Sand Mountain and Crescent Dune.
- General Note: People sand surf (sail) on playas and dry lake beds along US 6.

B. SN asked the group for any additional comments or questions.

1. **Shirley Harlan (SH):** There are important bird watching areas that have been published; a book is available through the Audubon Society. They give brief statements about the areas and the habitat trails, the locations of areas, and what to expect.
2. **Durk Pearson (DP):** There is a list of places with free dump stations that might be willing to be listed as free RV parking areas. That way locations are identified for proper waste disposal.
3. **DP:** I own property in Sodaville. I have offered to provide signage for Hawthorne, Walker Lake, the Tonopah Mining Museum, and the Central Nevada Museum. The signage could look like an old mining building and be made from a sea line container with a peaked roof. The fronts could be painted to look like a mining building and would be easily movable.
4. **SN:** Our group also talked about opportunities to empower local community members to get projects completed, including the use of matching funds. Tonopah is using a transportation art program to get an encroachment permit to have mining features in the right-of-way. Also, there is a highway widening project north of Scotty’s Junction. We discussed that it would be desirable to use the 3% Landscape and Aesthetics (L&A) budget in an area outside of the project’s “sphere of influence,” but inside the community. This would provide additional options for the investment of L&A funds in the area.
5. **Comment:** All attendees need the matching funds information.
 - a. **Ron Blakemore (RB) to send as soon as possible.**
6. **Comment:** A washroom at Scotty’s Junction is needed.
7. **Comment:** An effort is underway to get a state park designated in the Monte Cristo Castle area.
8. **Comment:** Shirley, Durk, and Linda requested copies of the Design Synthesis and Opportunities and Constraints documents.

V. Closing – SN

- A. SN thanked the group for their participation and asked them to keep people in their organization informed of the project’s progress.
- B. SN polled the group to establish the next meeting date: May 18th from 1:30 – 4:00 PM.
 1. The next meeting will focus on design guidelines and priorities.
 2. A draft document and meeting information will be sent out two weeks in advance for review.

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- C. SN asked the group to call or email the team with any additional comments or questions. Comments may be given to Jen Tarbet at 775.588.5929 or jtartet@designworkshop.com.
- D. A public workshop is being held tonight from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Tonopah Convention Center. Please encourage others to attend.

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2006
Time: 1:30-4:00 p.m.
Location: Tonopah Convention Center

www.ndothishighways.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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