

## Ojai Valley Municipal Advisory Council

### Draft October 21, 219 Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and all OVMAC members were present.

Under public comments, Terry Wright noted a malfunctioning traffic speed sign in Casitas Springs, and Diane Golosnov requested an audible pedestrian crossing at Hwy 150/33 intersection and improvement of the Ojai Valley Trail crossings of roads for the benefit of people with vision impairment.

Supervisor Steve Bennett introduced the next item, the Highway 33 Multimodal Transportation study. Josh Meyers of the Local Government Commission introduced Rogelio Pardo of Nelson-Nygaard Associates who presented the latest version of the Highway 33 Multimodal Transportation study.

Jill Borgeson asked about the effect on emergency access from the Oak View lane diet; Rogelio responded that there would still be 20' of lanes, so that two lanes of traffic could fit in each side and that the curbs on the center median would be rolled to allow emergency vehicles. Joe Westbury encouraged consideration of a traffic signal at Nye Road, which could also help at the Creek Road intersection. Joe asked who would maintain and be responsible for improvements; responsibility would be shared between Caltrans, County, and property owners. Grace Malloy asked how long implementation would take; it would depend on success with grants. Terry Wright noted that at previous meetings, Oak View property owners expressed support. Chris Cohen and Terry Wright encouraged including examples of road diets from other communities. Jill questioned Caltrans' support for the project. Grace asked what else contributes to success...community support. Steve Bennett noted it is not a large project for Caltrans and that County staff writes grant applications. Terry noted that during the morning rush hour, drivers are not entering businesses anyway and that 90% of the highway is two lanes already.

Teena Broumand noted that the estimated delay of the road diet had increased, and she is concerned traffic would build up. She noted that Creek Road is a bypass, and the project would increase traffic on Creek Rd, and that the worst intersection on the highway is the Creek Rd intersection. A Creek Road resident noted a recent encounter with a vehicle over the centerline. Jeffrey Weinstein said he supports streetscape improvements but opposes lane elimination and medians because of conflict with emergency access/egress. Beth said she is concerned with emergency access and supports timing the Oak View signals to slow traffic; many trips people take are unnecessary. Alex Laine said there is too much aggressive driving and passing in Oak View and the lane diet is needed.

Marilyn Miller thanked Caltrans, supports slowing traffic, sidewalks, and a pedestrian crossing at Kunkle. A man supports sidewalks and trees, but not a median or lane diet;

adversely impacting 22,000 people for the benefit of 200 is not fair. Dwyer Brown appreciates the project and supports roundabouts which minimize delays. Staff said there is not room for roundabouts. Judy Holman recognizes the problems in Oak View, supports a signal at Kunkle and opposes trees in median. Randy Haney said the project would increase traffic on Creek Rd. Russel Sidney supports more connections to the Ojai Trail in Oak View and a roundabout at Baldwin Rd. Ron Whitehurst said Jan Dietrick advocates a gondola from Ventura to Ojai. Barbara Kennedy said the existing lane reduction points in Oak View cause congestion currently. Teena Broumand advocated heavy traffic law enforcement.

Terry Wright said that with roundabouts, stop signs or signals for pedestrians are still needed and this makes roundabouts less practical where there are pedestrians. Chris Cohen thanked the speakers and presenters, noted that the study is a vision document and that concerns will be addressed as elements of the study move forward, and the improvements are needed. Jill Borgeson said she supports the plan which offers community benefits, community entry signs, and improved aesthetics. Joe Westbury said he supports that plan and made a motion to have the MAC vote to support the plan and support moving forward with its implementation. The motion was seconded by Terry Wright and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.