

Colusa SR20/Market Street Complete Streets Project

Project Kickoff Meeting Summary

March 2, 2010

Prepared by:



800 Hearst Street
Berkeley, CA 94710

Attendees

Caltrans: Rick Montre, Sadie Smith, Sue Takhar, Martin Villanueva, Michelle Yanez

City of Colusa: Dale Klever, Jan McClintock, Bryan Stice, Nick Ponticello, Asa Utterback

Colusa County: Mike Azevedo, Jim Bell

MIG: Lou Hexter, Mukul Malhotra, Paul Rosenbloom

Introduction

On March 3, 2010, representatives from Caltrans District 3, the City of Colusa, Colusa County and MIG gathered to initiate the SR20/Market Street Complete Streets project, an effort funded through the Statewide Caltrans PPEC contract. After welcome and introductions, Lou Hexter, MIG, welcomed the group and provided a brief project overview and review of the project scope.

Project Expectations

In a discussion of project expectations and issues, the following items were identified:

- There is existing community-support for this project, Colusa is a walking and biking friendly community and community members are excited about identifying potential improvement along Market Street.
- There are previously completed studies and proposal for design improvements along Market Street that need to be recognized and acknowledged in this effort.
- Speed along the corridor is an issue. The speed limit is being raised, despite community desire for slower speeds.
- There is community sensitivity to the term “bypass”, and it should not be used in this project.

Project Goals

The team discussed goals in addition to those identified in the project scope, including:

- Improve safety at intersections and key destinations, especially for elderly and disabled pedestrians.
- Improve aesthetics and beautify the corridor.
- Maintain existing right-of-way.
- Preserve or increase the amount of parking in the area.
- Identify projects that can be funded and implemented.
- Build trust and a collaborative spirit among the agency partners.

Design Considerations

The team discussed a number of potential designs and design considerations, including:

- Three lanes of traffic with a continuous left turn lane.
- Diagonal parking. On-street parking could be enhanced, though allowing vehicles to back onto a state facility would require a design exception.
- Safer pedestrian crossings, including refuge islands, especially at the Post Office, Movie Theater and County Courthouse.

Other Issues

- A long-planned boat ramp location at 9th and 10th may be moved to 4th Street. City of Colusa staff are working with the Department of Boating and Waterways to finalize the boat ramp location and are hopeful that the location will not be moved.
- There is currently a great deal of community sensitivity related to the increase in speed limits along the SR20/Market Street corridor and other arterials in Colusa.
- Project team members discussed the potential of Caltrans relinquishing the portion of SR 20 that runs through downtown Colusa. There is precedent for this type of arrangement, which would allow for a variety of improvements to be made that are prohibited on State Highway facilities.
- The EIR for the Riverbend Development has been completed. The project calls for an eastward extension of Market St. which should be reflected in design concepts.

Community Meeting #1

The group discussed the objectives for the first community meeting scheduled for this project. The purpose will be to introduce the Complete Streets concept and potential application to SR20/Market Street. The project team will be on hand to solicit an overall vision from the community along with desired improvements to achieve the Complete Streets future.

It was agreed that the City Hall auditorium would be the best place to conduct the meeting, as it is a central location not far from the study area and could accommodate the anticipated number of attendees.

Next Steps and Action Items

Next Steps

- ✓ MIG to revise project schedule and distribute to project team.
- ✓ MIG to distribute draft Public Engagement Plan by March 8.

Action Items

- ✓ Bruce and Sue will check on the availability of additional Caltrans resources for analysis of potential design alternatives to occur between Community Meetings 1 and 2.
- ✓ Nick Ponticello and Asa Utterback will provide background information to project team, including GIS data and Riverbend Development plan proposal concepts as available.
- ✓ The City of Colusa will provide to MIG information generated previously by students and the community regarding desired streetscape improvements in the corridor.
- ✓ The City will confirm availability of the City Hall Auditorium for an evening meeting in the first week of May.