

ALLEN CREEK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT



11/8/22 OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

*Prepared by JLA Public Involvement
December 7, 2022*

Overview

The project held a drop-in style open house at Allen Dale Elementary School from 5-7 PM on November 8, 2022.

The purpose of the event was to:

- Inform Allen Creek Road residents and the surrounding community about the project.
- Answer questions about the design and address concerns about construction and property impacts.
- Build relationships with residents and community members.



The open house provided displays with background information about the project and a large-format roll map showing the project design overlaid on an aerial image of Allen Creek Road. Participants could provide feedback on the design using sticky notes, flip charts, or provided comment cards.



The open house was staffed by: Justin Shoemaker (ODOT), Wade Elliot (Grants Pass), Jaime Jordan and Austin Zavala (DOWL), Jessie Medina (Epic Land Solutions), and Kalin Schmoltdt (JLA Public Involvement).

Attendance and Response

- Approximately 25 visitors attended the open house. (20 visitors signed in; some city officials and members of the public did not sign in.)
- Two visitors submitted written comment cards.

Outreach/Promotion:

- Save the date postcard sent to the interested parties list, Allen Creek Road properties and property owners.
- Notification posted on the project website.
- Email to Allen Creek Road Improvement Project stakeholders.
- Social media post(s) by Grants Pass.

Takeaways

This summary reflects the notes shown in the “Feedback” section below, as well as otherwise undocumented conversations from during the open house event.

- **General safety.** Residents have concerns about safety due to increased vehicle traffic and the potential for higher speeds on Allen Creek Road.
- **Intersections.** There were concerns about pedestrian safety and the ability to make turns at W. Harbeck (and to a lesser extent at Denton Trail) due to the potential for speeding vehicles. Several visitors suggested intersection treatments to address these concerns, such as four-way stops, roundabouts, photo-activated traffic cameras, or pedestrian activated flashing beacons.
- **Sidewalk size.** There were questions about whether 9’ sidewalks were necessary. While some visitors said they appreciated the safety and accessibility benefits of wider sidewalks, others questioned whether the larger size is necessary and worth the impacts to adjacent properties. Some pointed out that the proposed cross-section is not used elsewhere in the city. There were some suggestions to reduce the width of the sidewalks on one side of the street. Some visitors seemed to accept that (federal) project funding was contingent on the use of wider sidewalks.
- **Utilities.** Visitors raised questions about the general and specific impacts from the project on utilities, primarily irrigation. Most were unclear about whether existing service would be maintained and/or replaced.
- **Property lines.** Some residents had concerns about the cumulative impact of shifted property lines (unrelated to the project) combined with the right of way required by the project.
- **Driveways/property access.** Some residents asked for additional or modified property accesses/ driveways, especially related to providing dedicated access to flag-lots.
- **Annexation and future development.** Residents asked questions about future changes that would come when and if properties become part of the city.
- **City property.** Residents were generally pleased that the city was working to clean up city owned properties on Allen Creek Road.
- **Public involvement.** Many participants arrived with copies of mailed materials and stayed to ask questions for much of the open house. Most were appreciative for the opportunity to engage with the team and raise their questions and concerns. One visitor requested that meeting notifications be provided with more advance notice. There was some confusion that the city ACR page had not been updated with a link to the new AllenCreekRoad.org website.

Feedback

(These verbatim notes reflect recurring themes throughout the evening. Some comments may have been recorded multiple times in different locations.)

Map Comments

- Use a roundabout or 4-way stop at W. Harbeck.
- Widen approach for southern driveway at 2085 Allen Creek Road.
- Keep approach for southern driveway at 2307 Allen Creek Road.
- Narrow sidewalk?

Flipchart Comments

- 4-way stop or roundabout at W. Harbeck and/or Denton Trail?
- Concern about speed of through-traffic.
- Is 18-feet of concrete for pedestrians necessary?
- Can a flashing beacon be used to help pedestrians cross at intersections?
- Small roundabout Denton Trail & Allen Crk Rd.
- Use 6' sidewalks on east side (no trees on east side).

Comment Cards

1. "Would like reassurance from irrigation that we'll still get water service either from the front or back of the property from GP Irrigation district." – ACR resident
2. "I like the wide sidewalks and landscape strip. I wish the roundabout at Harbeck was part of the design because the road speeds are going to be 45+ regardless of what the posted speed is." – ACR resident