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MEMORANDUM

Public Works – Transportation - Memo No. TR08-010

DATE: January 17, 2008

TO: MAYOR & COUNCIL

THRU: MARK PENTZ, CITY MANAGER
PAT MCDERMOTT, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
R. J. ZEDER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

FROM: H. PAUL YOUNG, SENIOR ENGINEER

SUBJECT: ALIGNMENT APPROVAL FOR THE ALMA SCHOOL ROAD/ RAY ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that Council approve the alignment for the Alma School Road/Ray Road intersection improvements.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Alma School Road/Ray Road is an intersection where peak period traffic demands approach or exceed the volume that can be handled safely and efficiently in the existing configuration. This results in motorists having to wait for two or more traffic signal changes to pass through the intersection at peak travel times. The intent of the project is to increase capacity of the intersection, resulting in improved traffic safety, reduced traffic delays, and increased air quality. A traffic study was prepared to determine the necessary improvements needed to achieve these goals considering a 20-year design life. As a result, the traffic study concludes that the construction of three through lanes, dual left turn lanes, right turn lanes, bus pullouts, and bike lanes in each direction are required. Construction of these improvements requires the purchase of additional right-of-way, drainage easements, utility easements, and temporary construction easements.

The attached exhibit shows the recommended alignment and needed right-of-way for the proposed improvements. Alignment approval is requested to establish the right-of-way and easement needs for an estimated 9 residential, 1 church, and 23 commercial/retail parcels. This includes full acquisitions of 2 residential properties (parcel numbers 302-49-119 & 302-49-125) and 2 commercial/retail properties (parcel numbers 302-43-001D & 302-43-001E) at the southeast and northeast corners of the intersection. An additional commercial/retail property full acquisition (parcel number 302-43-164A) may be necessary pending appraisal results. Pending City Council approval of the proposed alignment, staff will proceed with the right-of-way and easement acquisition.

A public meeting was held on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 by City staff to present the proposed project and solicit public input for the project. Staff presented project information, responded to questions and comments, and received additional input from business owners and residents. Attendees asked questions about potential business impacts during construction. Some residents and business owners expressed support for the project, but many expressed concerns over traffic and access restrictions during construction. Staff answered questions regarding property acquisition, and invited concerned residents and business owners to attend future stakeholder meetings to help staff find solutions to project concerns.

Construction is scheduled to start in 2009.

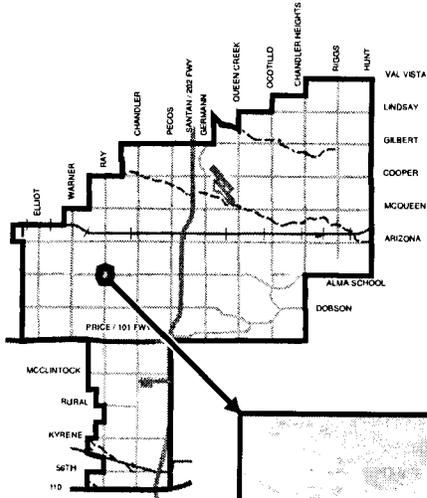
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: The Transportation Commission reviewed the proposed alignment on January 10, 2008 and recommended approval by a vote of 6 to 0.

PROPOSED MOTION: Move that the City Council approve the alignment for the Alma School Road/Ray Road intersection improvements.

Attachment: Location Map of Alma School Road/Ray Road intersection improvements



ROADWAY ALIGNMENT APPROVAL ALMA SCHOOL ROAD/ RAY ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS



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LEGEND

-  POTENTIAL RW REQUIREMENTS
-  STREET CENTERLINE

