

As many of you are aware a small group of individuals has been involved in continuing work on how we can get our roads improved and maintained. Some community meetings have been conducted, albeit with relatively low turn out, but still demonstrating a core of strong support for our efforts.

I had volunteered to investigate the possibility of grant type assistance and a more formal organization of the neighbors to show support of where we wanted to go. We also developed a community charter to document our vision and to share it with others. Several of you have signed these and helped by getting your neighbors to do so as well. I subsequently met with SEAGO and ADOT and the then County Transportation planner last year and found it would be critical to our efforts to have the planner on our side however that person was soon to leave the county and a new planner would be selected. It was suggested by SEAGO that we wait for the new planner but this process took much longer than any of us anticipated. Last spring Karen Lamperton accepted the position and our invitation to come out and visit the area first hand. She met with Jerry Beale, Dan Randolph and myself last summer. It was obvious to us that she truly wanted to help and shared our concerns. She requested we write a letter to her which would allow her to bring our concerns to the proper authorities. That letter was submitted to you and available on the website. Also at that time we had the results of a recent manual road count which we submitted along with our letter. Part of our letter requested a more formal, county approved usage and speed count. Part of the reason for the speed count was that dust issues may prompt ADEQ to participate in funding a solution. We had been waiting for a response which by November had not come so we contacted Karen for an update. A meeting with her was scheduled right before Christmas and rescheduled the following week due to family issues. Jerry Beale and I met with her last week and the results of that meeting follows.

First, it was obvious that Karen remains committed to assisting us in our efforts while balancing the realities of county funding and priorities. She reported that county road funding for last year was reduced by 1.6 million from the budget to meet other state and county priorities, severely limiting what they could accomplish in ours and other areas. She also reiterated that liability issues preclude them from even such simple issues as posting of speed signs. On the brighter side she discussed new possible federal funding for "shovel ready" projects, one of which could be ours. She stated she had been charged with developing a needs assessment and that she has been loaned 300 counting devices by ADOT for the purpose. These counts will be completed by March and her report would be developed after that but before the end of the year. A major factor in the count will be public usage other than resident such as commercial vehicles. Those counts were also part of our manual count. While she made no commitment it was inferred that our project would meet the criteria she expected. She indicated she would update Pat Call of this meeting and our concerns and proceed with the count mechanism placement soon.

We asked her what we could or should do in the interim? She applauded us for striving to maintain the road ourselves and when we told her we really had only about 10% participation in the effort she said she would see if any subdivision developer remained on tap to assist in this effort. ( one of them does participate). Her subsequent memo found little evidence of such commitment. So until something else develops we will be on the hook for maintaining the road. She did say that if we had a Road Improvement and Maintenance District approved by the neighborhood it could contract with the county for the maintenance. They could not do this even if we paid them unless a contract with the RIMD existed.

We will continue to follow with her by the March count cut off date and report any progress to you then. However this also seems an opportune time to point out while the community certainly has its divisions on both future vision and methods it is time to come together and support the current road grading efforts. The 10% participation is at best abysmal and won't help our efforts for the future. As you may know the school district has often refused to come get the kids due to road conditions. The parents that complain the loudest are most likely not even participating. The sign placed by the mail boxes has garnered some new contributions for which we are thankful but we could do a lot better. I suggest we put down our differences and participate in this effort. Jan Beale has been accepting and accounting for these contributions and continue to do so, however, Mr Bigelow, who had coordinated the work effort is moving and no longer willing to do this. A new person needs to be appointed for these duties. This includes selecting a contractor, scheduling and monitoring his work while being mindful of the budget. I think this should be a full time resident of which I am not at this time. This person should know something about grading and drainage issues. ( A perfect opportunity for a couple of you who have stated you would pay if only it was done this way) If any of you are willing and able to do this contact Jerry Beale.

So in conclusion lets put aside our differences, contribute some money and or time and help by contacting our area supervisor Pat Call, that this should become a priority. Any work effort with a community expense you will have an opportunity to vote on before it is implemented or before an RIMD is established. Jerry and I are both well experienced at grants and have offered services to the county through Karen that should this become a county priority or part of the comprehensive plan we would do research and development of potential grant opportunities that could develop into a County, Community, State and Federal partnership that could improve our area roads at a reasonable cost to all concerned.

Thank you

Tom Davis