



COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE AND WORKSHOP #3 SUMMARY

Refined Concepts for Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road Project Areas

Date/Time of Meetings: Open House - Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 3:00-6:00 pm
Virtual Workshop – Thursday, August 6, 2020, 6:00-7:30 pm

Location: Open House - Los Banos Community Center
Virtual Workshop – Online (Zoom)

Note: See “Frequently Asked Questions” (available on the project website) for further discussion about topics discussed during the Open House and Virtual Workshop.

Overview

The third round of community engagement for the Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road Complete Streets projects included two components: an in-person Open House, where attendees could view and discuss the Refined Concepts with project staff, and Community Workshop #3, held virtually using Zoom online meeting platform. Property owners along Pioneer Road and Pacheco Boulevard constituted a large portion of attendees at both events, although other Los Banos residents, representatives of local stakeholder organizations, and other community members also attended both events.

Community Open House

During the three-hour Community Open House, attendees visited five ‘stations’ each with an easel and a large foam-core board depicting refined concepts for Pacheco Boulevard/SR-152 and Pioneer Road (also



including Ward Road and a potential connecting road between Pacheco Boulevard/SR-152 and Pioneer Road). This provided the opportunities for attendees to discuss the concepts, ask questions and provide feedback directly to City staff. Approximately 30 participants visited the Open House. Community feedback about the Refined Concepts is summarized below.

Virtual Workshop #3

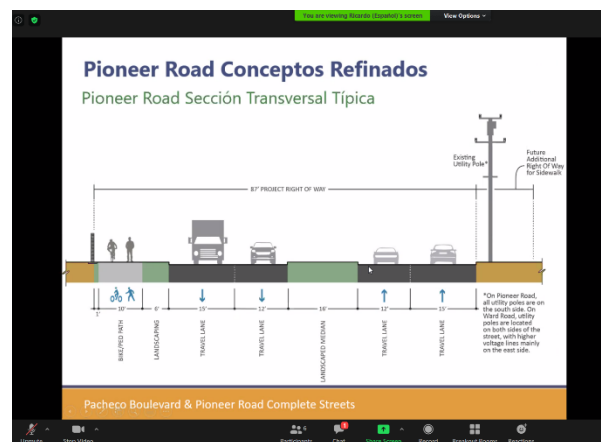
Virtual Workshop #3 was conducted in both English and Spanish, with approximately 40 participants. The workshop began with a poll asking attendees if they were:

- Los Banos Resident
- Business Owner/Employee
- Property Owner
- Member of a Community-Based Organization (CBO)
- Other

Poll results showed that most attendees were Los Banos residents and property owners, many were business owners or employees, and several were members of CBOs.



Screenshot of the English-language Zoom presentation



Screenshot of the Spanish-language Zoom presentation

PlaceWorks staff then presented a PowerPoint presentation detailing the refined concepts for Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road. During the presentation, workshop participants submitted questions via Zoom chat messaging to a designated PlaceWorks staff-member, labeled 'Project Questions? Ask Me!'. Project staff read through and answered the questions submitted by attendees at the conclusion of the presentation. The presentation slides and a recording of the project presentation are available on the project's website: www.losbanos2040.org/completestreets

During the remaining portion of Virtual Workshop #3, workshop participants broke into three groups. One group discussed the refined concepts for Pioneer Road (as well as Ward Road and a potential connecting road between Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road), one discussed the refined concepts for Pacheco Boulevard, and the third group discussed the refined concepts for both projects in Spanish. Participants had the option of spending half of the time in one group and half of the time in the other or staying in one group for the entire discussion duration (about 25 minutes). Each group had a facilitator from and a note-taker. Participants asked questions and gave feedback on the Refined Concepts. At the end of the discussion period, the PlaceWorks staff member who took notes gave a report back highlighting the feedback received from each group.

Community feedback from Virtual Workshop #3 and the Open House are summarized in the following sections of this memo.

Key Feedback: Pacheco Boulevard Refined Concepts

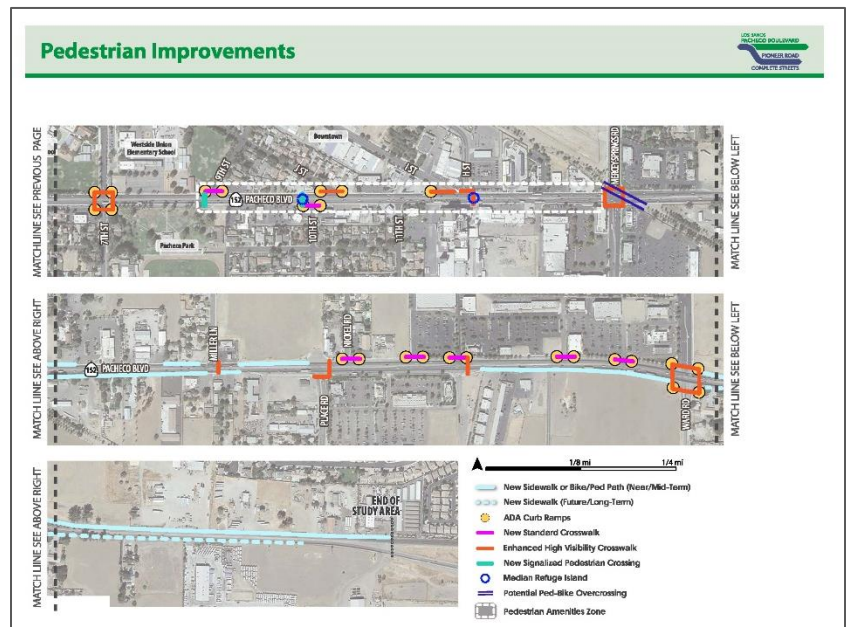
- Adding additional crossings on Pacheco may be counterproductive to the goal of improving congestion. Consider removing one or more of the proposed crossings between 7th and 11th Streets. Adding signalization (e.g., flashing beacon or HAWK signal) to the existing pedestrian crossing at Center Avenue may not be needed for several reasons:
 - Center Avenue is close to the signalized intersection with pedestrian crossings at 4th Street, so pedestrians can walk over to 4th Street to cross at a signalized crossing.
 - A new signalized crossing could result in backed-up traffic on Pacheco, potentially causing delays for emergency response vehicles turning left onto Center Avenue (Center is often used by emergency responders as an alternative north-south route to Mercey Springs Road.)
 - Adding a signalized pedestrian crossing could result in additional vehicle/pedestrian and vehicle/vehicle conflicts.

- More neighborhood parks and family recreational opportunities are needed, especially in disadvantaged communities and older neighborhoods.

- The proposed parklet and pedestrian improvements on I Street may prevent vehicles, especially large trucks, from making quick turns onto I Street. This could cause major backups on Pacheco Boulevard in both directions.

- Advance stop bars for vehicles should be located a safe distance before pedestrian crossings to keep crosswalks clear and provide better visibility of pedestrians.

- We would like to see interesting and visually attractive signage that contributes to the sense of place in Los Banos. It could encourage people driving through to stop and spend money at local businesses along Pacheco.




Example page from the Pacheco Boulevard Refined Concepts Package

Key Feedback: Pioneer Road Concepts


- Multiple participants expressed concern regarding the cost of maintaining proposed landscaping. (Note: the final plan would prioritize low maintenance, drought-tolerant landscaping, and cost for maintenance would be estimated through a detailed study).
- The proposed bike/pedestrian path along Pioneer Road crosses 11th street, which may pose a challenge in terms of vehicle/vehicle and vehicle/pedestrian conflicts. Lots of motorists turn onto 11th Street to access Los Banos High school, many of whom are high school students and still learning how to drive. (Note: at the Pioneer/11th Street intersection, signalization may be needed and will be studied further).
- Access to private property along Pioneer Road is sometimes limited due to the center median preventing left turns onto driveways and some small crossing streets. Property owners would need to travel past their property to make a U-turn. Workshop participants provided feedback about specific locations for the project team to address.
- Trucks or larger farm vehicles may have difficulty making a U-turn if there is not enough room.
- There are concerns about how increased noise and lighting may impact birds and other sensitive species.

Concept Visualizations




Example Location 3: Pioneer Road east of Mercey Springs Road


East of Mercey Springs Road, Pioneer Road would have two travel lanes in each direction and a 16'-wide landscaped median. There is a bicycle/pedestrian path on the north side. The south side of the street would be enhanced if the land is developed in the future.



CONCEPT
LOOKING EAST



EXISTING



Legend:

- Location of View
- Project Right-of-Way
- Curb
- Travel Lanes
- Parcel Line
- Bike/Pedestrian Path
- Landscaped Median or Landscaping Along the Roadway

6

Example page from the Pioneer Road Refined Concepts Package

- Drivers regularly speed up to 70 mph on Mercey Springs Road and on Pioneer Road near the intersection with Mercey Springs Road. Speeds should be reduced on Mercey Springs Road approaching the intersection for vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Some community members expressed support for extending the Pioneer Road widening to Volta Road and using Volta Road to connect to SR-152, rather than develop the proposed connection east of Los Banos Creek. (Note: the Volta Road connection is included in the Refined Concept as a long-term future-phase improvement.)

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www.losbanos2040.org/completestreets