



## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP AND ONLINE SURVEY SUMMARY

### Workshop #2 and Online Survey: Draft Concepts

<b>Date/Time of Meeting:</b>	Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 6:30-8:00 pm
<b>Dates of Online Survey:</b>	February 11, 2020 through March 1, 2020
<b>Workshop Location:</b>	Los Banos Community Center

### Overview - Community "Open House" Workshop and Online Survey

The second community workshop for the Los Banos SR-152/Pacheco Boulevard Specific Plan and the Pioneer Road Specific Plan (Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road Complete Streets) was attended by approximately 50 community members, many of whom were property owners along Pioneer Road and Pacheco Boulevard. The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to learn about and provide feedback on the draft concepts for both Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road.

The "open-house" event began with a short presentation by PlaceWorks summarizing the previous workshop and introducing the workshop activity. Following a question and answer discussion, workshop participants walked to various stations around the room, marking their answers to questions corresponding to each station in a workbook survey. (The workbook is included at the end of this document.) Each workshop station was staffed by either City staff or PlaceWorks staff to discuss the concepts presented at each station, record feedback, and help assist participants to fill out the workbook survey.

For Pacheco Boulevard draft concepts, each station presented a range of potential improvements for achieving a specific goal for Pacheco Boulevard identified by community members in the first workshop, including improving safety for pedestrians, improving street aesthetics through design features, and improving traffic flow for drivers. Participants were asked to rate their support for each potential improvement on a scale from five to one (5=strongly support, 4=support, 3=neutral or don't know, 2=oppose, 1=strongly oppose). The following stations comprised the 'Pacheco Boulevard' section of the workshop:

- Traffic Flow and Safety
- Streetscape and Urban Design
- Pedestrian Improvements
- Bicycle Routes (N-S and E-W)

The other side of the room was devoted to potential improvements on Pioneer Road and Ward Road, as well as potential connections between Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road. One station presented various design concepts for Pioneer Road and Ward Road, like landscaping, sound wall design, and roundabouts. All other Pioneer Road stations depicted route alternatives for connecting Pacheco Boulevard

with Pioneer Road, and participants were asked to mark down in their workbooks which potential route they preferred.

The following list more succinctly describes the content of each workshop station:

- Aesthetics and other Features—Pioneer Road
- Pacheco-Pioneer Connection A: Volta Road
- Pacheco-Pioneer Connection B: College Connection (four options)
- Pacheco-Pioneer Connection C: Ortigalita Road

The Workshop #2 packet was also adapted into an online survey that was available online from February 11 through March 1. The survey had 126 respondents. Much like the workshop exercise, online survey respondents were asked to rate their support for various improvements. The online survey questions were identical to those included in the Open House workbook survey, so the results of both surveys could be combined into a single summary.

### Survey Results from the Community “Open House” Workshop and Online Survey

#### **Pacheco Boulevard – Traffic Flow and Safety Improvements**

Results are based on average scores and the number of respondents who indicated “support” or “strongly support”. Participants in the workshop and the online survey were, overall, supportive of the following improvements for traffic flow and safety on Pacheco Boulevard:

- Streamlining school pick-up and drop-off procedures for Elementary schools adjacent to Pacheco Boulevard.
- Adding additional street lighting along Pacheco Boulevard
- Relocating existing and prohibiting new visual barriers at intersections (e.g., signs, landscaping, fences) which reduce the ability of drivers to see other drivers, pedestrians or people on bikes (and vice versa).
- Consolidating driveways along to reduce turning movements which slow traffic and create safety conflict areas.

By comparison, both workshop participants and survey respondents were, overall, *not* supportive of the following safety and/or traffic flow interventions on Pacheco:

- Adding center medians to reduce left-turning motions from Pacheco.
- Converting some two-way streets in the central area crossing Pacheco to one-way streets
- Replacing signalized stop-and-wait intersections with roundabouts

#### **Pacheco Boulevard – Streetscape and Urban Design Improvements**

Workshop and survey respondents ranked several potential streetscape and urban design enhancements in order of preference. In terms of aesthetic features along Pacheco Boulevard, the top three priorities were, in order:

- Enhancing the existing parks on Pacheco Boulevard
- Adding landscaping and trees along the sides
- Adding landscaping to existing roadway medians

## Pacheco Boulevard – Pedestrian Improvements

In terms of pedestrian improvements, the highest priority among participants was enhancing existing crosswalks and completing sidewalks along Pacheco. By comparison, respondents and workshop participants were generally *not* highly supportive of adding new signalized mid-block crossings along Pacheco Boulevard.

## Pacheco Boulevard – Bicycle Improvements

In terms of potential east-west bike routes along or parallel to Pacheco Blvd., workshop participants and survey respondents preferred Option 1: the ‘Zig-Zag’ route, followed by Option 3: the ‘South Parallel’ Route. Adding a bike lane to Pacheco Boulevard itself was the least popular option among both online survey respondents and workshop participants.



**Option 1: “Zig-Zag” Route**

A route from Merced College to Downtown, utilizing the upcoming shared use path from the College and roadways north of Pacheco.

**Option 2: Pacheco Boulevard**

On-street bicycle lanes along SR-152/Pacheco Boulevard in the roadway, which could require reconfiguration of the roadway and shoulders to accommodate bicycles.

**Option 3: Southside Parallel Route**

A new bicycle route through the streets south of Pacheco Blvd, including Adams Avenue.

Finally, for potential north-south bike routes that would cross Pacheco Blvd., both workshop participants and online survey respondents preferred Option 1: Los Banos Creek Trail as the number one priority. Results varied between workshop participants and online survey respondents in terms of ranking the other two north-south bike route options: workshop participants preferred Option 3: the Rail Trail as a second priority and Option 2: the Canal/West I Street route as the third priority, while online survey respondents preferred Option 2 as the second priority and Option 3 as the third priority.



**Option 1: Los Banos Creek Trail**

A route from Merced College to Downtown, utilizing the upcoming shared use path from the College and roadways north of Pacheco.



**Option 2: Canal/West I St**

On-street bicycle lanes along SR-152/Pacheco Boulevard in the roadway, which could require reconfiguration of the roadway and shoulders to accommodate bicycles.



**Option 3: Rail Trail**

A new bicycle route through the streets south of Pacheco Blvd, including Adams Avenue.

## Pioneer Road – Alternatives for Roadway Enhancements and New Connections

Finally, in terms of roadway connections between Pacheco Boulevard and Pioneer Road, both workshop participants and online survey respondents preferred Alternative A: Volta Road to Ward Road as a top choice. Multiple survey respondents commented that, while perhaps the most expensive, the Volta Road option was preferred as a long-term investment because it has the most opportunity to spread traffic over a larger area while lessening congestion issues on Ortigalita and Badger Flat Road.

During the workshop, staffmembers at each station also recorded participant questions and comments on on a large flip-chart. In the online survey, respondents were able to submit comments for each concept presented. The following sections summarize broad themes resulting from the workshop flip-chart notes, organized by station, although some comments were not specific to the station at which they were recorded.



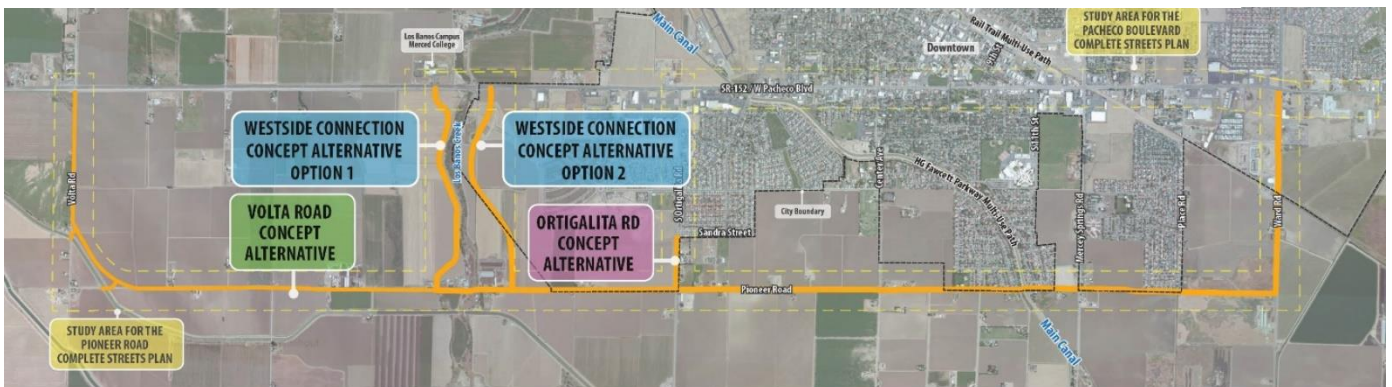
### Workshop Flip-Chart Notes and Online Survey Notes (combined)

- **Traffic Flow and Safety—Pacheco Boulevard**
  - Pacheco Blvd. is probably more than 30% pass-through traffic. Local drivers use Pioneer Rd. to avoid traffic on Pacheco already, it's good to consider improving Pioneer to make it an alternative route.
  - Lower speeds on Pacheco Blvd.
  - Support for having specific drop-off/pick-up routes for schools on Pacheco
  - One-way streets can hinder response times for public agencies (PD, FD, Ambulance)
  - Study traffic accidents for left-hand turns—to what extent do left-turns actually cause safety and traffic issues? Raised medians to reduce left-turn movements may increase traffic.
  - There are obstacles to removing visual barriers like commercial signs. We want Pacheco to remain business-friendly
  - Where would roundabouts on Pacheco Boulevard go?
  - Drive-way reduction may increase traffic congestion rather than decrease it.
- **Streetscape and Urban Design—Pacheco Boulevard**
  - For landowners on Pacheco, new landscaping means new requirements and new work for them to do out of their own pocket.
- **Pedestrian Improvements—Pacheco Boulevard**
  - Provide Beveled mirrors at blind spot intersections and crosswalks
  - Pedestrian islands are 'trash-catchers'
- **Bicycle Routes (N-S and E-W)—Pacheco Boulevard**
  - Regarding a left turn off Pacheco Blvd. on to Center Ave: provide "keep clear" signage and striping



- **Aesthetics and other Features—Pioneer Road**
  - Would appreciate a soundwall, but not if they block views
  - Soundwalls attract graffiti
  - Do not bother with landscaping on Pioneer Road
  - Make Pioneer Rd. a truck route
  - If Pioneer is turned into an alternative route—will it actually be used?
- **Connection Between Pioneer and Pacheco/SR-152**
  - Support for the Volta Road alternative, plus a bike path to the college on the west side of Los Banos Creek.
  - Do not develop on the West side of Los Banos Creek. Keep it as a Greenbelt.
  - How many controlled intersections would be on Pioneer between points 2 and 13 (referencing workshop board presenting all connection alternatives between Pacheco Blvd. and Pioneer Rd.)
  - Regarding Connection 6b (East of Los Banos Creek from the College to Pioneer): Instead of having a T-intersection at Ward Road and Pioneer Road, make it a smooth curve so traffic does not have to stop in order to turn onto Ward Rd. from Pioneer Rd.
  - Regarding the Ortigalita Road Connection (Option C): If this is chosen as the preferred connection, ensure that the intersection (of Pioneer and Ortigalita) is wide enough to accommodate trucks and farm equipment

**Online and Workshop Survey Question: Alternatives for Pioneer-Pacheco/SR-152 Connections**



Please indicate which alternatives you would most like to see analyzed further as a potential future route.  
**Please mark your first preference with “1” and second preference with “2” in the corresponding box below:**

- Alternative A** Volta Road to Ward Road
- Alternative B, Option 1** Merced College Connection to Ward Road: West of Los Banos Creek
- Alternative B, Option 2** Merced College Connection to Ward Road: East of Los Banos Creek
- Alternative C** Ortigalita Road