

Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor (At-Large)
Brian Knudsen, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 1)
Victoria Seaman (Ward 2)
Olivia Díaz (Ward 3)
Francis Allen-Palenske (Ward 4)
Cedric Crear (Ward 5)
Nancy E. Brune (Ward 6)



City Manager Jorge Cervantes
City Attorney Bryan K. Scott
City Clerk LuAnn D. Holmes

City Council Agenda

Council Chambers · 495 South Main Street · Phone 702-229-6011
City of Las Vegas Internet Address: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

August 2, 2023
9:00 AM

30. Report by Ryan Wheeler, Senior Project Manager at the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), on the Downtown Access Project, which evaluates safety and travel reliability alternatives along Interstate 515 (U.S. Highway 95) between Rancho Drive and Mojave Road in Downtown Las Vegas - Wards 3 and 5 (Diaz and Crear)

Minutes:

JOEY PASKEY, Deputy Public Works Director, introduced RYAN WHEELER, Senior Project Manager at the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), and provided a history of the Downtown Access Project. MS. PASKEY expressed excitement for the project, noting that the City has collaborated with NDOT for over four years on this project. MR. WHEELER utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to advise that a third public information meeting would be held later this month. He narrated from the presentation to explain the purpose of the project, noting that the freeway bridges had not been widened since 1968. The project's goals are to reconnect neighborhoods, improve infrastructure resiliency, and improve the human and natural environment. Further, the project will provide improved landscaping and bike and pedestrian mobility.

In the southbound direction, there is a short distance when encountering the Casino Center off-ramp after I-15 merges onto I-95. In the northbound direction, the Las Vegas Boulevard and Casino Center on-ramps are within 0.2 miles of each other and the I-15 on-ramp follows after 500 feet. These close ramps cause weaving and backed up traffic. MR. WHEELER displayed videos from the presentation showing the proposed designs with a collector distributor road, and he stated the amount of lanes would expand to six from four. He expected the environmental phase of the project to be completed towards the end of 2024 and construction to begin in 2029. He explained that three previously considered alternatives were eliminated due to their impact on the community, and four new alternatives were designed after receiving input from the community through meetings in English and Spanish. He listed four mitigation efforts to offset the impact of the project, which included \$10 million towards resources for the unhoused community and \$20 million towards developing complete streets. MR. WHEELER stated that social media campaigns were conducted to educate the community on right-of-way acquisitions and the environmental process. He invited everyone to the upcoming public information meeting being held on August 29th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the East Las Vegas Community Center and virtually from August 14th to September 14th at www.ndotdap.com. Lastly, he thanked COUNCILMEMBERS DIAZ and CREAR for providing input on the project designs.

COUNCILWOMAN BRUNE advised that she serves on the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority (SNRHA) and noted that some of their properties would be impacted. She questioned how much in mitigation funding would be given to the City and the SNRHA. MR. WHEELER stated that \$10 million would be designated to provide housing to the unhoused community affected in the area, and they would work with the City to best utilize that money. Further, he noted that impacts to SNRHA would be handled separately. In response to the Councilwoman, MR. WHEELER explained that they would work with the City and Desert Pines developer to replace affected housing with mitigation funding of \$15 million. COUNCILWOMAN BRUNE questioned if Federal

or State funds would be applied towards the mitigation efforts, and MR. WHEELER confirmed that Federal and State funds would be utilized during the next phase of the project.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN asked if protected bike lanes would be included on the project. MR. WHEELER advised that the original proposal included bike lanes on both sides of the freeway, but they were instead pursuing complete streets in the area after community feedback. He noted that complete street exhibits would be shown at the virtual public information meeting.

COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ confirmed that the public information meeting was meant for the community to provide input on the project, and she expressed excitement for complete streets and replaced housing in the area.

MAYOR GOODMAN hoped that the environmental studies would be completed in a timely manner.