

**SPECIAL MEETING
PONCHA SPRINGS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
330 BURNETT AVE., PONCHA SPRINGS, CO**

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2013 - 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Mayor Furton, who asked for a roll call. Those present:

Mayor:	Richard Furton
Mayor Pro-tem:	Ben Scanga
Trustees Present:	Aaron Kroschel

No quorum

Town Attorney:	Brad Redmiles - Absent
Town Administrator:	Jerry L'Estrange
Public Works Director:	Greg Smith
Clerk/Treasurer:	Diana Heeney
Town Planner:	Dee Miller

Visitors:

Kristina Babonas (AMEC),
Dan Krueger(AMEC),
Arthur Miller(CDOT),
David Valentinelli(CDOT),
Jennifer Davisson(Planning Commissioner),
Steve Rust(Planning Commissioner),
Dara Kort(Holiday RV),
Steve Shurbet(Holiday RV),
Joe Bainbridge(Wilderness Ski Rental),
Chris Bainbridge(4 Alarm Liquor),
Scott Bruenich(Mtn. Sports Haus),
Rick Ormsby(Great Western Homes),
Rich Tyler(LeGarage Hermatique),
Don & Cathie Dill(Pine Creek Homes & Poncha Mini Storage),
Robert Mishata(High Valley Center)
JD Longwell, Peter Windfeldt, Rick Roberts

OLD BUSINESS:

AMEC/CDOT Update on Intersection Design Median Discussion

Administrator L'Estrange stated maps of the project are available for review and comment.

PW Director Smith gave an overview of the project noting the intent of the project was/is to slow traffic through town and overall change the concept of the town from a through highway into a more urban setting. Smith went on to say there are three parts of the project.

1 – the Hwy 50/285 intersection improvement; which includes a signalized four way stop, a fourth leg for Poncha Avenue on the west side of Hwy 50/285, with crosswalks

2 – the Highway Diet from Hwy 50/285 intersection east on Hwy 50; which includes narrowing of the highway from four to two lanes, with right and left turn lanes going east from the Hwy 50/285

intersection. Smith went on to say the stimulus for the Hwy. Diet occurred when the Little River Ranch subdivision was required, by CDOT, to improve the Hwy. 50/Poncha Springs Lane intersection. He stated the requirement at that time was for additional accel/decel lanes, thus increasing the width of the highway to seven lanes. He stated the Board determined this was not the direction they would like to go with this intersection improvement and began working with CDOT to look for other options, thus the Access Control Plan/Hwy. Diet.

3 – initially the Hwy. Diet was designed with striped medians, CDOT determined there might be a possibility for additional funding to implement raised medians in this project. The Board requested a review at 30% design to make a determination regarding median design if additional funding should/would be available to implement raised medians.

Arthur Miller, CDOT, stated additional funding is undetermined at this time, noting it is a 50/50 chance.

David Valentinelli, CDOT, stated the project cost estimate will determine if the funding is there.

J.W (Joe) Bainbridge, 10015Hwy. 50 Wilderness Ski Shop/4Alarm Liquor, asked regardless of what he thought the Hwy. diet would go through.

PW Director Smith stated this was correct, noting the determination regarding striped or raised medians needs to be made.

J.W (Joe) Bainbridge, 10015Hwy. 50 Wilderness Ski Shop/4Alarm Liquor, stated he thinks this is a waste of time and money, providing CDOT fatality statistics for US Hwy 50 Mile Posts 210-245. He stated the Hwy 50 canyon east of Poncha Springs shows 28 fatalities, with one on the east edge of the Poncha Springs Town limits at CR 127. He stated he feels the canyon should be fixed not the highway corridor through Poncha Springs. He went on to say he understands OTR will provide some funding.

PW Director Smith stated when considering OTR, it was determined a temporary stop light would be needed at Hwy 50/285 intersection. With this in mind the thought was to put this money towards a permanent stop light.

J.W (Joe) Bainbridge, 10015Hwy. 50 Wilderness Ski Shop/4Alarm Liquor business owner, stated he feels the Hwy Diet will not cure the problem. He went on to say a stop light is needed at Hwy 50/285 intersection at the Visitor's Center. He went on to say the Hwy. Diet will constrict traffic and leave delivery trucks setting and waiting to get into businesses.

Steve Shurbet & Dara Kort, 10132 Hwy 50, Holiday RV, agreed with Bainbridge noting if truck traffic is backed up it will affect other businesses. He went on to say he has concern about how the stop light will affect access to his business, noting if it is backed up it will be directly in front of his entrance.

Joe DeLuca, 10013 Hwy 50, DeLuca Gas, stated he is in favor of the Hwy Diet, noting traffic coming off the flyways will be much safer, stating at the existing north flyway is very congested with CR 120 intersecting at this point also. He spoke favorably about the benefits of the Hwy Diet for slowing/calming traffic, creating a sense of place, and adding access to the west side of town with completion of Poncha Ave. through to the intersection.

Mayor Furton stated with this project the flyways will be tightened up and agreed this will be safer for drivers.

Don & Cathie Dill, 10016 Hwy 50, Pine Creek Homes & Poncha Mini Storage, asked what the cost of the project is. Arthur Miller, CDOT, stated approximately 2.3 million. Dill stated he would like to make sure it will do some good as it is a lot of money.

Town Planner, Dee Miller, stated the project will provide pedestrian safety, a sense of place for the town, and provide for a gathering place. She went on to say with the Land Use Code update in progress the highway corridor setbacks could change from 50' to something less, noting this will also add to the sense of place. Miller added a walkable downtown area is desirable and the project will enhance this. As currently the town is divided into five sectors by Highways 50 and 285.

Mayor Furton invited everyone to take a look at the maps provided for the project and have AMEC/CDOT give an overview and answer questions.

Dan Krueger, and Kristina Babonas, AMEC, informed the Board that the maps reflected the proposed plan, noting six areas of change. They referred to the changes noted on the map in white blocks:

1- INTERIM ACCESS: US 50 will have a striped median between Poncha Springs Lane and County Road 127. Allows full access to 60, 62, 63 & 64. Krueger stated the proposed raised median at Hwy 50/CR 127 was removed from the plans as this section of the highway is in the County and Dan Reimer, Chaffee County, indicated the County does not want the raised median, preferring the striped median.

2- INTERIM ACCESS: US 50 from Tomichi Ave. to Poncha Lumber will be a striped median. Access 49, 51 & 53 remain full accesses with this project. Future access 52a will not be implemented with this project. Krueger stated this is due to existing access/property line for the businesses involved and would take some construction effort to remedy the matter.

3- INTERIM ACCESS: Access 40 will be closed per Access Plan. Addresses safety concern. Future connection to LaPlata Ave. will be built by others. Krueger stated the existing pull through access exits on the east at the Hwy 50/LaPlata Ave. intersection, stating the project change will define this intersection more. Krueger stated the west access will be a right in/right out access as depicted on the map.

4 – INTERIM CONDITION: Shavano Ave. will not be connected to old US 50 ramp with this project. Two residences will use old US 50 ramp in the interim. Kristina Babonas, AMEC, stated Shavano will connect to the remaining piece of the flyway, being a right in and right out access. Babonas stated this could change if there is future development.

5 – INTERIM CONDITION: Access plan will not be implemented fully south of True Ave. Will provide access to Access 11 since Access 10 will not be included with this project.

6 – INTERIM CONDITION: Access plan will not be implemented north of Mountain Sports Haus shop with this project. Accesses 26 & 27 stay as is in the interim.

Dan Krueger, AMEC, called for questions.

Joe DeLuca, 10013 Hwy 50, Deluca Gas, spoke in favor of the plan, asking for clarification on the south Shavano Ave. future connection to the Town's property located on the north side of Hwy. 50. He asked if the non-connection/raised median would hamper future development of this site. Krueger stated that is an unknown, stating if the Town should develop this site the Shavano connection could be part of that project. Krueger stated it is not included in this project at this time.

J.W (Joe) Bainbridge, 10015 Hwy. 50 Wilderness Ski Shop/4Alarm Liquor business owner, stated he was not in favor of any of the plan.

Rich Tyler, 118 Halley's Ave., LaGarage Hermatique, spoke in favor of the project with the raised medians, noting it would be beneficial for creating a downtown area for the town.

Rick Roberts, 225 Shavano Ave., spoke in favor of the project with the raised medians.

Steve Shurbet, 10132 Hwy 50, Holiday RV, spoke against the raised medians in the project.

Robert Mishata, 6250 S Hwy 285, High Valley Center, stated he is not in favor of raised medians, noting they would affect a lot of businesses. He went on to say there are no proposed medians on S Hwy 285, therefore his business will not be affected.

Rick Ormsby, 10016 Hwy 50, Great Western Homes, spoke in favor of the project with the raised medians. He went on to say he liked the idea of creating a sense of place/downtown area for the town.

Scott Breunich, 10038 Hwy. 50, Mountain Sports Haus, stated he is not a big median guy, speaking in favor of painted/striped medians. He spoke in favor of the wings in the project design and the future possibility of Shavano Ave. through.

Jennifer Davisson, Planning Commissioner, spoke in favor of lighted (stutter lights) at the proposed crosswalks on Hwy. 50.

Trustee Kroschel stated he is in favor of the project with the raised medians, noting it is a chance for the town to implement the slowing/calming of traffic in the attempt to create a downtown area. He went on to say the town has worked many years to come to this point, noting it started with the town changing portions of Hwy 50/285 through town from "Rural Arterial" to "Non-Rural Arterial" to allow the town to play a role in what goes on in the highway corridor through town.

Mayor Pro-tem Scanga asked after learning there is no pedestrian safe zone at the crosswalks, is the town ok with this or would they like to have CDOT work on creating a safe zone in the project plans.

Dan Krueger, AMEC, asked the Board to make a determination on four points:

- 1 – is Town committed to ACP plan*
- 2 – are the 6 Interim solutions acceptable to the Town*
- 3 – 2 crosswalks are shown in the Interim plan, is the Town ok with this or do they want more, if so which ones*
- 4 – does the Town support the raised medians in this project*

Mayor Furton closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the special Board meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Poncha Springs Hwy. Diet/Access Control Plan

The Board was not able to make any determinations due to lack of a quorum. A Special Board Meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2013 – 6:30 p.m. at 330 Burnett Ave., Poncha Springs Town Hall.

With no further business the Special Board meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Diana K. Heeney
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved As To Form and Content:

Richard Furton, Mayor

Attest:

Jerry L'Estrange
Town Administrator