

## **Almond Street Project**

### **Workshop 1- November 13, 2024**

### **Summary with Attendee Comments**

#### **Overview**

The City of Rancho Cucamonga project team hosted an in-person community workshop event for the Almond Street Project on Wednesday evening, November 13, 2024, at Stork Elementary School from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The event began with a brief presentation that provided attendees with an overview of the project background, including a presentation by Fire Chief McCliman on the need for the project and by Deputy Director of Engineering, Justine Garcia with some additional project background. This was followed by an interactive activity where participants shared their ideas and concerns regarding the possible extension of Almond Street using Post-it Notes and facilitated dialogue. The project team also outlined the next steps of the project and responded to questions from attendees.

The workshop was attended by more than 30 Rancho Cucamonga residents and property owners. Community members within .25 miles of the project area were notified of the workshop via a direct mailing, and the workshop was also posted on social media and the city website.



#### **Summary of Input**

The following pages summarize the input, ideas and insights gathered from the community members regarding the Almond Street project.

#### **Concerns**

Workshop attendees expressed concerns with the potential Almond Street extension with the top two being around adding traffic to the area and related threats to public safety.

#### **Traffic**

Participants expressed concern that the road would create traffic in the neighborhood that does not currently exist, bringing potential crime, noise, and a decrease in their quality of life.

#### **Post-It Note Comments:**

- Increased traffic
- Traffic increase
- More traffic on Almond

- Extra traffic / not designed as a street
- Traffic increases:
  - Noise
  - Racing
  - Crime
  - Loitering
- More traffic = more crime
- More traffic would = more crime.
- More holiday light patrol area
- Freeway on/off ramp = more crime
- Increased
  - Traffic
  - Water flow – wash
- Holiday Lights traffic
- Through traffic street will be loud and affect property value

### Safety

Attendees described fears that public access will open up the area to crime and expressed safety concerns for children and trail users.

### Post-It Note Comments:

- Homeless lawless crime? Less privacy
- Trail is used for walking, horseback riding and homes were purchased believing we had no road behind us- concerned about safety with more cars and losing hiking/horseback riding
- Increased traffic on Almond with children in neighborhood
- Safety concerns and children hiking
- How would it be monitored?
  - 3 drunk drivers at the top of Carnelian in the last 2 years
- Home invasion risk increases
- Increased crime
  - Easy access for criminals to access freeway exit
- More traffic
  - Danger for children in roads
- Drunk drivers due to Maloof and through street
- Safety and traffic flow
- No sidewalks
- Fast cars and high traffic in Carnelian already - extension of Almond will increase existing risk
- Crime will go up. Don't want this project
- Concern: horse evacuation or large animal

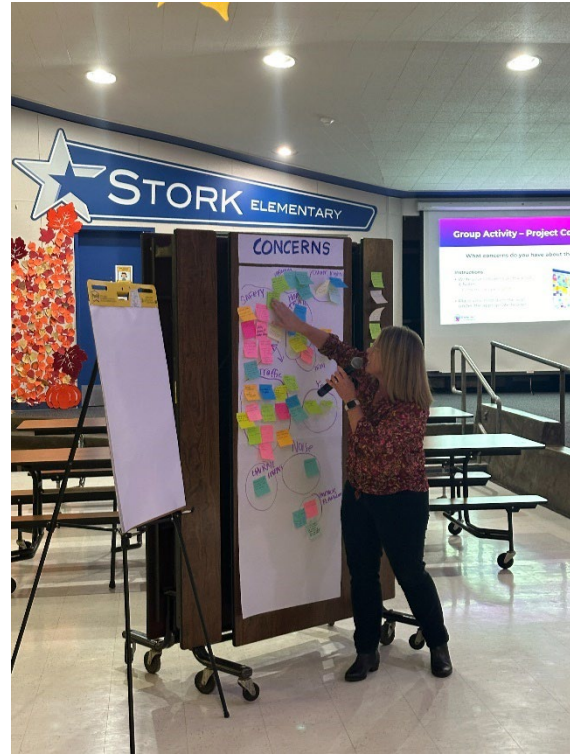


### Used as a Trail

Community members shared concerns about the impact that a road may have on the undeveloped land that is currently used as a “trail”.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- Separation of horse trail from traffic
- Maintain horse trail access
- Make sure road going through has a white-fenced horse trail next to it
- Leave the bridal path alone, run Almond north of dirt path
- No sidewalk – the horse trail can accommodate people too. What you show on your map looks great
- Concern horse trail maintain a horse fence [illegible] to Carnelian



### Insurance

Some attendees are worried that the addition of a road may somehow increase their home insurance.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- Will the proposed construction cause potential increases to our insurance premium due to increased flood or fire risk?
- Increased home insurance policies
- What assurances do you have that the construction will not increase home insurance policies?
- Increased insurance policies (or completely dropped) due to construction impact our water flow. We live in high cliff flood zone as it is

### Owner Rights

Impacts on property rights and individual properties were also brought up as issues for a number of participants.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- Ownership and sufficiency of Almond? Only 33' needs to be 66'? Almond accepted in RC streets?
- Losing access to our back gates on Almond
- Protect homeowner rights re: easements, traffic, loud noises
- Who does the private property sign belong to?

- Will there be impacts to private property?

### **Environmental Impacts**

A few comments focused on potential impacts that the project could have on the natural environment.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- Disturbance of and impact on mature lemon trees and animals
- Streetlight on Almond and via Paraiso
- Will the proposed street cause additional flood risk? If so, what will be done to mitigate that risk?
- Noise pollution
- Light pollution
- Concern about wildfires

### **Future Growth**

A number of participants indicated that they feel the road will encourage growth and development.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- Will lead to more houses being built in the neighborhood
- Not on General Plan. "Evacuation route" seems to be excuse for [Illegible] Canyon planning
- Is this ready just to help the Maloof expansion and the re-opening of canyon?
- Any future development in the works nearby?
- What new homes are planned in this immediate area?

### **Support**

While most participants expressed rather heavy reservations about the project, there was some overall support expressed by some.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- Great idea!
- No concerns at all
- Generally support the idea of a road for access



### Ideas and Priorities

Participants were asked to contribute ideas and priorities for the design of Almond Street. There was some consensus around a preference for a road without public access, protecting the trail, and keeping the road small with no sidewalks or streetlights. The following outlines responses regarding community members.

#### **Limit to Emergency Access**

A significant portion of the attendees expressed a desire to design a road only open to emergency response.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- Gate the new road Almond to public safety only
- Widen the dirt road and only allow access for city vehicles/emergency vehicles
- Paved emergency access road that can only be unlocked by emergency responders
- Barriers at both sides of the road to prevent all cars but allow emergency vehicles
- Do not allow public access
- Idea—locked gates and open for emergency vehicles
- Can this be emergency-use like Highland is by Fairmont Way?
- Why can't they pave put barriers up no through traffic
- Making it only accessible to police/fire with gates
- Gate at Carnelian side controlled by police department
- Why not build temporary road and open only in case of emergency?
- Accessible to the fire trucks but closed to through traffic while maintaining horse trail access
- Road to only be big enough for fire trucks to fit down

#### **Trail/Trail Access**

As reinforced in the concerns, the community wants the undeveloped land with “trail” access maintained.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- Horse trail walking/hiking path
- Do not touch current properties
- Accommodation for access (trail extension)
- Make horse trails accessible
- Protected horse, bike, and walking trails
- Keep walking paths
- Horse trail no sidewalk
- Walkability on Almond (sidewalk improvement/expansion)

### **No Street Parking**

When discussing the future design for a road, community members noted that on-street parking should not be provided.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- No street parking
- No parking

### **Views**

Community members expressed a desire for views to be preserved and for the project to have no streetlights that would impact dark skies.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- No streetlights
- Do not impact view
- Don't block mountain views with any walls, etc.
- No streetlights

### **Police/Safety**

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- Better police presence
- Regular patrol officers on path
- Don't build it. Save the money. Increase police patrol instead

### **Large Animal Rescue**

There was some discussion about large animal rescue, including a request that it be considered in the design and some questions about the need.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- True count on large animal rescue- number of horses North of Almond?
- Sufficient horse trailer access?



### **Alternative Ideas**

Some attendees suggested alternatives to extending Almond Street.

#### Post-It Note Comments:

- Pave Turquoise for access
- Turquoise to Almond pave
- Use Turquoise as an alternative route
- Pave Turquoise for access – concern for me is extra traffic and distribution of quiet life
- Could Almond be widened between Sapphire and eastbound past via Verde St.?
- It is possible that [fire] roads could be built in the area– “Foothills” with water made available at certain points
- Bella Vista, left go down, where it ends put a bridge there.

### **Closing**

During the facilitated dialogue, there were additional questions about the process for this project, how it will be funded, what the timeline is, etc. The project is in its early stages so some of these questions did not have definitive answers at this time. The community is encouraged to stay involved in the process and continue to provide input via email to the Principal Engineer at [Engineering-info@CityofRC.us](mailto:Engineering-info@CityofRC.us) . Additional community meetings will be scheduled in spring 2025 to review and provide input on a draft roadway design.

Please visit the project information webpage often as information will be updated when available.

### **Meeting Presentation Slide Deck**