

# Chalfant Community Planning Process Proposed Public Involvement Activities

## **Project Understanding**

The purpose of this project is: to engage the Chalfant community in activities that integrate decision making for transportation into overall planning for the community. This 500-person community must prepare for the potential development of lands by long-time local landowners. This new development will bring an increase in population and related transportation and potential safety impacts. While statistically the number of transportation related incidents is very low, the safety of local residents, especially youth, is a significant concern. Residents would like to maintain the “Main Street” feel of their downtown area and proactively address the impacts that are likely to occur as a result of development in the town occurring on both sides of the highway.

## **Desired Outcomes**

- Chalfant residents develop a common understanding of how the community interacts with the highway
- Process lays the groundwork for future collaborations with area agencies and landowners
- Community understands how traffic circulates- especially as it relates to the new school site
- Process helps to amend the Area plan- addresses how residents safely cross highway 6 which divides Chalfant
- Process helps to educate Caltrans staff regarding community-based approaches to transportation decision-making

## **Approach**

This Caltrans funded process will be led by the County to ensure community members understand that planning discussions will be community oriented and not focus exclusively on transportation. MIG will work with the project team to ensure active participation of the community and to work with established entities such as the Regional Planning Advisory Committee’s (RPAC) to seek additional feedback.

MIG will work with the community and the project team to develop a vision for Chalfant that addresses future development and transportation needs. MIG will engage the community in discussions that generate a set of “guiding principles” for the planning process. The principles will serve as the underpinnings of the community process.

MIG will work with the partner agencies to make informational presentations to the public and provide opportunities for meaningful engagement. MIG will provide comment cards and other related tools for collecting feedback about issues and concerns.

## **Proposed Schedule**

### **JANUARY 2007**

Complete project scoping and begin working with project partners.

### **FEBRUARY 2007**

The project team will begin general outreach and public education activities. This will include on-site meetings and stakeholder interviews that will allow MIG to collect more candid feedback on local planning issues. Project team members will begin discussing upcoming activities with RPAC members, agency contacts and colleagues. MIG will provide key messages and talking points so that all partners are describing the process consistently.

### **MARCH 2007**

The community involvement process will be launched in early March during a broadly advertised community meeting. Community members will be introduced to the project including a discussion of current and potential land uses. Community members will be asked to develop a set of guiding principles for the process. MIG will facilitate and record the meeting and provide a comment card and related materials. MIG will analyze and summarize the results of the comment cards. MIG will prepare a summary report that will be posted on an agency hosted project website. Caltrans and local planning staff will help prepare maps and related materials that orient community members to local land use concerns. At this and future meetings, they will also prepare maps describing potential scenarios for the community to consider - depending on their land use preferences. Throughout the process, MIG will work with the local partners and the RPAC to keep the community informed.

### **APRIL – OCTOBER 2007**

One to three additional meetings will be held between April and October to validate the guiding principles, solicit additional feedback from the community and to provide input on the development of proposed plans. For example, project partners may identify specific locations or proposed land uses where specific feedback from the community is needed. The feedback from each of the meetings will be formatted and tailored so it can be incorporated into and/or used as the basis for required planning documents.

### **NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2007**

MIG will complete summary reports for the process in a format agreed upon with the local partners. If requested, MIG can produce a one-page fold-out brochure describing the community vision for the future of Chalfant.