

District 3—Grant Avenue/SR 128/Russell Blvd. Complete Streets (City of Winters)

Project Summary

MIG's Complete Streets team worked with Caltrans District 3, the City of Winters, and the community to identify safety and aesthetic improvement concepts along the SR 128 corridor. Preliminary concepts were developed to make the corridor a safer place for pedestrians and bicyclists while maintaining mobility for vehicle travel and access to local businesses. Special attention was given to the needs of the primarily Spanish speaking residents of the El Rio Villa community that have to walk across the I-505 bridge to get to work and school in Winters.



Project Success

The Complete Streets Concepts Plan was unanimously approved by the Winters City Council on February 15, 2011. City officials stated their appreciation for the MIG team's work on the project. The Plan met with support on all levels, from the community through to City of Winters and Yolo County officials and Caltrans District 3 staff. This represented a significant achievement of consensus between the community, the City and Caltrans that sets an important foundation for transportation improvements and development in the years ahead. These concepts will also be included as an addendum in future planning document updates such as the General Plan and the Caltrans Transportation Corridor Concept Report for SR 128.



Outreach Methods

- Print advertising in local newspapers
- Write and distribute public service announcements (PSAs) and community calendar announcements to local paper
- Workshop announcements: local radio, e-mail, County website
- English/Spanish Flyers at El Rio Villa Housing
- Postcards



Public Involvement Tools

Key Stakeholder Interviews

MIG conducted key stakeholder interviews in advance of the workshops to get a better understanding of the project area, project history and key issues to consider in the development of public involvement activities.

Community Meetings

MIG hosted two community meetings. The first meeting presented the project and solicited input for how to improve the corridor. Small group discussions provided opportunities for attendants to discuss improvement options in depth. Draft improvement concepts were presented for discussion and review at a second workshop.

Visual Simulations

MIG developed visual simulations to depict potential improvement options in the corridor. These simulations provided an additional method for residents to understand how the potential improvement option might look along the corridor.

Environmental Justice Community Involvement

Project materials were developed in English and Spanish and translation services were available at the workshops. A special Spanish-language workshop was conducted by bi-lingual MIG staff at the El Rio Villa housing development, specifically hosted to involve the Spanish-speaking population that lives there.



Deliverables

Meeting Summaries
Public Engagement Plan
Postcards
Visual Simulations
Proposed Plan and Section Views
PowerPoint Presentations
Final Project Report

continued next page

District 3—Grant Avenue/SR 128/Russell Blvd. Complete Streets (City of Winters)

continued from previous page



Lessons Learned

Complete Streets concepts are not yet integrated in Caltrans Design Guidelines, requiring an ongoing dialogue with Caltrans staff, the design team, and local partners. This supports Caltrans Complete Streets Deputy Directive DD-64-R1.

When planning for a corridor that includes a variety of conditions, breaking it up into specific sub-areas and phasing improvements in both the short- and long-term can clarify the issues for stakeholders and help create more appropriate plans that are easier to implement.

Caltrans facilities can be redesigned to accommodate truck traffic, agricultural equipment, and recreational vehicles while increasing safety and mobility for bicyclists and pedestrians.



Results

MIG's designs were informed by an extensive public involvement process that included focus group discussions with business owners and Spanish speakers along the corridor. The Complete Streets concepts that met with community approval included roundabouts, Class I and II bicycle facilities, and improved sidewalks for pedestrians. The concepts identified community-supported locations for improvements such as roundabouts at key intersections. Final concepts were unanimously approved by the Winters City Council and Planning Commission in February 2011, and will serve as a guide for corridor improvements in the future.