

Stakeholder Interview Summary

Introduction

The project team has contacted several individuals and organizations that have firsthand local knowledge and have vested interest in improving mobility in the study area. Interviews were conducted with those that responded to our request for an interview which included several school administrators from the local elementary schools, area residents/business owners and City staff with knowledge of mobility issues in the study area. The following is a summary of the interviews that were conducted.

Stakeholders

- *Ms. Chelsia Stallworth* – Principal, P.T. Coe Elementary School
- *Ms. Stacy O'Rourke* - Principal, Madrid Elementary School.
- *Ms. Vianey Mada* - Pueblo del Sol Elementary School.
- *Mr. Gerald Hernandez*- Principal, Joseph Zito Elementary School.
- *Ms. Amanda Hernandez* - Glenn L Downs Elementary School.
- *Mr. Mark Rodriguez* – Owner, Bicycle Repair Center
- *Ms. Camila Gatejoiu* – Area Resident (email correspondence)
- *Mr. Joe Perez* - City of Phoenix Bicycle Coordinator.
- *Mr. Don Cross* - City of Phoenix School Coordinator.

Comments from Stakeholders

Chelsia Stallworth, Principal, P.T. Coe Elementary School

Ms. Stallworth said that PT Coe is a K-8 School with 612 students for the area between Virginia Avenue and Thomas Road from 45th Avenue to 31st Avenue. Students that come from the area between 43rd Avenue and 35th Avenue walk to school. The school provides bus service for students that live west of 43rd Avenue and east of 35th Avenue. No students bike to school, but about 50% walk. The rest take the bus or are dropped off by their parents. There is a school crossing on 39th Avenue in front of school; teachers serve as crossing guards.

Ms. Stallworth's primary concerns are:

1. Motorist drive too fast on 39th Avenue. Many exceed the 15-mph speed limit through school zone. She would like to have a flashing beacon or something to slow motorists driving in front of the school.
2. She is concerned with student safety crossing 43rd Avenue at Virginia Avenue. She said that many students who live in the apartment complexes west of 43rd Avenue walk to school if they miss the bus, which requires them to cross 43rd Avenue where there is no crosswalk.
3. She said there is significant traffic congestion during student drop-off and pick up.

Stacy O'Rourke, Principal, Madrid Elementary School

Ms. O'Rourke said that Madrid is Preschool-8th grade with about 600 students that serves the area between 39th Avenue and 27th Avenue, from Osborn Road to Thomas Road. Students who live between 43rd Avenue and 35th Avenue walk to school and the school provides bus service for students who live east of 35th Avenue. She believes that many of the students will be dropped off by their parents, but they are hoping drop-offs will be reduced from the past traditional school where most of the students came from outside the neighborhood. There is a school crossing in front of school across Osborn Road.

Since Madrid is a new school, Ms. O'Rourke is not currently aware of any problems with the students walking or biking to school.

Vianey Mada - Pueblo del Sol Elementary School.

Ms. Mada said that Pueblo del Sol is a K-8 School with 1130 students. The school boundaries for K-5 are 43rd Avenue to 39th Avenue, Thomas to Indian School (although no students come from the area between the Grand Canal and Indian School which is all industrial land use). The school boundaries for 6th-8th graders also include the area between 51st Avenue and 43rd Avenue from I-10 to Virginia Avenue. Students who live north of Thomas Road are expected to walk to school. The school provides bus service for students who live south of Thomas Road. There is a crossing guard on 39th Avenue in front of the school. The school also provides a teacher or the school custodian to monitor the crosswalk at Osborn and 39th Avenue. Many of the students are dropped off and several ride bikes to school.

Ms. Mada's primary concerns are:

1. Traffic congestion during student drop-off and pick up. Parents ignore the no parking signs in the adjacent neighborhood.

2. Vehicular traffic on Osborn Road; particularly in the afternoon when both Pueblo del Sol and Madrid Elementary are letting out at the same time.

Gerald Hernandez- Principal, Joseph Zito Elementary School

Mr. Hernandez said that Joseph Zito is a K-5 School with 650 students. The school boundaries are 51st Avenue to 43rd Avenue, Virginia to McDowell. Joseph Zito is a neighborhood walking school which only provides bus service for special needs. Many of the students are dropped off by their parents. There is a school crossing with crossing guard on Encanto Blvd. in front of school.

Mr. Hernandez' primary concerns are:

1. Traffic congestion on Encanto Blvd. during student drop-off and pick up. Parents park in bike lanes, stop in the middle of the street and don't always respect the 15mph school zone.
2. Motorist who don't observe the 15mph school zone creating safety hazards for students crossing Encanto Blvd.
3. Bicyclist who ride in the traffic lanes because parents are parked in the bike lanes.

Amanda Hernandez - Glenn L Downs Elementary School

Ms. Hernandez said that Glenn L Downs is a K-8 School. The south boundary for the School is the Grand Canal, so no students come from within the study area. No students bike to school but about 50% walk and the rest are dropped off. Glenn L. Downs Elementary has two school crossings on 47th Avenue in front of school.

Ms. Hernandez said that their primary concerns regarding mobility is traffic congestion on 47th Avenue during student drop-off and pick up.

Mark Rodriguez – Owner, Bicycle Repair Center, 2001 N. 35th Avenue

Mr. Rodriguez stated that it feels safe to walk and ride the bus in the area, but not as comfortable to ride a bicycle. He also expressed a concern that many drivers don't stop for pedestrians. Regarding bicycling, he prefers signage and stop lights / flashing lights which he believes are very helpful for bicyclist. He also said that many of the pavement markings are faded and need to be repainted. He would also like to see more signage for bicycles.

Camila Gatejoi – Area Resident (email correspondence)

Ms. Gatejoi stated that it is not safe to walk in many areas within the study limits due to multiple factors which include stray dogs, motorists who ignore traffic laws, uneven sidewalks and inadequate street lighting.

Joe Perez - City of Phoenix Bicycle Coordinator.

Mr. Perez had the following recommendations:

1. New HAWK beacons at 43rd Ave. & Earl Dr., 43rd Ave. and Virginia Ave., 35th Ave. and Lewis and 51st Ave. and Earl Dr.
2. Two-way bike path on north side of Thomas Rd. between 48th Ln. to 47th Ave.
3. Pedestrian/bike Bridge at 39th Avenue over the Grand Canal; connecting to the future canalscape pathway on the north side of the Canal.

Don Cross - City of Phoenix School Coordinator.

Mr. Cross had the following recommendations and comments for the areas around the following schools.

Justine Spitalny Elementary School:

1. Recommended a new pedestrian/bike bridge at 45th Ave. over the Grand Canal to get students to the Canal pathway.
2. Commented that there are no sidewalks or bike lanes on 47th Ave. from Osborn Rd. to Earl Dr. Students walk in the street.
3. Commented that there are no sidewalks on the west side of street, or bike lanes on 46th Dr. Students walk in the street.
4. Recommended new sidewalks on 47th Ave. and 46th Dr. to get students to the school crossing zone at Earll Dr.
5. City is conducting a study to determine if a guard crossing is warranted on Thomas Rd. at either 46th Dr. or 47th Ave.
6. Explained that the City is working with schools to re-work student walking boundaries to avoid crossing arterial streets.

P.T Coe Elementary and West Phoenix H.S.:

1. City is considering signal upgrade and implementation of high-visibility crosswalks at the intersection of Thomas Rd. and 39th Ave. The City is also

- considering making it policy to use high-visibility crosswalks when crosswalks are directly used by schools.
2. City Manager's Office has recently formed a Pedestrian Safety Committee, with a major campaign for pedestrian safety.

Joseph Zito Elementary School:

1. School lost a guarded crossing on Hubble Street, south of the study area, due to budget cuts in 2007-08. A new budget will allow the school to re-implement that guarded crossing.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School:

1. An old crosswalk on 51st Ave. at Earl Dr. has led to a confusing pedestrian crossing. The City no longer paints the crosswalk and it is signed for no pedestrian crossing. But remnants of the crosswalk remain leading to an unsafe condition for pedestrians and motorists. Even though most students do not walk to school, a HAWK might be warranted at this intersection because the school yard gets significant after school and evening use by the neighborhood east of 51st Avenue.

Pueblo del Sol Elementary School / Alhambra Traditional School / Previous school site at 4006 W. Osborn:

1. These three school sites are located between the Grand Canal and Osborn Rd. from 40th Dr. (alignment) to 37th Ave. The building at 4006 W. Osborn was previously used for a school and may re-open again depending on enrollment in the area.
2. Alhambra Traditional School is changing to Madrid Elementary for the upcoming school year. Most of the students attending the past Traditional school were bussed in or dropped off. The new neighborhood school will result in an increase in students walking to school.
3. With potentially three schools within this small area along Osborn Rd., there is a desire to slow traffic on Osborn Rd. The City has previously considered the implementation of speed humps along this section of Osborn Rd.
4. A pedestrian/bike bridge over the Grand Canal at 39th Ave. would provide access to the canalscape pathway system.