

LaPorte Area Meeting Notes

3/6/2014

About 25 community members in attendance

What do you like?

- Like area because it is not an urban area.
- Have had good experiences with the County's response.
- Emergency services does excellent job! Particularly during the fires!
- Maintenance of the Poudre River trail is awesome! It is plowed before the roads!
- Like humans answering phones at the County.

What do you want?

- Would like the northern character preserved. Doesn't mean no development, just limited development. None that brings noise, large trucks, event centers and large crowds. Need coffee shops, galleries, small business as opposed to volume.
- Want to see developments address lighting and have controls and allow gravel or recycled asphalt roads. Paving may not always apply in rural areas—for both commercial and residential. Like rural feel—don't want excessive lighting.
- Would be nice to have a park/outdoor area at the base of Rist Canyon where there would be some restrooms and picnic areas for the community to use.
- Maintain character around LaPorte. However, there is a difference in character from LaPorte to more rural areas. LaPorte character should be kept different than the Bellvue area. It is important to keep distinction between the two and maintain character around LaPorte.
- Would love to see more sidewalks from the store south and would like funds to build them so can be more pedestrian friendly and safer.
- Kayak play features at Lions Park.
- A branch library.
- Transportation to new MAX Center or to closest bus station, even if only a few times a day.
- Roads widened that bicycles frequent for safety reasons—Bingham Hill, the stretch south to Horsetooth from Bellvue, Rist Canyon.
- Would like to see more conservation easements and open space.
- A place to take debris—have it chipped for compost. Hageman's too far away. Set up a cart system with Gallegos?
- Would like more and appropriately sized roundabouts, particularly at Taft & 54G and the center of LaPorte.
- Some process where people can contribute to buy senior water shares to keep water in the river and fish alive.

What needs to be improved or changed?

- Expansion of gravel pit did not give much consideration of residents. No process in place for County to review these. Stegnar pit is just a mess—dangerous because of dust, bad landscaping. Want more effective means to take care of citizens in area. Need to put something in place and have a better enforcement process. Revamp planning permitting process to include: Past behavior of operators, enforcement of regulations and commitments, permit process, better standards/review criteria, aid with impact to neighbors. Protect citizens from mining businesses that don't write up good business plans and/or honor agreements—want conditions of approval for permits. Citizens should not have to put up with unacceptable things because business didn't have good business plan.
- Traffic lights need to make more sense and be timed for the right hours of the day—at Taft and 54G, blinking red at night instead of a full cycle light.
- Need better communication/advertisements for these community meetings. Not many rural residents here. Most are close in residents. Do mailbox notices/flyers, post on the trees, etc (specifically Rist Canyon area). Anytime the government comes in, they want to control land.
- There is an area opposite of Vern's where Rist Canyon Road comes out. There are stakes put there to keep traffic in the lanes. These are just too much. Someone was over zealous and this should be looked into.
- Tree removal by fish hatchery in Bellvue was a hack job and when done, should be done more carefully. Don't cut down healthy trees.
- There are dead Cottonwood's on Rist Canyon, right at the mouth that need to have something done.
- Bingham Hill Road where meets Centennial Drive—this tree should be preserved. Please don't just come take it down—just trim. This is a historic landmark.
- We came here for things we could see, not for what we could hear. Would like to keep it that way. Prefer to keep it that way by natural light, not artificial light.
- Bike lanes on 54G not suitable for bikes—design that exists is really bad for road bikes—look at system and design for users—road bikes versus recreational riders. Need better design and maintenance so bikes/users will use the bike lanes.
- Haven't been happy with response from the building department, but seems improved.
- There is no easy or quick way to get from north to south without traffic lights. Concerned there will be even more traffic lights added. Don't know the answer, but would like to see it different. Has to somehow be addressed—specifically for Overland Trail.
- Outrageous fees for building department, transportation fees, special reviews and other planning processes.
- Are there plans to reinforce some of the bridges for access during a flood? Access was blocked to the south after the flooding and bridges caused hazards acting as dams with debris. Need a quicker way to get out when there is a natural disaster.
- Planning has been short sighted for emergency routes as there is no way out during floods.
- Want to be sure rebuilding in hazardous areas makes sense. Does anyone look at that? Don't want to see a blanket rebuild in hazardous areas.