

MEETING WITH THE CITY, SEDONA FIRE DISTRICT AND FOREST SERVICE

5 MAY 2025

ATTENDEES:

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City of Sedona

Anette Spickard, City Manager
Andy Dickey, Deputy City Manager
Stephanie Foley, Chief of Police
Brian Fultz, City Council

Sedona Fire District

Ed Mezulis, Chief

U.S. Forest Service

Alex Schlueter, District Ranger

Chapel Neighbors

Joan-Alice Burn, West Chapel Rd/Mystic Hills HOA
Carol Does, East Chapel/Cathedral Lane
Bob Haizmann, Meadow Lark Lane
Barbara Matsuura, East Chapel/Fox Road
Rob Smith, East Chapel/Little Horse Trail

Purpose of the meeting: To discuss public safety egress challenges for the East Chapel neighborhood, review possible egress options for that area and to obtain feedback from City, Fire District and Forest Service representatives concerning which option(s) to pursue.

1) Bob Haizmann reviewed the work completed to date and discussed the egress challenges for the East Chapel neighborhood. “East Chapel” refers to portion of the Chapel neighborhood east of Antelope Drive, and has approximately 104 dwelling units. Egress options from that area is limited to Cathedral Lane or Fox Lane, both of which connect to Chapel Rd. In considering egress options, assumptions concerning the number of cars that would need to exit the area (approx. 270) included parking and traffic attributable to the Chapel of

the Holy Cross. It did not include vehicles from Mystic Hills or the West Chapel neighborhood. Estimated time to reach SR 179 was 90 minutes.

2. Four potential options provide additional egress options by connecting the East Chapel neighborhood to the West Chapel neighborhood were discussed. They were:

a) Shared Use Path (“SUP”) adjacent to Chapel Road, between Cathedral Lane and Antelope Drive.

b) Connect Fox Lane to Badger by purchasing either an easement or the entire home at 418 Fox Road (or other homes) off the cul-de-sac at the end of Fox Road.

c) SUP connecting Cathedral Lane and Antelope Drive using an existing wash.

d) SUP connecting the south end of Lynx Drive to Fox Road through the National Forest. A portion of that path appears to already have a utility (APS or telecom) easement/permit.

3. Carol Does asked the City, Fire District and Forest Service reps to rate the potential options using a green (continue to pursue), yellow (maybe) and red (do not pursue) system. Note: people were asked to use one sticker per option, and some chose to do differently. The results were

Ratings of Options

| Option | Description | Green | Yellow | Red | Notes |
|--------|--|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Cathedral to Antelope, adjacent to Chapel Rd | 3 (City, Fire, Police) | 1 (City) | 1 (City Council) | Data was adjusted to eliminate duplicate votes by City Council rep |
| 2 | Fox cul-de-sac to Badger connection | 2 (Fire, City Council) | 2 (City, Fire) | 1 (City) | |
| 3 | Cathedral (part way down) to Antelope | 0 | 2 (City, Fire) | 3 (City Council, City, Police) | Data was adjusted to eliminate duplicate votes by City Council rep |
| 4 | Fox to Lynx/Fawn through Forest | 2 (1 City Council, 1 City) | 3 (City, Fire, Forest Svc.) SSerService) | 1 (Fire) | Data was adjusted to eliminate duplicate votes by City Council rep |

4. Carol Does facilitated a discussion of Options 1, 2, and 4.

Some general concerns raised:

- Even without traffic from Chapel, there is still not an exit to the south. However, many parts of the city have similar challenges.

- Anette Spickard noted her reluctance to invest in an option if it would not make an improvement— are they the right location? Would like to see a traffic study to get more data, including if an egress is needed, and which of the options would be most beneficial.

- Chief Foley noted that a study would be needed to ensure that potential options wouldn't cause issues with current evacuation plans. Any option affects East Chapel neighborhood, West Chapel neighborhood and Indian Cliffs— so a study would be needed ensure that there aren't negative impacts elsewhere. She also noted that any option involving gates or locks does not provide immediate access (e.g., option 1 with locked gate)

- Chief Mezulis noted that community efforts with following Firewise guidelines is a critical piece any mitigating efforts. If neighborhood does not commit to vegetation reduction, fire hardening evacuation plans will be compromised. (Concern is vegetation over growing roads used for evacuation).

- Considerations for Option 4: Forest Service Special Use Permit – City could potentially be added to existing utility permit for portion, and would need to apply for Permit for additional land use. Then, if approved, a NEPA study, private property acquisition.

- Anette Spickard noted that large portion of budget survey respondents opposed using resources on connector roads. She suggested brainstorming possible objections to these options.

- Andy Dickey noted that building a road versus a SUP is more likely to get push back. He also noted that he'd like to see more analysis regarding option 1 to provide more redundancy.

- Anette Spickard noted that traffic studies are contracted out and there is an existing waiting list. A smaller study of this area could be \$20-30K.

- Plans are in the works for the Police Department to hire an emergency coordinator. The position has not been posted yet, expectation is a Sept start date. This person could may be able to help with this process.

— Rob Smith sought clarification of whether a traffic study would show or recommend which option is preferable. The answer was that it would.

— Rob Smith asked about whether there is precedent in the City of purchasing homes to improve public safety. Brian Fultz responded that purchases by the City have been easements, road connections (undeveloped land).

Action Items/Paths Forward

- 1) City will check w/public works regarding the ability to manage another traffic study (for the 3 viable options). Should new Emergency Coordinator be in place, City would coordinate with that individual.
- 2) CN neighbors to work with neighbors to gain consensus/support for egress/safety mitigation efforts.
- 3) Forest Service District Ranger to research the location and scope of the existing permit for the area adjoining Chapel East on the south side and the area east of Lynx Dr.

Meeting Adjourned at 3 p.m.