



PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP AGENDA

**PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008
1:30 P.M.**

**Council Chambers
201 S. Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303
(928) 777-1100**

The following Agenda will be considered by the Prescott City Council at a Public Workshop pursuant to the Prescott City Charter, Article II, Section 13. Notice of this workshop is given pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 38-431.02.

◆ CALL TO ORDER

◆ ROLL CALL

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor Wilson
Councilman Bell
Councilman Lamerson
Councilwoman Lopas

Councilman Luzius
Councilman Roecker
Councilwoman Suttles

1. [Discussion of the Downer Trail gate south of Sierry Peaks Drive.](#)
2. Adjournment.

THE CITY OF PRESCOTT ENDEAVORS TO MAKE ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. WITH 48 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE, SPECIAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED FOR SIGHT AND/OR HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS AT PUBLIC MEETINGS. PLEASE CALL 777-1272 OR 777-1100 (TDD) TO REQUEST AN ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Prescott City Hall on _____, at _____ .m. in accordance with the statement filed by the Prescott City Council with the City Clerk.

Lorri Carlson, Deputy City Clerk

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COUNCIL AGENDA MEMO – July 22, 2008

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DEPARTMENT: Public Works

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AGENDA ITEM: Discussion of the Downer Trail gate south of Sierry Peaks Drive

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Approved By:**Date:****Department Head:** Mark Nietupski**Finance Director:** Mark Woodfill**City Manager:** Steve Norwood**Item Summary**

This item is for discussion of the gate currently installed on Downer Trail south of Sierry Peaks Drive, which blocks north/south through traffic on Downer Trail between Oregon Avenue and points north and west of Sierry Peaks Drive.

Background

On December 14, 1981, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1559 for rezoning and associated development of property in the general vicinity of Downer Trail and Sierry Peaks Drive. Section 2, part 5, of the ordinance required the developer "to install a crash gate at the south entrance to the subdivision until such time as the City Council deems it necessary to open the road." The gate was installed as a traffic control measure during development of the property effectively limiting neighborhood circulation.

On May 11, 1999, City Council adopted the West Side Neighborhood and Specific Area Plan, which was a collaboration of West Side Neighborhood residents, City officials and staff. The objective was to develop a plan that articulates a shared vision of the neighborhood and provide a basis for the commitment of local government and the private sector to carry out proposals and programs. The Plan recommendation for neighborhood traffic circulation is provided in the following text. "The planning group recommends that the emergency access gate remain in place until certain through roadways are constructed and opened to traffic. These roadways include Downer Trail from Oregon Avenue to Sierry Peaks Drive, Downer Trail from Sierry Peaks Drive to the east-west connector, and the east-west connector from Downer Trail to Gail Gardner Way."

The Gail Gardner Neighborhood Specific Area Plan was adopted by City Council in February 2000. The document states under Circulation Goals & Objectives, Goal 2.2, Objective 2B, "Ensure that the emergency crash gates at Downer Trail and Sierry Peaks Drive do not come down until the east-west connector is completed and operational, and until the full circulation plan is implemented."

Agenda Item: Discussion of the Downer Trail gate south of Sierry Peaks Drive

Construction of the East-West Connector from Downer Trail at Sierry Peaks Drive to Gail Gardner Way was completed with the roadway opened in June 2007.

Construction of improvements to Downer Trail between Oregon Avenue and Sierry Peaks Drive was completed May 22, 2008. The final street design configuration was generated with public involvement through an open-house meeting held with area residents in February 2007. The residents preferred a more rural character be maintained in the project area, in contrast to the new subdivisions nearby.

Reflecting that public input, the project was developed to avoid impacting existing trees along the roadway; new pavement is 22 feet in width (reviewed and approved by the Fire Marshal); curb and gutter was installed only at the intersection of Far View Lane and Downer Trail. No sidewalks were constructed and the gate formerly on Sierry Peaks Drive immediately west of Downer Trail was relocated to Downer Trail south of Sierry Peaks Drive. The existing street design on Downer Trail, with its accompanying width, serpentine alignment and elevation changes results in a default traffic calming effect, which promotes lower roadway speeds.

Local residents north of the gate have requested the City now remove the gate to enhance traffic circulation in the neighborhood. A traffic study (attached) was performed in June 2008 which evaluated existing traffic volumes on Sierry Peaks, Downer Trail and Oregon Avenue to determine the proposed impact of the gate removal. Based on this information it is estimated that 38 additional vehicles will travel on Downer Trail and Oregon Avenue in the morning peak hour with an additional 30 vehicles in the afternoon peak hour. This represents an increase of approximately 200 to 250 vehicles per day on Downer Trail and Oregon Avenue a 50% and 17% increase respectively. These volumes are well within the normal limits for a local residential and minor collector roadway classification.

A number of options exist for Council's consideration regarding this issue. The gate can remain in place, it can be removed to allow full public access to Downer Trail, or it can be removed and some type of limited access on Downer Trail can be allowed (One-way, restricted entry points, etc.). Each of these alternatives will require specific actions, which may include modification of existing ordinances and neighborhood plans and modification of the existing improvements at the intersection of Downer Trail at Sierry Peaks Drive.

- Attachments**
- Location map
 - Traffic Engineering Report

Downer Trail Gate Traffic Engineering Report

July 22, 2008 Council

STUDY AREA

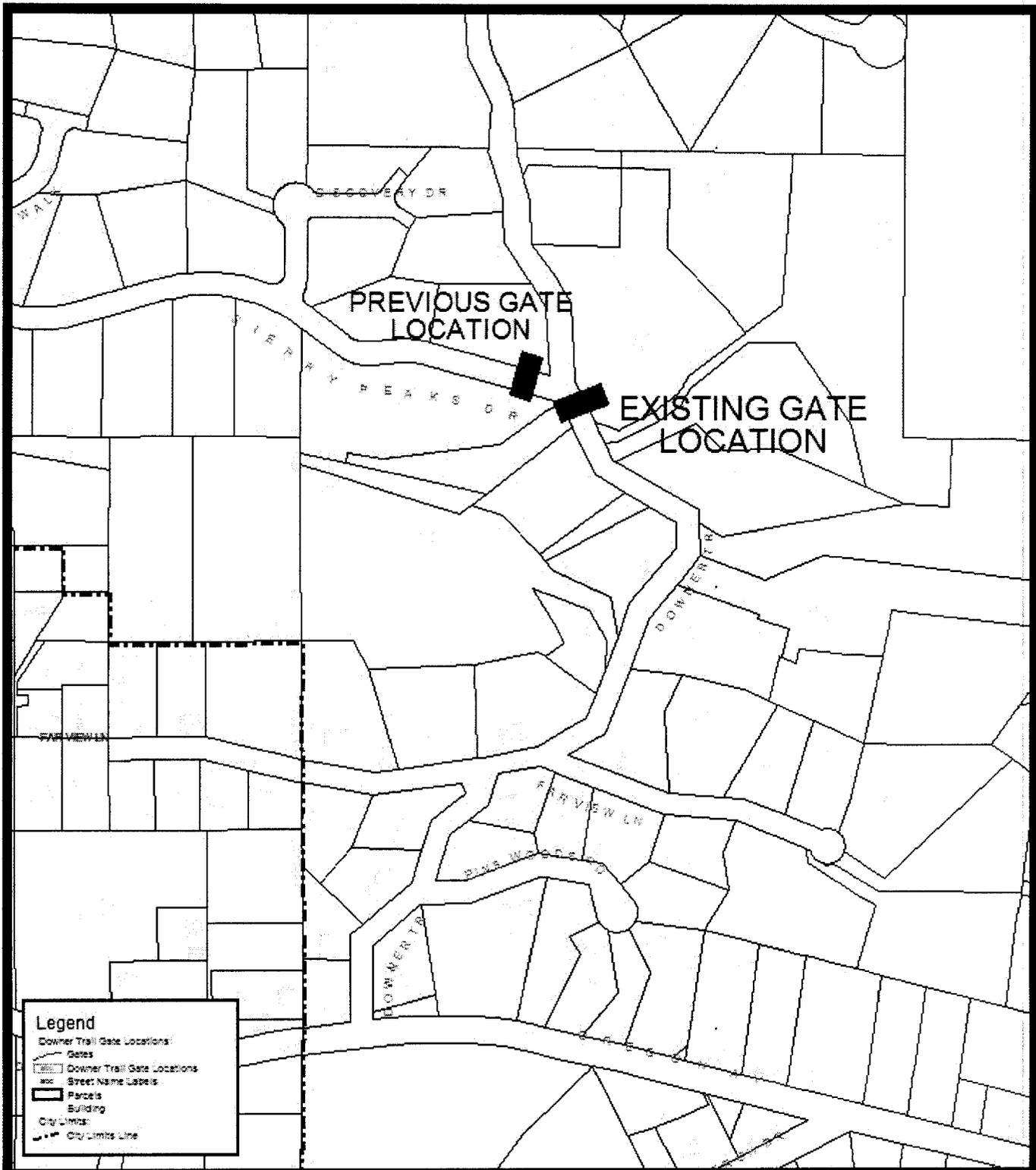
The study area consists of Downer Trail. The area is bounded in general by Sierry Peaks to the north, Oregon Avenue to the south, Gail Gardner to the east and the City limits to the west. east.

TRAFFIC SUMMARY

Downer Trail is a two lane newly paved roadway with a paved width of 22'. It has no curb and gutter and consists of numerous vertical and horizontal curves. The roadway is currently closed to thru traffic at its north end through the installation of an emergency access gate. The roadway is classified as a local residential street and has a current volume of 350 to 400 vehicles per day. In order to determine the impact that opening the gate at Sierry Peaks would have on Downer trail staff conducted 24HR traffic counts on Sierry Peaks, Westridge Drive and Oregon Avenue. In addition to this staff also recorded turn movements at the intersection of Westridge Drive and Gail Gardner Way. This information was then used to estimate that portion of traffic currently using Westridge to Gail Gardner that would be diverted onto the currently closed section of Downer Trail. According o the patterns observed it appears that 38% of the daily traffic turning from eastbound to southbound and northbound to westbound at the intersection would be diverted onto Downer Trail. This translates to approximately 200 vehicles per day.

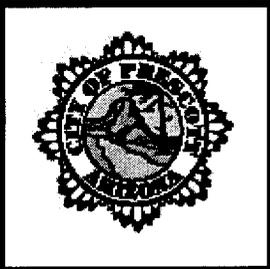
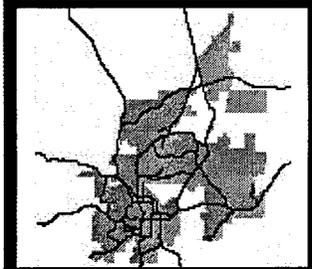
This would result in Downer Trail experiencing an increase from a 24HR traffic volume of 350 to 400 vehicles per day to 550 to 600 vehicles per day. This traffic would also impact Oregon Avenue with the same 200 vehicles per day raising its current 24 HR volume from 1200 vehicles to 1400 vehicles and increase of approximately 17%.

Sierry Peaks, Westridge and Oregon are all classified as minor collectors and the volumes currently seen on all roadways are within the normal limits.



Legend

- Downer Trail Gate Locations:
- Gates
- Downer Trail Gate Locations
- Street Name Labels
- Parcels
- Building
- City Limits:
- City Limits Line



DOWNER TRAIL AT SIERRY PEAKS GATE LOCATIONS

This map is a product of the
The City of Prescott GIS