Gateway Activation Project
Community Workshop
Tuesday April 29th | 5:30 – 7 pm
Big Oak Senior Mobile Home Park

Citrus Heights - Gateway Activation Project

Community Meeting Summary

Introduction

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025, the City of Citrus Heights hosted a kickoff Community Meeting for the Gateway Activation Project (GAP). The event was held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Big Oak Senior Mobile Home Park. More than 48 community members participated in the meeting.



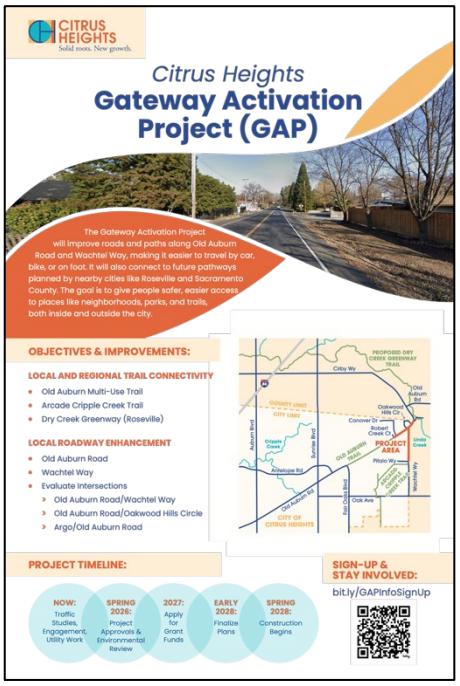
Background

The GAP is focused on implementing multimodal and roadway enhancements along Old Auburn Road and Wachtel Way. These improvements will link to existing transportation infrastructure and support future connections with projects proposed by neighboring jurisdictions, including the City of Roseville and Sacramento County.

The primary goal is to deliver solutions that improve safety, expand access and mobility for all users, and enhance traffic operations. The project seeks to provide safe, convenient, and accessible routes to key destinations such as neighborhoods, parks, open spaces, residences, and trail networks—both within Citrus Heights and beyond city limits.

The proposed objectives of the GAP include:

- Extending multimodal facilities on Old Auburn Road to the city's northern boundary
- Extending multimodal facilities on Wachtel Way to its intersection with Old Auburn Road
- Upgrading intersections at Old Auburn Road/Wachtel Way and Old Auburn Road/Oakwood Hills Circle (potential enhancements include roundabouts or traffic signal improvements)
- Improving pedestrian safety and crossings at Old Auburn Road and Argo Drive



Factsheet Board

Meeting Purpose and Objectives

This workshop marked the official launch of the GAP. It served to introduce the project, present the design team, and gather community input, especially from nearby property owners, on early design concepts at three key intersections.

The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

- Introduce the public outreach process and increase awareness of the project's goals, scope, timeline, and potential funding opportunities

- Engage a diverse cross-section of community members to collect valuable input on traffic analysis and preliminary design concepts
- Gather feedback on proposed safety features, such as roundabouts and protected intersections

Meeting Format

The meeting was held in the multipurpose room at the Big Oak Senior Mobile Home Park. The event began with a presentation by Katie DeMaio, Community Engagement Specialist from AIM; Casey Kempenaar, Community Development Director with the City of Citrus Heights; Mari Ramones from Fehr & Peers and Pamela Dalcin-Walling, Project Manager from Dokken Engineering. Following the presentation, an open house session allowed attendees to speak directly with staff from AIM, Dokken, Fehr & Peers, and the City of Citrus Heights.

Informational exhibits, including intersection treatments and maps of the project corridor, were on display for review and comment. Interactive boards and feedback forms invited attendees to share input on their place of residence, preferred trail crossings, and top project priorities.

Presentation

Below is an overview of the workshop presentation. The full presentation is available in Appendix A.

After attendees were welcomed and seated, Katie from AIM Consulting opened the event by thanking everyone for joining the project team and emphasizing the value of community feedback. She provided a brief overview of the evening's agenda before turning the presentation over to the project team.



Casey Kempenaar presenting to community members

Casey Kempenaar began by outlining the significance of the GAP for the City, highlighting its role in enhancing community connections, improving quality-of-life amenities, and fostering local partnerships. He explained the project's two main goals: strengthening local and regional trail connections—including the Old Auburn Multi-Use Trail, Arcade Cripple Creek Trail, and Dry Creek Greenway—and improving roadway conditions and key intersections along Old Auburn Road and Wachtel Way.

Next, Mari Ramones discussed current traffic conditions, including daily volumes, cut-through traffic, and vehicle queuing. She also shared that the team is evaluating existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities for improvements and invited participants to view a traffic simulation during the open house session.

Project Manager Pamela Dalcin-Walling followed with an overview of the project's engineering aspects. She explained that the plan includes connecting existing and future Class I trails, requiring a crossing at Argo Drive,

Wachtel Way, or Oakwood Hills Circle East. A new bicycle/pedestrian crossing is also proposed on Old Auburn Road at Argo Drive, alongside traffic improvements at major intersections.

Pamela then explored possible designs for the Argo Drive pedestrian crossing, such as a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon and a Roundabout, as well as potential traffic solutions, including new signals or roundabouts at the Wachtel Way and Oakwood Hills Circle intersections.

To conclude the presentation, Katie returned to reaffirm the ongoing nature of public outreach and planning. She encouraged community members to share their feedback at the information boards and thanked everyone for participating.



Stations and Board Exhibits

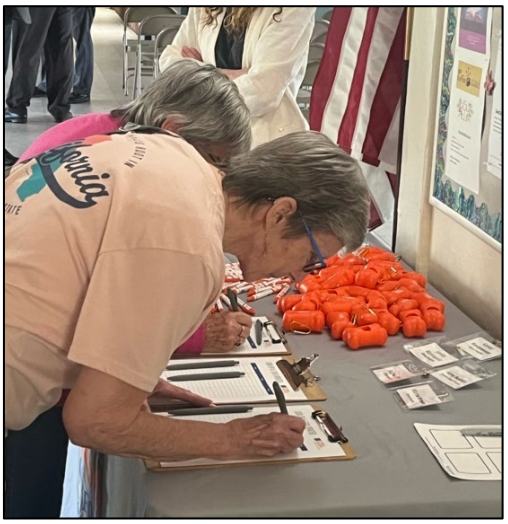
Below is an overview of the stations and board exhibits presented at the event.

Welcome Station

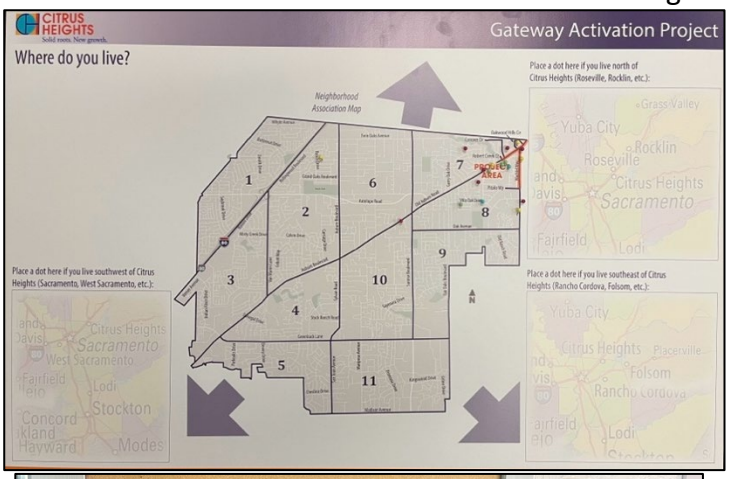
Upon arrival at the workshop, community members were welcomed and invited to sign up with their contact information to receive future project updates and event notifications. A total of 42 community members signed up. They were also offered free giveaway items provided by the City.

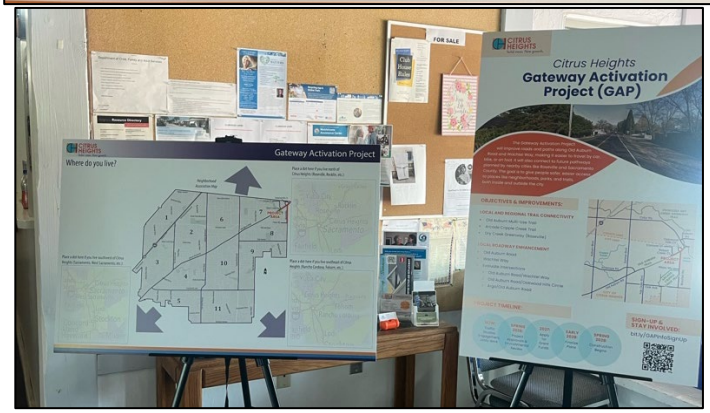
Station 1: Project Introduction (Neighborhood Board and Project Overview Board)

At Station 1, participants were introduced to the Citrus Heights GAP through a project overview board that outlined the project's objectives, planned improvements, timeline, and geographic scope. Attendees also engaged with a neighborhood board displaying the 11 neighborhood areas within Citrus Heights, along with three surrounding areas to the north, southwest, and southeast. Visitors were invited to place a pin on the map to indicate where they currently live.



Community member signing up for project updates





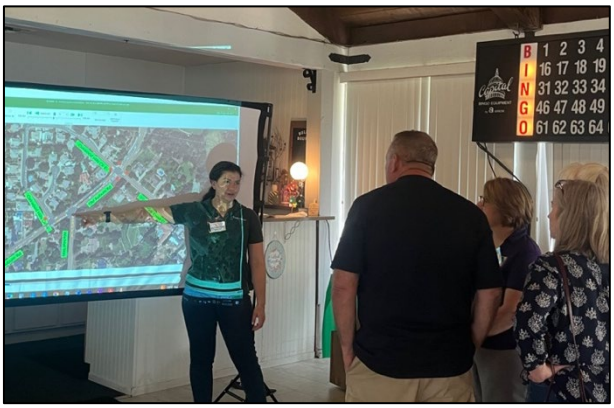
Feedback

Where people live represented by pins:

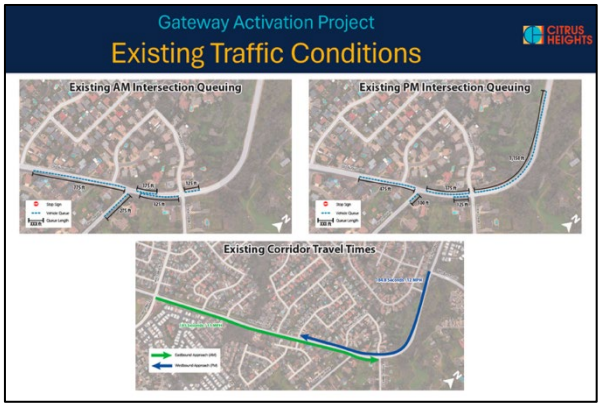
- Neighborhood Association 2: One (1) person
- Neighborhood Association 7: Four (4) people
- Neighborhood Association 8: Twelve (12) people
- Neighborhood Association 10: One (1) person
- Southwest of Citrus Heights (Sacramento, West Sacramento, etc.): Two (2) people
- North of Citrus Heights (Roseville, Rocklin, etc.): One (1) person

Station 2: Traffic Boards

Station 2 featured an *Existing Traffic Conditions* board displaying current AM and PM intersection queuing data, as well as corridor travel times. A projector screen showcased simulation footage of proposed project alternatives, allowing attendees to observe and engage with potential traffic flow scenarios.



Project team member presenting simulation footage to community members.



Existing Traffic Conditions Board.

Station 3: Argo Intersection

Station 3 featured two display boards presenting a plan view and renderings of the Argo intersection. The exhibits included three simulated images illustrating existing conditions, a pedestrian hybrid beacon, and a proposed roundabout. Staff from Dokken Engineering were available to answer questions and collect feedback on the design concepts.



Intersection at Argo Drive – Plan View Board with Sticky Note Feedback.

<u>Intersection at Argo Drive - Plan View Feedback</u>

- Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon
  - This option
  - Yes!
  - No!
  - Yes!
  - No!
- Roundabout
  - Yes roundabouts
  - Yes roundabouts
  - Yes
  - No roundabouts
  - No roundabouts
  - No roundabouts

<u>Intersection at Argo Drive – Rendering Feedback</u>

- Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

  - Yes!
  - Slow traffic, no!
- Roundabout
  - Yes

Station 4: Wachtel Plan View & Class I Crossing

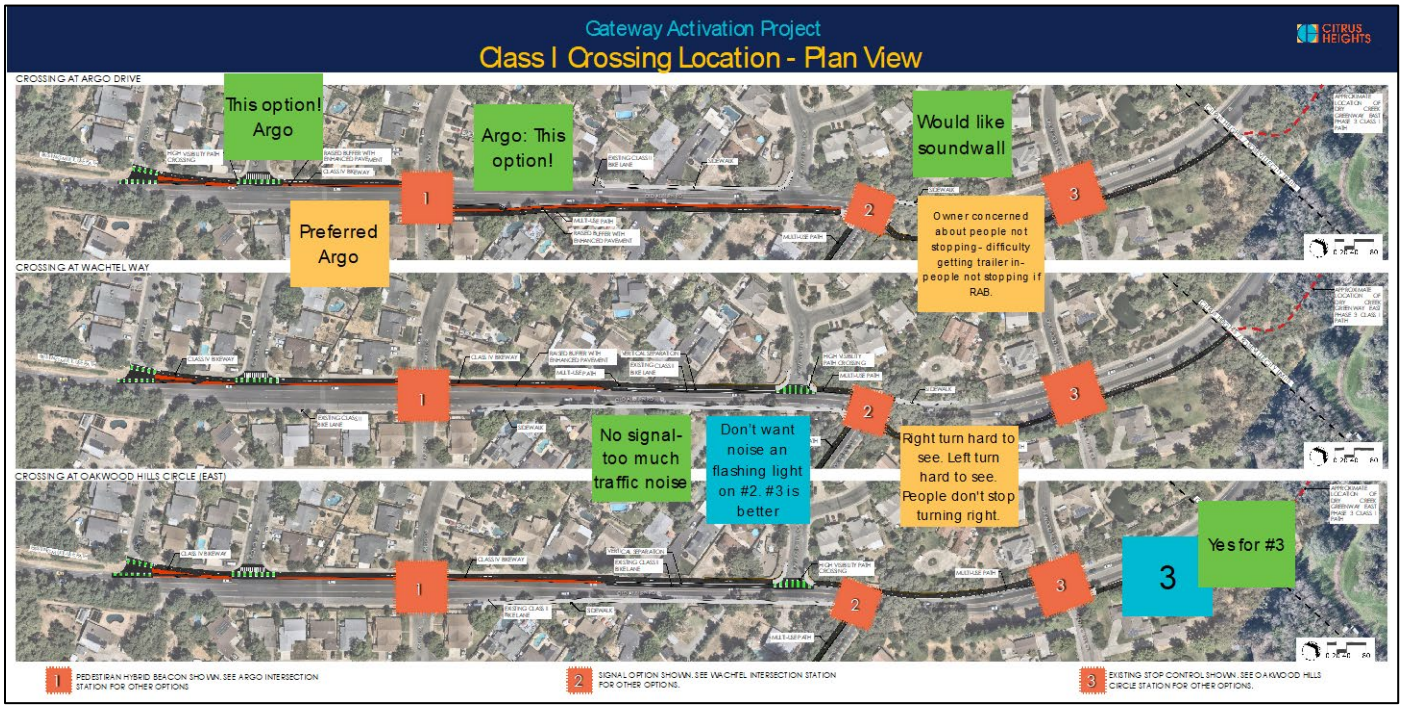
Station 4 included two display boards: the *Wachtel Way – Plan View* board, highlighting proposed plans for Wachtel Way, and the *Class I Crossing – Plan View* board, which presented three options for potential crossings at Argo Drive, Wachtel Way, and Oakwood Hills Circle (East). Dokken Engineering staff assisted community members in providing feedback by encouraging them to place sticky note comments directly on the boards.



Intersection at Argo Drive – Rendering Board with Sticky Note Feedback

Wachtel Way - Plan View Feedback

- Extend South to Oakwood Ave



Class I Crossing Location - Plan View Feedback

- Crossing at Argo Drive
  - This option! Argo
  - Preferred Argo
  - Argo: This option!
  - Would like a soundwall
  - Owner concerned about people not stopping- difficulty getting trailer in- people not stopping if RAB.
- Crossing at Wachtel Way
  - No signal- too much traffic noise
  - Don't want noise and flashing light on #2, #3 is better.
  - Right turn hard to see. Left turn hard to see. People don't stop turning right.
- Crossing at Oakwood Hills Circle (East)
  - 3
  - Yes for #3



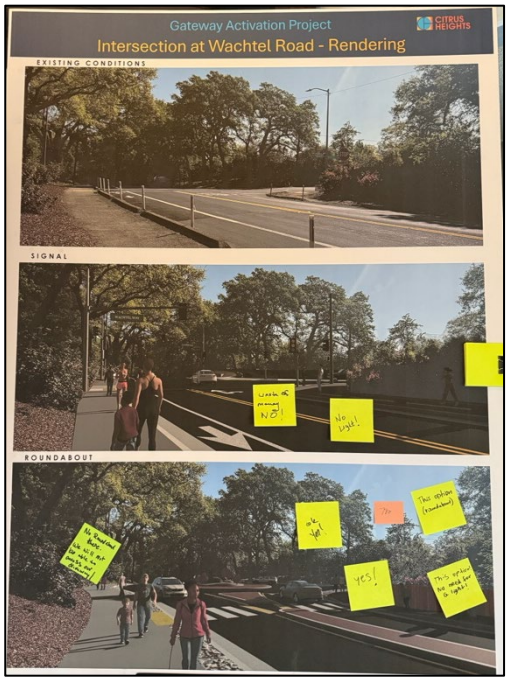
Intersection at Wachtel Way – Plan Board with Sticky Note Feedback

Station 5: Wachtel Intersection

Station 5 featured two display boards presenting a plan view and renderings of the Wachtel intersection. The exhibits included three simulated images illustrating existing conditions, a pedestrian hybrid beacon, and a proposed roundabout.

<u>Intersection at Wachtel Way – Plan Feedback</u>

- Signal
  - Waste of money, no!
  - No
- Roundabout
  - Perfect!
  - Yes! Yes!
  - No roundabout there, this is a residential driveway
  - No
  - Yes!
  - Yes
  - No
  - No
  - No
  - Yes
  - Yes



Intersection at Wachtel Way – Rendering Board with Sticky Note Feedback

- Ensure turn movement in driveways, don't cut Oak.

Intersection at Wachtel Way – Rendering Feedback

- Signal
  - Waste of money, no!
  - No light!
- Roundabout
  - No roundabout there. We will not be able to access our driveway!
  - OK, yes!
  - Yes!
  - No
  - This option (roundabout)
  - This option! No need for a light



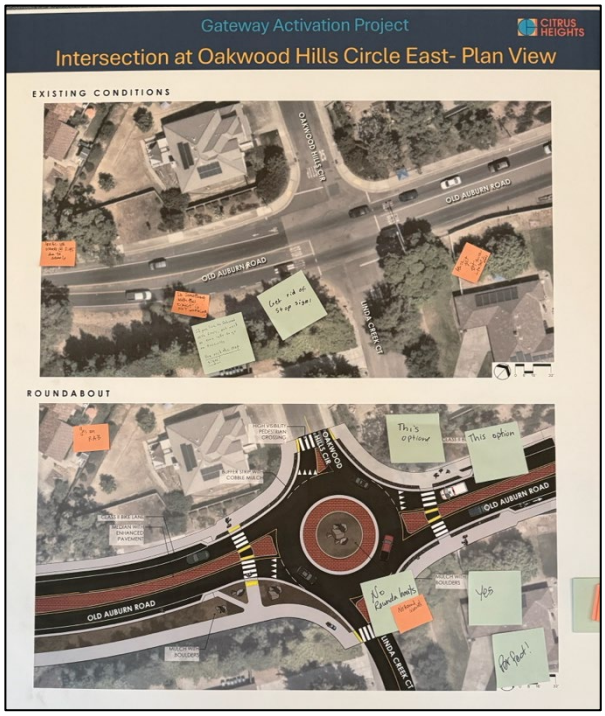
Project team discussing community member feedback.

1. Station 6: Oakwood Hills Circle (East) Intersection

Station 6 featured two display boards presenting a plan view and renderings of the Oakwood Hills Circle (East) intersection. The exhibits included two simulated images illustrating existing conditions and a proposed roundabout.

Intersection at Oakwood Hills Circle East - Plan View Feedback

- Existing Conditions
  - Get rid of stop sign!
  - If you live on Oakwood Hills Circle and need to turn left to go to Roseville…you need the stop signs!
  - Fence got hit twice in the last two years
  - Do something with this, existing is not working
  - Traffic WB streets @ 3:45 due to schools
- Roundabout
  - No roundabouts
  - Perfect!
  - Yes
  - This option
  - This option!
  - Yes on RAB
  - No roundabouts!



Intersection at Oakwood Hills Circle East – Plan view with Sticky Note Feedback

Station 7: Feedback and Project Timeline

The final station featured a board exhibit of the project timeline. Community members were also provided feedback forms that highlighted three multiple-choice

questions and an open-ended comment section. Twenty-three community members filled out the Gateway Activation Project feedback form.

The feedback form questions and results were as follows:

- **Question 1: What are your modes of travel on Old Auburn Road?**
  - Walk; 10 community members
  - Bike; 7 community members
  - Car; 15 community members
  - Transit; 1 community member
  - Other (please list); 2 community members (e.g., "truck/trailer", "access our house Old Auburn/Wachtel")
- **Question 2: Pick two of the following project goals that are most important to you.**
  - Trail connectivity; 11 community members
  - Slowing down traffic; 13 community members
  - Increasing safety; 20 community members
  - Pedestrian improvements; 7 community members
- **Question 3: Which trail cross options would you like to see?**
  - Argo intersection; 9 community members
  - Wachtel intersection; 11 community members
  - Oakwood Hills Circle intersection; 3 community members
- **Comments: Please provide any additional feedback you may have.**





Community members providing feedback on the project board exhibits and feedback forms.

<u>Open-ended Feedback Results:</u>

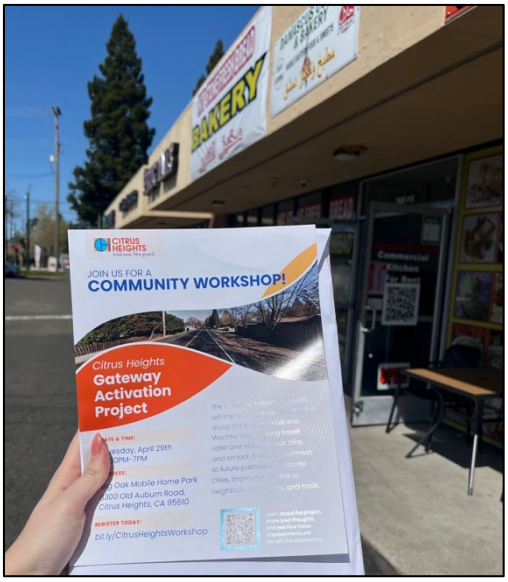
- Roundabouts eliminate Big Rigs and heavy Freight. Signals, such as speeding and pedestrians, give the city of Citrus Heights presence when you enter the city from beautiful Roseville.

- Roundabouts would help traffic flow and slow down traffic. Roundabouts, yes!
- Great presentation. All for roundabouts!
- My property at 8525 Old Auburn Rd has access with a truck and trailer, and getting through traffic requires a roundabout. I definitely would like a sound wall put in the intersections, as they are very noisy.
- We like the roundabouts and trail connectivity. We like the option of the roundabouts at all these intersections. We would like to see an improvement on the noise at the intersection of Wachtel and Old Auburn.
- I like roundabouts and trail connectivity. However, I don't like stop lights and roundabouts at all three intersections. The flashing lights and chirping of crosswalks will bother me. My property backs up to Old Auburn and Wachtel, and the sound at that intersection is currently horrible. A roundabout may help.
- Consider two stop signs at Oakwood Hills Circle intersection and suicide lane for the side streets to enter. The traffic counts entering at the side streets must be very low; you rarely see cars at the side streets unless they are cutting through the neighborhood to skip one of the double stop signs. Speeding up traffic through double stop signs is important to me.
- After watching the simulations, I like the Wachtel and Oakwood Hills traffic circles. I feel they would improve the traffic flow. I appreciate all the thoughtful planning.
- The roundabout options would work better for relieving congestion, especially near Wachtel and Old Auburn.
- Great presentation! Thank you! Being an engineer and understanding your concepts- looking forward to seeing the project underway.
- A roundabout at Wachtel and Old Auburn creates problems with any other residents on the North side of that intersection. Traffic flow will constantly block their driveways. A better alternative is a traffic light that also allows them to come out safely. A crossing at Argo for pedestrians also allows safe crossing on Wachtel. The addition of the bike trail on the West side should help with the visibility of stop signs at Wachtel/Ponticelli.
- Any trail crossing is going to be tricky. Nothing right now makes me feel safe. There is no "right" answer, I suppose.
- Teach drivers how to use roundabouts.
- Totally against roundabouts. Less traffic is important to me.
- Wachtel and Olivine- need either a stop light or flashing lights to highlight the stop sign.
- My concern is the three-way stop at Wachtel and Olivine. It is near impossible to leave Olivine and get out on Wachtel, as so many run the stop sign. You really have to watch and drive with caution.

Public Awareness and Notification

The project team used several different strategies to promote the workshop and garner community participation, including:

- **Email:** Three emails and subsequent reminders regarding the workshop were sent to stakeholders and interested community members, leading up to the event scheduled for April 29th. Additional follow-ups were sent on the 15th and 22nd, as well as on the day of the workshop.
- **Social Media:** Paid advertisements about the workshop were posted on Facebook and Instagram, targeting the project area and a 5-mile radius. The engagement was also posted on 16 Citrus Heights and Sacramento Facebook groups listed below:
    - Citrus Heights Community
    - Citrus Heights Crime Watch Community
    - Good neighborhood and business of Citrus Heights, CA
    - Citrus Heights Live! Non-Restricted
    - BikeParty Sacramento Cyclists
    - 530/916 Street Bike Group
    - Sacramento Women's Hiking & Adventures
    - Citrus Heights Happenings
    - Citrus Heights Area Mom's Group
    - Citrus Heights Live!
    - You know you're from Citrus Heights CA when…
    - Citrus Heights Happenings
    - Citrus Heights CA Neighborhood Watch and Safety
    - Citrus Heights Good Neighbors AND Pets
    - Citrus Heights Deals and Steals
- **Press Release:** The City of Citrus Heights posted an event announcement on their monthly E-Newsletter which was released at the beginning of the month. View the newsletter here.
- **Stakeholder Communications:** The project team reached out via personal calls and emails to representatives of different community organizations, agencies, and transportation groups, requesting them to share the flyer with their members.
- **Flyer Delivery/Signage:** The project team visited local businesses surrounding the project location to distribute flyers about the project and encourage them to attend the workshop. In addition, 15 lawn signs were placed in and around the project area near sidewalks, intersections, and on nearby trails.



Workshop Flyer delivered to nearby businesses



Workshop Lawn Sign placed on nearby trail







