Citrus Heights - Gateway Activation Project

Project Update Meeting Summary – March 2026

Introduction

On Thursday, March 5, 2026, the City of Citrus Heights hosted a Project Update Meeting (meeting) for the Gateway Activation Project. The event was held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Big Oak Senior Mobile Home Park. A total of 32 community members participated in the meeting.

Background

The Gateway Activation Project focuses on multimodal and roadway improvements along Old Auburn Road and Wachtel Way. These improvements will connect to existing transportation infrastructure and support future regional connections with the City of Roseville and Sacramento County.



Project team discussing board exhibits with community members

The project aims to improve safety, access, and mobility for all users while enhancing traffic operations. It will provide safer, more convenient routes to nearby neighborhoods, parks, open spaces, residences, and trail networks in Citrus Heights and surrounding areas.



Community members viewing board exhibits

Key project objectives include extending multimodal facilities along Old Auburn Road to the city's northern boundary and along Wachtel Way to its intersection with Old Auburn Road, upgrading intersections at Old Auburn Road/Wachtel Way and Old Auburn Road/Oakwood Hills Circle/Linda Creek Court, and improving pedestrian safety and crossings at Old Auburn Road and Argo Drive.

Meeting Purpose and Format

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a project update for the Citrus Heights Gateway Activation Project, encourage community members to review the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), and share their feedback. The City prepared the Draft IS/MND

to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with the project. The document was made available for public review and comment from February 13, 2026, through March 19, 2026, and community members were encouraged to review the materials and submit comments at the meeting and through the project website.

The meeting was held in the multipurpose room at the Big Oak Senior Mobile Home Park. It began with a brief presentation from the project team highlighting key findings from the Draft IS/MND and providing a project update. The presentation was followed by an open house session where attendees could speak directly with staff from AIM Consulting, Dokken Engineering, and the City of Citrus Heights. Informational exhibits and maps of the project corridor were displayed for review, and comment cards were provided for attendees to share feedback.

Presentation

After attendees were welcomed and seated, the presentation opened with an introduction to the Gateway Activation Project and a brief overview of the evening's agenda. The project's purpose and goals were introduced, with a focus on improving connectivity, safety, and mobility along Old Auburn Road and Wachtel Way.



Casey Kempenaar (City of Citrus Heights) presenting to community members

The presentation then summarized the project objectives, including strengthening regional trail connections—such as links to the Old Auburn Multi-Use Trail, Arcade Cripple Creek Trail, and Dry Creek Greenway—and improving roadway conditions and multimodal access in the project area.

Next, proposed improvements were reviewed, including upgrades at key intersections along Old Auburn Road and Wachtel Way, a pedestrian crossing at Argo Drive, and improvements for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Design concepts focused on the incorporation of roundabouts at the project's key intersections.

The presentation also provided an overview of the environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as the findings of the project's Draft IS/MND.

The presentation concluded by highlighting the public review period for the Draft IS/MND and encouraging attendees to review the document and share feedback. Community members were then invited to continue the conversation during the open house portion of the meeting.

Stations and Board Exhibits

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

Welcome Station

Upon arrival at the meeting, community members were welcomed and invited to sign up with their contact information to receive future project updates and event notifications. Free giveaway items were offered and provided by the City.



Community members signing up for project notifications

Station 1: Project Introduction

At Station 1, participants were introduced to the Citrus Heights GAP through a project overview board and a project timeline board outlining the objectives, planned improvements, timeline, and geographic scope.

Station 2: Intersection Boards

This station featured boards illustrating intersection improvements along the project corridor. Exhibits included conceptual roundabout designs/renderings at Argo Drive and Wachtel Way, as well as a plan view of the intersection at Old Auburn Road/Oakwood Hills Circle/Linda Creek Court. These boards showed how proposed configurations could improve traffic operations, enhance safety, and accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.



Project team discussing board exhibits with community members

Station 3: Environmental Project Impacts/Vegetation Boards

Station 3 included boards describing the environmental review for the Gateway Activation Project and potential environmental considerations within the project corridor. Exhibits outlined the CEQA process and described the Project's purpose and need.

Additional boards highlighted existing vegetation along the corridor and identified areas where tree removal or vegetation changes may occur as part of the proposed improvements. Attendees were encouraged to review the environmental information and provide feedback on potential impacts and environmental considerations.

Station 4: Traffic Simulation

This station featured a projected traffic simulation comparing existing morning traffic conditions with those after the proposed improvements. The simulation illustrated how traffic is expected to move through the corridor and key intersections before and after project changes. Attendees could observe potential improvements to traffic flow and intersection operations and ask questions about how the proposed designs may affect travel through the area.



Community member viewing traffic simulation

Station 5: Document Review/Open Comment

Station 5 provided an opportunity for community members to review a hard copy of the Draft IS/MND and share their input on the project. Attendees were invited to provide open-ended feedback via comment cards, allowing them to share thoughts, concerns, and suggestions regarding the proposed improvements and project concepts.

The feedback collected from these comment cards is summarized below:

- I would like to have the cinder block wall raised higher due to traffic noise and for privacy. My backyard looks out to Old Auburn and Wachtel. Thank you.
- Please make all trail markings the same as Roseville trails. They specifically have walkers going toward bike traffic. This is just like walking toward traffic on the roadway, which is much safer. This is especially important with electric bikes, which can approach quickly and are difficult to hear. Thanks.
- Are sidewalks on both sides of the road being added?
- We are directly impacted by this. Please contact us.
- We think this is a great idea. We hope you can implement the project sooner rather than later.
- We live in Oakwood Hills and Old Auburn. The sound wall is not tall enough to accommodate privacy in our houses or backyards if the sidewalk is wider. Also, the proposed turn lane heads east into Roseville. It would also help if there were no stop signs when turning into Oakwood Hills.

Public Notification

The project team used several strategies to promote the meeting and encourage community participation, including:

- **Email:** Two email blasts were sent via Constant Contact to stakeholder lists and interested community members regarding the meeting and Draft IS/MND. These emails were distributed on February 13 and February 26, 2026, and reached 544 recipients.
- **Press Release:** The City of Citrus Heights promoted the meeting in its monthly E-Newsletter, released on February 5, 2026. View the newsletter here.
- **Previous Workshop Attendees:** The project team also sent personal email invitations to individuals who attended the April 29, 2025, workshop. This outreach reached 33 previous attendees.
- **Direct Mailers:** The Notice of Availability/Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and a meeting flyer were mailed to 245 addresses within 500 feet of the project site on February 12, 2026.

Next Steps

Feedback gathered during the Project Update Meeting will be reviewed and compiled by the project team to help inform the refinement of the Gateway Activation Project concepts. The Draft IS/MND was available for public review and comment through March 19, 2026. Comments collected at the meeting will be addressed in the Final IS/MND, which will be presented to the City's Planning Commission and City Council in the coming months.

Community members were encouraged to visit the project website to review project materials and submit additional comments. Further updates and engagement opportunities will be shared with the community as the project advances toward Final Design.