



JIM GIBBONS  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
1263 S. Stewart Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89712

SUSAN MARTINOVICH, P.E., *Director*

In Reply Refer to:

April 30, 2010

Reverend Jim Houston-Hencken  
First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas  
1515 West Charleston Boulevard  
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Subject: Nevada DOT Project NEON Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments

Dear Rev. Houston-Hencken:

In your Project NEON public hearing comments you raised four issues regarding the project's potential impact on the First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas. Your questions/comments and Nevada Department of Transportation's (NDOT) responses are found below.

- **Q:** All along our issues have been safe ingress and egress in the church. The expansion of Charleston Boulevard makes it so you can't turn into our property according to the current plan unless there is a safe turn lane, and it also means that people are required to turn into the neighborhood to get to our property before they can see the church, so you would have to have been to the church before to even know where to turn. All of the proposals render us invisible from certain directions. We're concerned about having a left turn lane into our property off Charleston Boulevard.
- **A:** Access to the church parking lot to and from westbound Charleston Boulevard is not feasible from a traffic operations perspective. A turn would require crossing left-hand turn lanes and several lanes of through traffic. NDOT will continue to coordinate with the church to develop acceptable access to the property.
- **Q:** Other general concerns that we have is safety, because as they create raised roadways, where we are it's a homeless corridor and creates shade and shelter from the weather. You will have a significant homeless population and we hope that will go into design plans and consider building on berms rather than pillars.
- **A:** At this time, sufficient detail has not been produced to determine the exact location of structures and precise structure lengths. These determinations will be made during final design and will depend, in part, on cost, constructability, safety and aesthetics, as well as community concerns. We understand your concern and will continue to work with you and the community to provide an acceptable solution.
- **Q:** Very concerned about sound abatement. Are they going to put up sound walls? The EIS is not clear on that whether they have to and to what levels the sound walls will be effective.
- **A:** The Final Environmental Impact Statement, scheduled to be completed in late spring/early summer 2010, will present more detailed information regarding noise

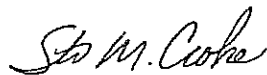


mitigation. Noise mitigation details will be further refined during the final design phase of the project.

- **Q:** The final issue is the routing of the fire department. Alternative G routes the fire trucks from the station pretty much across the church property to get to Charleston Boulevard. What will be done for sound and safety as they travel through the neighborhood?
- **A:** Mitigation for this issue would follow the best practices currently in use by the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Department for traveling through residential areas.
- **Q:** Currently we do have entrance and even exits off of Charleston Boulevard in a parking lot, but we have a special use permit which only allows us to open it on weekends, and if we were to make a turn lane into our property, that is the safest place, but we would have to be allowed to open it during the week as well. So that would be something that would probably have to be addressed with local government and the design plan of this project.
- **A:** As noted previously in this letter, access to the church parking lot to and from westbound Charleston Boulevard is not feasible from a traffic operations perspective. NDOT will continue to coordinate with the church to develop acceptable access to the property.

Your comments will be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and considered in the development of the preferred alternative. You have been included on the project mailing list and we will keep you notified of project progress and public events. If you would like to talk in more detail about your comments or would like additional information, please contact me at (775) 888-7013 or scooke@dot.state.nv.us. Thank you for participating in Project NEON.

Sincerely,



Steve M. Cooke, P.E.  
Chief, Environmental Services Division  
Nevada Department of Transportation