

Road leads to controversy Proposed Highland corridor would cut through park, subdivision

By DAVE ANDERTON
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HIGHLAND — A proposed \$2 million east-west corridor that would connect Lone Peak High School to Alpine Highway (SR-74) has some Highland citizens outraged.

"To put a 60-foot road all the way through will affect a lot of property values,"

said Tim Aalders, a resident of the Mystic Cove subdivision.

Last week, approximately 200 residents gathered at Mountain Ridge Junior High School and learned of 12 different proposals to run a nearly one-mile stretch of a three-lane road from 4800 West to Alpine Highway.

The highway, if built, could intersect a city park

and an upscale subdivision filled with half-million dollar homes. Four of the 12 proposals would affect the 64-lot subdivision. That has some residents crying foul.

The recent protests are a reverse from sentiments expressed two years ago.

Back then, more than 240 parents and students signed a petition sponsored by the Lone Peak High School Parent Teacher Stu-

dent Association asking the City Council to create the east-west corridor.

Laurie Anderson, a former PTSA president, said she believes the traffic on 4800 West is heavy. An east-west corridor would keep kids safe, she said.

But Aalders said there is no need to build the road.

"It would destroy a pristine park for easier access to the high school," Aalders

contends.

In addition, Aalders charges that the council has already made up its mind and will choose a route affecting the Mystic Cove subdivision rather than a more southerly route that cuts across a golf course and could affect other homes.

"It's just posturing. They are saying we have 12

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choices, but I think there is only one," he said.

The city spent \$1.4 million on a wildlife park to put a road right through it. Taxpayers didn't know they were doing that with the money.

Mayor Jess Adamson told residents Thursday that no decision had been made.

"This is a tough decision," Adamsor said. "It's a no-brainer that the connection should be made. It should have been done 20 to 30 years ago."

Adamsor acknowledged that the final choice would not be unanimous, but he pleaded for consensus among residents and asked them to consider what was best for the community. "We can all be participants in the solution," he said. "Find your facts, don't

make presumptions." Blaine Comer, project manager with Forsgren and Associates, a Salt Lake firm hired by the city, said all 12 proposals will affect what is called 6(F) property — land that has received federal funding under the land and water conservation fund.

That means before road construction starts, the city must mitigate, something

that could take two to eight years to complete, according to Matt Phares, an engineering consultant near Lone Peak High, said everyone will be affected in some way. Rios suggested moving the corridor further south.

Councilman Mike Long said that if American Fork would work with them, the southern location could be a viable option.

No timetable has been set for the council to make a final decision.

Robert Rios, a teacher at