

Dear Talavera Neighbors,

As you are aware, the work at the construction site of the new High School on Dripping Springs Road is in high gear. We can expect to see increased construction traffic and we are anticipating huge increases in numbers of vehicles when the school opens. Your Talavera Community Association Board of Directors is monitoring the progress of plans to deal with this increased traffic and the resulting safety issues. In order to share this information and to encourage our residents to be involved in the process of finding solutions, we will be sending out periodic "Traffic Updates" to your email address. We hope that the updates will be brief and informative. If you do not wish to receive these updates, just reply to the address above.

We will include in this "Traffic Update #1" facts which we have learned about plans for dealing with the large volume of vehicles the school will bring. We will also list questions we think must be answered prior to completion of school construction.

- A. The school is projected to be completed in 2011. The School District (LCPS) has given estimates of 2000 students to as many as 4000 students who will attend the facility. They have at times indicated that the school will "phase in students a year at a time" and at other times suggested the possibility of temporarily moving students from Las Cruces High School if that school requires major renovation.
- B. LCPS will only be required to pave the portion of Sonoma Ranch Blvd running from the school to Dripping Springs Road. All traffic to and from the school will use Dripping Springs Road and enter via the intersection with Sonoma Ranch Road. This is currently a dirt road at the gravel operations just west of the A-Mountain curve. There are currently no plans for other access to the school via other streets.
- C. The City of Las Cruces is now in the process of annexation of land containing the new high school and the Farm and Ranch Museum. Dripping Springs Road will not be included in this annexation, however the City is negotiating an agreement allowing City maintenance of Dripping Springs Road. The contractor for the School District, Bohannon Houston is drawing up plans to improve Dripping Springs Road to create turning lanes but no traffic light is planned at this time at the intersection with Sonoma Ranch Blvd.

**Questions we would like to see answered:**

1. Can alternate routes to the school be planned to remove part of the traffic from Dripping Springs Road? Can Missouri, Roadrunner and Sonoma Ranch be extended so they all access the school from different directions?
2. Can Dripping Springs Road be widened to accommodate the huge volume increase in traffic? Can additional lanes in each direction be constructed so residents commuting to and from Talavera will not be halted waiting for vehicles turning into the high school?
3. What will happen to the bike lanes on Dripping Springs which currently are so frequently used by cyclists in our area?
4. What will the speed limit be on Dripping Springs Road be when the school opens?
5. What is being planned to ease the anticipated traffic congestion at intersections going into

Las Cruces, such as University and Telshor?

These are questions which should be answered now, not when the school is completed and Talavera residents find themselves in major traffic delays. Do you have questions to add to our list?

**Your opportunity to ask these questions and any others you may have:**

Las Cruces Planning and Zoning Meeting: Tuesday, December 15, 6:00PM City Council Chambers: Will be voting on annexation of new high school.

Las Cruces City Council: January 19, 2010: First reading of motion to annex new high school.

Las Cruces City Council: February 23, 2010: Final vote on annexation of new high school.

Las Cruces School District Board Meeting: December 15, 2009 and January 19, 2010, Administration Board Room, 6:30PM. Public input for issues pertaining to the new high school is early in the meeting agenda.

Feel free to direct questions to us at: [hzagona@gmail.com](mailto:hzagona@gmail.com) or [douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com). We also would like your name to add to our volunteer list so that as plans develop we can coordinate our response.

**MANY THANKS FROM YOUR TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**