

Second Round of Late Material for the June 10, 2020, Regional Transportation Commission Meeting

Item 6-A on the 70% Design Plans for Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead

Included:

- Letter from Donna Inversin
- Letter from Kelly Clark
- Petition from Muscle Power

## Dirk Goering

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**From:** Lucia Maloney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Dirk Goering  
**Subject:** FW: For RTC meeting Item 6-A on the 70% Design Plans for Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Donna Inversin <[donnaiv1@gmail.com](mailto:donnaiv1@gmail.com)>  
Date: 6/10/20 12:11 PM (GMT-08:00)  
To: Lucia Maloney <[LMaloney@carson.org](mailto:LMaloney@carson.org)>  
Subject: For RTC meeting Item 6-A on the 70% Design Plans for Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead

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I am in full support of the Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead Project.

I feel that the City has been very diligent in providing the resident and the public every opportunity during the planning process to participate.

I believe that the improvements planned will go along way to address many of the safety issues and flooding issues in this area.

I understand the residents desire to restrict the number of visitors but as Carson City has grown this was so the number of people eager to access the public lands were sure to increase. We've all seen the crazy mess of cars that show up on a lovely weekend day. The parking lot will go along way to help alleviate some of the problems. And the toilet is necessary, we've already seen problems for not having it.

Once there is a formal parking lot, then enforcing no parking along the road will help to reduce the impact on the trail, and I know that the Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space and Rangers have been doing education on how to enjoy the trails without damaging them. More of that will go a long way to keep our trails in good condition.

Thank You

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Happy Trails

Donna N. Inversin 

Cell 775.315.6763

[donnaiv1@gmail.com](mailto:donnaiv1@gmail.com)

"There's nothing I admire more than someone planting trees under whose shade they may never get to sit."

The Second Best Marigold Hotel

## Dirk Goering

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**From:** Kelly Clark <kkclark60@rocketmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** Dirk Goering; Lucia Maloney; 'Chas Macquarie'  
**Subject:** Public Input on Item 6A agenda item RTC June 10, 2020

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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### To the Carson City staff and board members of the Regional Transportation Commission:

In regard to item 6-A on today's RTC agenda: "6-A For Information Only - To provide a status update and solicit comments on the Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead Project. This is a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant project for trailhead, roadway, and storm water improvements between the Kings Canyon trailhead and just east of the Canyon Drive and Kings Canyon Road intersection."

I am submitting this email as public input to the meeting.

I would ask the RTC and Carson City staff to revise the schedule for implementation of this project until current safety issues at the trailhead can be addressed. The trails are very popular with the public and significant usage is visible every weekend and most evenings. The traffic controls are insufficient to support the current usage; additional parking and perhaps other facilities are needed.

Carson City has developed a beautiful trail system that is the envy of Northern Nevada. I support the completion of the Project, but the safety needs at the trail head, which serves hikers to the waterfall trail, equestrian users, runners and hikers accessing the Ash to Kings trail needs to be addressed.

Kelly Clark  
1910 Jacques Way  
Carson City, NV  
89701

June 10, 2020

Mr. Dirk Goering, AICP  
Senior Transportation Planner  
Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Re: RTC Agenda Item 6-A, Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead Project, Review of 70% Design Plan.**

Chairman and members of the RTC:

On behalf of the Muscle Powered Board of Directors, please accept this letter supporting the 70% design plan for the Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead Project. We welcome the proposed road reconfiguration: a dedicated trailhead parking area containing a restroom; drainage improvements; ancillary walkways; equestrian safety improvements; and signage – all which are needed to improve the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, and vehicular movements at the Kings Canyon Waterfall Trailhead. Our City residents and visitors have discovered this unique site that provides easy access to recreational use of the Waterfall Road, the Waterfall Trail, Kings Canyon Road and Muscle Powered's Ash-to-Kings Trail, which received the 2015 American Trails National Award and is located 1.8 miles further up Kings Canyon Road.

The Waterfall Site at the terminus of the paved section of Kings Canyon Road is very important for access and staging of some of the most amazing trails in our region. The present facilities and road configuration cannot serve its users without numerous conflict and safety concerns that also negatively affect local residents. We believe that these conflicts can be mitigated through the construction of the comprehensive and well-designed improvements enumerated in the 70% plan.

In the near future, other proposed trails, such as the Lincoln Bypass, an off-road, non-motorized multipurpose trail that will run parallel to Kings Canyon Road and serve as a connector to the Tahoe Rim Trail via the Capitol-to-Capitol Trail (Sacramento to Carson City), will also benefit from the staging opportunity offered by these improvements. The facilities are designed to enhance the safe network of non-vehicular infrastructure necessary to advance the City's and Muscle Powered's mutual goal of a well-connected community. Similarly, these improvements will serve as the basis for future access and use of Kings Canyon Road, which is also known for serving as segments of the Historic Lincoln Highway, under a future project being considered by the Carson Ranger District and the Parks Recreation and Open Space Department.

As a nonprofit organization charged with the mission to advocate for bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, Muscle Powered fully supports the Public Works Department's efforts to collaborate with the Parks and Open Space Department to build and maintain infrastructure systems that accommodate and encourage eco-friendly, alternative forms of transportation for all its residents. The improvements as planned will benefit the Community by enhancing our residents' and visitors' user experience and

safety, and also will alleviate the present chaos and conflicts in the neighborhood for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chelsea Kincheloe', written in a cursive style.

Chelsea Kincheloe, President  
Muscle Powered

cc: Muscle Powered Board of Directors

## Dirk Goering

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**From:** Peter Doenges <pdoenges@xmission.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:59 AM  
**To:** Dirk Goering  
**Cc:** Chelsea Kincheloe; Juan Guzman; Gregg Berggren  
**Subject:** Support for Kings Canyon Road & Trailhead improvement project  
**Attachments:** FLAP project map.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Good Morning Dirk,

I live on Carson City's west side not far from Kings Canyon Road and the Waterfall Trailhead. I'm an avid hiker and trail builder / maintainer with Muscle Powered. I favor the Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead improvement project, and want to lend support in the record. I value the amazing trails around here and improved trail access.

I plan to join the livestream of the RTC meeting today for discussion of this project:

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CARSON CITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (RTC)  
<https://www.carson.org/home/showdocument?id=71350>

I will attend the Open Space Advisory Committee and Parks Commission joint meeting on June 15 in support. I appreciated your project overview and timeline after my close forwarded by Chelsea Kincheloe. I reviewed details in the following links on the 70% design, plus the letters from citizens in the above meeting document (p31-50):

Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead 70% Design Plans  
<https://www.carson.org/home/showdocument?id=71128>  
Kings Canyon Road 70% Right-of-Way Plans with Aerial  
<https://www.carson.org/home/showdocument?id=71130>

I spend significant time in Carson's westside foothills and mountains hiking, occasionally biking, and doing a lot of trail work. The area is fantastic! The connectivity, active transportation, nature and wildlife immersion, recreation, and public safety strengthened by the Kings Canyon project are valuable for all of us — and especially now.

I personally support the Kings Canyon project, recognizing there are many issues from visitor and resident perspectives. I back the Muscle Powered letter in support of this project and its fine summary of the values of these proposed improvements. This project brings useful new features to waterfall access, while serving a sometimes crowded narrow trail. I like the parking confined in the new space, restrooms, ADA access, providing for through-vehicle movement and visitor drop-off, and accommodating equestrian users plus hikers and bikers. I recommend that road parking near trailhead be disallowed, hopefully mitigating excess trailhead

loading. I like the bike lane allocated and marked on the uphill side of the road, and the shared-lane biker markings down the road. I hope drainage and erosion problems around the trailhead will improve with all the work on terrain around the site.

As Trails Coordinator for Muscle Powered, I see the Kings Canyon project as strengthening support for trail user access to and interconnectivity with Ash to Kings Trail, plus the planned Lincoln Bypass Trail (extending Longview Trail to the south trailhead of Ash to Kings Trail) and the Capital to Tahoe Trail (eastern end launching from the top of Ash to Kings). The trailhead, parking and road improvements I think bring order to chaos in the current state of affairs, and provide a springboard to improve access up Kings Canyon to new trails. I hope that someday Kings Canyon Road will be improved up to the south trailhead of Ash to Kings, and more parking allocated up the road.

I acknowledge the challenged waterfall trail loading described by residents and visitors, and concerns about environmental impacts in the waterfall area. I still think the project adds many useful features to waterfall access and makes the road safer. Speeding drivers deserve enforcement there, and I'm concerned about adequate enforcement. I encounter them as aggressive drivers press from behind or pass after my trail work or hiking there. I see deer early in the day on the road a lot, and this needs attentive drivers with wildlife warning lights. Walkers and hikers heading up Kings Canyon need a shoulder or shared-use corridor to be safe. Gate locking into the parking after hours hopefully limits parties there, which should be explicitly prohibited with penalties. Restrooms set back more as they are from the residents remove any excuse to go knock on residents' doors asking for favors.

One could try to choke down the use of this wonderful trail and related trails accessed from the trailhead, but that is contrary to the value of trails. I think the current state of affairs is a developing mess. The trail itself needs more respect by users and hardened features that mitigate hiker abuse. I wish for some effective capacity-limiting design or active measurement of waterfall trail loading that would caution arriving visitors about trail congestion. I respect the constructive and eloquent concerns of residents offered about the project. Yet in the balance of private vs. public interests, the Kings Canyon project seems right to me. I picture the status quo, and the future of doing nothing, including effects on nearby residents, with more visitors unceasingly discovering the Waterfall Trail.

I wish you a successful project. I'm devoted to help link this area into the larger Eastern Sierra trails complex.

Respectfully,

Pete Doenges  
Muscle Powered  
Hike Lead  
Crew Lead  
Trails Coordinator  
Board Member

Peter & Vicki Doenges  
1160 Sharrow Way  
Carson City, NV 89703-4843  
Mobile: 801-641-0114  
Home: 775-461-0734  
[pdoenges@xmission.com](mailto:pdoenges@xmission.com)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dirk Goering** <[DGoering@carson.org](mailto:DGoering@carson.org)>

Date: Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 2:39 PM

Subject: Kings canyon

To: [ckincheloe@musclepowered.org](mailto:ckincheloe@musclepowered.org) <[ckincheloe@musclepowered.org](mailto:ckincheloe@musclepowered.org)>

Hey Chelsea,

Thanks for chatting this morning. Please find below information on the project.

The betterments included with this project include the following:

- Reconstruction of about a mile of roadway, which is currently in poor condition (pavement condition ranges from 5 to 20 on a scale of 100, 100 being new pavement)
- Safety improvements, such as relocation of utility poles near the road and general improvements to roadway geometry
- Widening the road, the existing road ranges between 18 and 23 feet
  - The new road is designed with a bike lane on the uphill side and shoulders
  - Pedestrians and bicyclists are common on this section of road
- Significant improvements to roadside drainage and creek crossings
  - Flooding is an issue
  - New design will make it easier to clear debris from western most creek crossing
  - Drainage improvements will maintain roadway integrity for the long term
- The trailhead is expanding to handle current peak volumes, includes:
  - Paved parking
  - Bathroom facilities
  - A security gate, to close parking area as dusk (in talking with abutting properties, night time parties in the current parking area are a problem)
  - Trail relocation to help reduce erosion from trail cutting and increase distance from private property

- Roadway improvements to discourage and prevent on-street parking, due to emergency response concerns

Worth noting, this project is funded from a competitive grant, and totals approximately \$3.7 million. The local match is 5%.

Please find below information on the timeline.

- The grant application was submitted in 2017, with support from the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee, and the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- In August 2018, the Carson City RTC approved an agreement with Central Federal Lands.
- In September 2018, the City sent a letter to 93 property owners who use this portion of Kings Canyon as access – the letter introduced the project and informed residents that survey teams may be on site.
  - The letter noted that a public meeting would be scheduled in the beginning of 2019 to share the preliminary design and take comments
  - The letter provided staff contact information and encouraged folks to meet and discuss the plans.
- In April 2019, the City received 30% design plans.
  - A second letter was sent to the same 93 property owners inviting the residents to meet with staff.
  - Design plans were placed in the library and at public works.
  - 30% design plans remain available online at the link below:
    - <https://www.carson.org/government/departments-g-z/public-works/transportation/documents1>
- In October of 2019, the Open Space Committee and Parks Commission provided comments on the design of the trailhead.
- In January of 2020, staff received 70% plans for review. Due to the number of concerns from staff, revised 70% plans were requested.
- On May 13<sup>th</sup>, revised 70% plans were received.
- On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, revised 70% design plans were placed online and letters announcing the 70% plans were sent out.

○ <https://www.carson.org/government/departments-g-z/public-works/transportation/documents1>

- On June 10<sup>th</sup> the Regional Transportation Commission will have an item on their agenda.
  - The RTC provides a bi-monthly project status report for all transportation capital projects, Kings Canyon has been part of this report since 2018.
- On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Open Space Committee and Parks Commission (joint meeting) will have an item on their agenda.

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Dirk Goering, AICP

Senior Transportation Planner

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