



September 19, 2019

**Statement Regarding Bitner—Silver Creek Connector**

Dear Silver Creek and Bitner Ranch Road Association Community Members:

Thank you for your interest in helping us achieve the proper balance on this connector road.

As you likely know from our County Council meeting on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we proposed two preferred road alignments as shown on the attached slide from our presentation, namely the “Frontage Road” and the “Bitner Alt 2 Church Street”.

Some of you asked and we granted a period of time (until our Council meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>) for all of the stakeholders in these communities to come together and analyze the situation (as we have attempted) to come up with other proposals for our consideration.

As you consider carefully the potential alternate routes and develop a recommendation, we want to reiterate our view of the purpose and need for this connector, which is for both emergency access and transportation, as more fully described on the attached slide from last week’s presentation. Alternatives that address only one and not both, suggest doing nothing, or propose a gated, generally inaccessible road, are not acceptable.

Any proposed connection in between these neighborhoods will impact some property owners to some degree. The County Council has tried to be thoughtful in our approach to minimize the ultimate impact and to consider carefully the safety and property impacts on various neighborhoods.

As you deliberate, we ask you to consider the connection broadly from the perspective of the overall benefits to the community while limiting, to the greatest degree possible, negative safety impacts on neighborhoods and properties--all while still fulfilling the overall goals of the project. Also, it is critical to remember that a road will not be constructed without the inclusion of elements that mitigate significant safety concerns such as safe pathways for pedestrians in areas such as transit centers, neighborhoods and bus stops.


We understand that a survey is being proposed to ask the residents their opinions as to these two alignments or perhaps a third. While this may be helpful and informative, it will not necessarily be determinative and any decision we make ultimately will be in furtherance of the goals of the project balanced against safety and neighborhood impacts.

Wetlands, commercial corridors, traffic flows, emergency ingress and egress, transportation and transit connectivity among neighborhoods in the general area, right-of-way acquisition and costs, as well as ongoing maintenance costs are all factors that the County will consider. This requires a community solution and not an “our neighborhood versus their neighborhood” alternative.

We would hope that any survey undertaken will touch on all of the foregoing issues to arrive at any recommended alternatives and would reflect fairly the voices and choices of the broadest representation of the community.

Thank you again for undertaking a process to help clarify choices and alternatives for the County Council. We are very interested in seeing where a good and inclusive process leads you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Armstrong', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Roger Armstrong  
Chair, Summit County Council

Attachments

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## Silver Creek Road-Bitner Ranch Road Connector

# Preferred Alignments

