

## **St. Croix Bike Path**

St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

### **Public Information Meeting**

Governor John Luis Hospital Virgin Island Cardiac Center

Conference Room

April 20, 2010

At the beginning of the meeting, Cruzan Bikeways President Robert White welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Commissioner of Public Works Darryl Smalls. Commissioner Smalls also welcomed everyone to the public meeting and explained that the US Virgin Island Government is supportive of the proposed bike path and has committed funding to build the project. He explained that many of the property owners along the route have expressed support for the project and that he hoped the remaining property owners would also support future bike path development. Neil Maher, right of way agent, introduced himself and asked that any property owners in attendance meet with him to discuss the land acquisition process in greater detail.

Mr. White introduced Chuck Flink, President of Greenways Incorporated, who then made a brief presentation about the project and its benefits to island residents.

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting. A sign in sheet is provided as an attachment to these meeting minutes.

### **Questions from meeting participants:**

**Q: What type of fencing will be designed to keep livestock secure? We are concerned that a visual connection to livestock from the bike path will encourage path users to hop fences and cause mischief.**

*A: Yes, the University of the Virgin Islands has been developing a fencing system that is stronger and reinforced to prevent cattle from breaking through the standard barbed wire fence that has historically been used on the island. Bob White, President of Cruzan Bikeways Inc. has installed this prototype on his property and has found it to be effective.*

*With respect to keeping people out of the livestock fields, the consultant and Cruzan Bikeways Inc. is open to ideas from landowners and will work with each landowner to address specific needs.*

**Q: What kind of fencing can be used to create visual separation from the bike path?**

*A: The consultant has used many different types of fencing to separate trails from private property. One such fence is a board on board fence that can be installed in sections. Again, Cruzan Bikeways Inc. proposes to work with each landowner to resolve fencing needs. Please forward suggestions and design ideas to Cruzan Bikeways Inc.*

**Q: What are the hours of use for the trail?**

*A: The standard hours of use for the Bike Path will be open at sunrise and closed at sunset. The consultant has authored and provided to Cruzan Bikeways Inc. an operations and management plan for the bike path. Rules and regulations for trail use are addressed in this O&M Plan. Also, a recommended enforcement action is provided to address violations of the hours of use policy.*

**Q: Who will police the trail?**

*A: Cruzan Bikeways Inc. has had preliminary discussions with the US Virgin Island police. It is expected that serious matters would be referred to police. Cruzan Bikeways Inc. also wants to institute a Path Ambassadors program that will make use of volunteers to patrol and assist police in monitoring activities during the normal hours of pathway use. Commissioner of Public Works Smalls agreed that these are valid concerns and that the USVI government is aware of the need to address crime and public safety for the bike path project. He asked that this be resolved through an island wide effort that involves cooperation among government and residents.*

**Q: Concerned that the designation of a “bike path” will force experienced cyclists off of the roadway system and onto the “bike path.” Suggest that the name be changed so that “bike path” is not used.**

*A: The consultant expressed his understanding of this issue, he stated that bicycles are classified as “vehicles” and are entitled to use the roads. Competitive cyclists may choose not to use the bike path because it is a shared use path and is not intended to facilitate competitive riding. An island wide education program needs to be undertaken to educate motorists and cyclists of the need to share the road. Commissioner of Public Works Smalls addressed this issue saying it was the responsibility of all island residents to work together on this issue.*

**Q: I am concerned that motorists can drive off of the roadway and on to the bike path. What barriers will prevent motorists from driving on the bike path?**

*A: The trail cross section illustrated indicates that existing fencing and ditches will be retained between the bike path and South Shore Road to prevent motorists from driving onto the bike path.*

**Q: At intersections, what prevents motorists from driving onto the bike path?**

*A: At intersections, a system of bollards will be installed to prevent motorists from driving down the path system. The center bollard will be a lockable metal bollard. Keys to that bollard would be provided to maintenance and emergency services personnel.*

**Q: Will dogs be allowed on the bike path? Should they be on leashes? We are concerned with the number of aggressive dogs on the island. Suggest no dogs be allowed on the trail.**

*A: The hours of use and path regulations determine that all dogs must be kept on a leash at all times while using the trail. Dog owners that don't comply would be in violation of this policy and subject to fines and or prosecution. Cruzan Bikeways Inc. will consider a prohibition of dogs on the trail.*

**Q: How will access to the trail be provided for emergency services personnel?**

*A: The operations and management plan specifies that emergency personnel will be provide with access to the bike path. The path will be designed to support a live load of 12,500 pounds which is the equivalent of a fully loaded ambulance. Also, the trail will have an address system and should be incorporated into the island wide 911 system.*

**Q: Are restrooms (toilets) going to be provided along the bike path, and where would they be located?**

*A: Restrooms would be provided at the two trail heads (Hovenssa property near Estate Humbug and Camp Arawak). Additional restrooms are available at Cramer Park.*

**Q: Where will trash receptacles be located? How often is trash collected?**

*A: Trash receptacles will be located at trail heads. Some trash receptacles can be located along the trail on an as needed basis. Cruzan Bikeways Inc. will monitor this situation and install additional trash cans where needed.*

**Q: How far will the bike path be located from Longmont Village buildings?**

*A: Currently, the bike path design is routed at least 30 feet away from the village buildings. If this is not suitable, the route of the path can be moved in cooperation with the property owner. Any impact to chutes or livestock facilities and operations will be taken into consideration and mitigated.*

**Q: Will the trail be lighted for nighttime use?**

*A: The trail, as a rule, will not be lighted at night. However, if a particular property owner wants to light the bike path, they can work with Cruzan Bikeways Inc. and the USVI government to evaluate lighting proposals and install lights where appropriate.*

**Q: Can the powerlines along Southshore Road be buried during bike path construction?**

*A: Bob Hoffman, Executive Director of Cruzan Bikeways Inc. responded that he has been in discussions with WAPA about burying these lines. It is expensive and WAPA needs funding to carry this out. Commissioner of Public Works Smalls also responded that the Department of Public Works will work with WAPA to see if some of the lines can be buried during bike path construction. His understanding is that Federal funding for bike path construction can be used to bury some of the powerlines.*

**Q: We are concerned that if vegetation is removed to improve site lines to the trail that this will encourage speeding along South Shore Road.**

*A: Cruzan Bikeways Inc. is concerned about public safety on the trail and it is our desire to remove and manage the vegetation along the trail to keep site lines open. Commssioner of Public Works Smalls said that the Department of Public Works is working on design ideas to slow traffic along Southshore Road.*

**Q: I have witnessed lots of car wrecks along Southshore Road and I fear that the 30 foot easement that is reserved for the trail is where a majority of the wrecks wind up. I am concerned that people using the trail could be impacted.**

*A: Commissioner of Public Works Smalls responded that the Department is looking at Southshore Road in a comprehensive manner. This is a question for roadway engineers and is being addressed. The consultant added that if there were particularly unsafe curves or roadway corners that pose a health risk that USVI could look at installing guard rails approved by USDOT between the bike path and Southshore Road.*

**Q: What is the projected phasing for project construction, where do you intend to start trail construction?**

*A: Cruzan Bikeways Inc. is working in cooperation with the US Virgin Islands government to determine where the start of bike path construction will take place. No final decision has been reached at this point in time.*