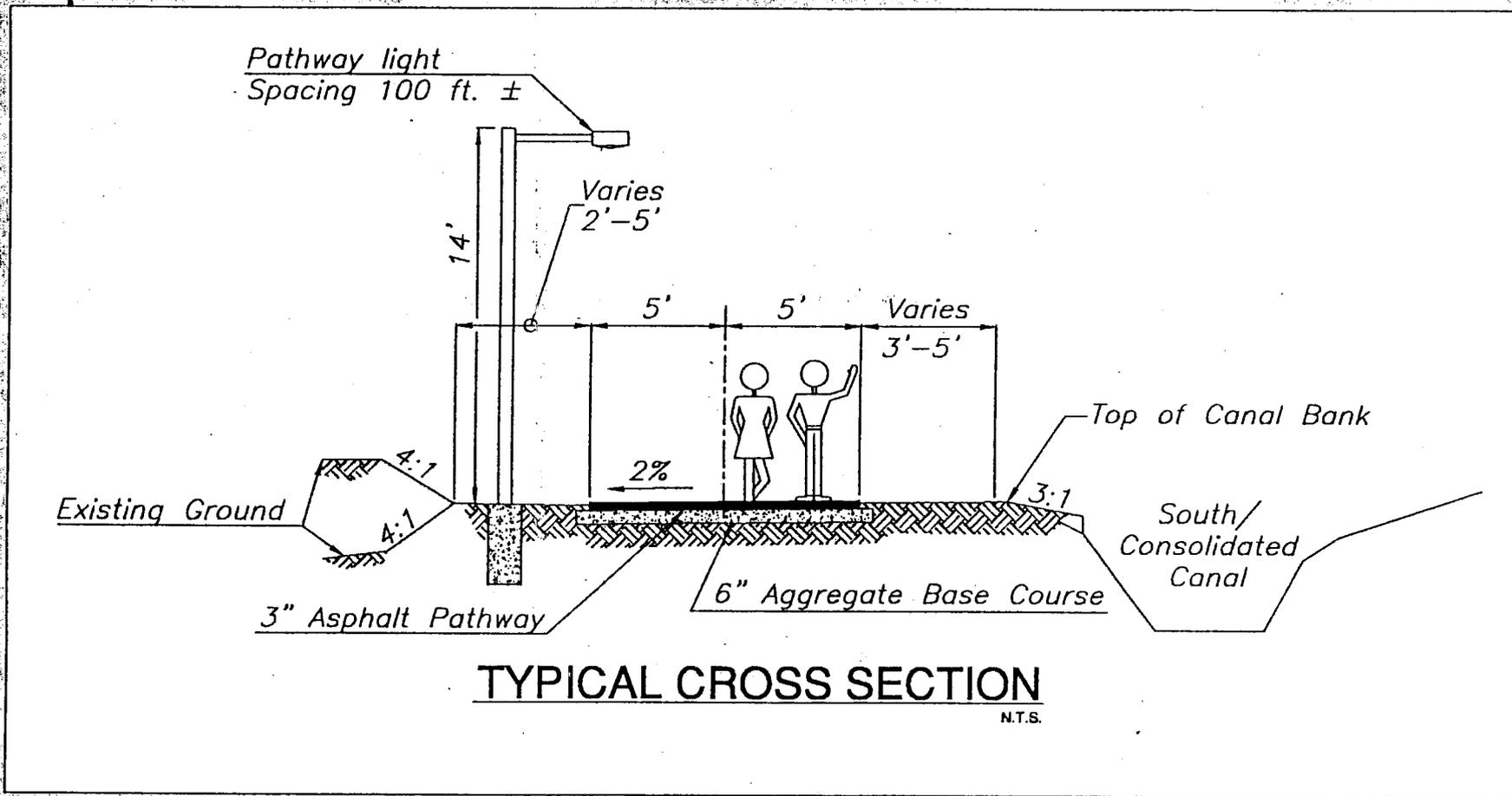


Pathway Cross-Section





1118 E. Lockwood Street Mesa, Arizona 85203

Date: December 19, 2006

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Lehi Community Improvement Association

Regarding: South Canal Bank Multi-use Path

We are submitting a letter regarding the Canal project that is coming thru the Lehi area. During our Board Meeting last week we discussed this project and its potential impact to our small rural equestrian area. It also contained discussion about how this conformed to our Sub Area Plan. As you know, the Mayor and Council adopted our Lehi Sub Area Plan on Jan. 26th, 2006, Resolution 8655. It is noted that many people served on that committee, both residents of Lehi and City Staff.

Historically, you will find that Lehi is defined by the South Canal Bank to differentiate us from other parts of the community. Lehi being the oldest community in Mesa, has had this boundary ever since its inception in 1877.

Therefore, after reviewing the comments from many residents of both sides of the canal, we found the most controversial issue was the **Lighting**. It was concluded from Board discussion that if the lighting was eliminated, it would be in the best interests of Lehi. As a Board, we voted on that specific issue and everyone voted **unanimously** that lighting should not be on the canal in the Lehi area.

We ask that you honor the Lehi Sub Area Plan and note that most everyone does not want lighting on the canal. We recognize many people served on a Committee for this project, but even our 2 representatives from Lehi said they had to work on specific guidelines and if they had an option, lights would not be in Lehi. Since the Committee and others have worked on the project there have been new properties added along the canal, and most of them or their concerns have not been heard and do not want the additional light pollution from the canal to spoil their views and neither do the Lehi residents want the additional traffic during the night time. Lehi residents want to maintain the rural lifestyle that we enjoy by having a trail system that is compatible with our way of life. In fact it would be best to have a trail system with just decomposed granite on the dirt and not the asphalt.

We would like you to hear our concerns and honor them. There are other issues that affect this trail system, but they do not concern us as much.

In conclusion, to reaffirm we as a Lehi Community do not want the proposed lighting system from McKellips Road to McDowell! Thanks for your time. The Board members voting on this issue are as follows:

Mark A. Freeman, Board President

Paul Heywood, V. President

Chris Lambly, Treasurer

Michele McCrosky

Beverly Self

Leslie Hanson

Vern Watson

Kevin Rogers

City Council Meeting- Talking points

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and opinions on the South Canal multi-use path.

I'm Doug Mathews and this is my wife Nicki, we live at 1037 E Knoll St, on the north side of the canal, below the canal pathway. We moved there in 2004 after this design was completed.

We are in a group of about 6 or 7 homes on the north side which are directly affected by the installation of this path.

My concerns with the Path are multi-faceted:

1. The city of Mesa is strapped for cash and you see articles fairly regularly about how the city is having to cut services and can't even keep the downtown landscaping kept up. This kind of discretionary spending seems ill served. I realize this is partially city and federally funded, but all of the money is our taxes. Either the city has money troubles or it doesn't, - one question you should ask- which is it? If we have lots of extra money, then it may make sense to build this recreational trail for a limited number of people.
2. Based on its limited location as defined in the City's brochure, it is serving a small area of close in people now. Unfortunately, it will bring ~~in more people into the neighborhood.~~
 - a. More noise- lots of dogs along the canal bank already bark- mine are the worst offenders, but great watchdogs- which is a good thing
 - b. ~~Will need~~ watchdogs for the additional crime that may come in. Face it, only 1 mile south and a block or two east from Mckellips and Horne, is the start of a heavy crime area, murders, drug use, etc.
 - c. This path is already used by the local neighborhoods. Why does it need to be opened up for bringing more people in? Are the high end neighborhoods on the south side of the canal demanding it? Who is really behind this "target need" as it is identified in the Project details? Is this being put in place from a policing perspective?
 - d. People are already using it as a multi-path, so why is there a need to pave it and light it- particularly all night long?
 - e. The paving plan doesn't leave a lot of room for the horse trail. And I can't imagine paving being a better surface for a horse.
3. From our own selfish concerns:
 - a. If paved, more horses will use the lower canal path which is directly behind our house and at the same level as the top of our fence.
 - b. We lose some level of privacy in any case due to the increased traffic
 - c. We have to endure people driving our dogs nuts.
 - d. We lose a very beautiful night sky as the canal blocks out the lights from the city.

We realize that this is a "done deal" as the engineering department told us at the open house on this. We had come to accept its inevitability, but we do welcome this opportunity to put our opinions in. Even if you don't change your plans, we do think you owe us the answers to the questions we have all raised.