



CITY OF SUN VALLEY  
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

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**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**From:**  Mark Hofman, Community Development Director  
**Meeting Date:** March 7, 2013  
**Agenda Item:** CH2M Hill Scope of Work and Budget for Evaluation of the Juniper and Elkhorn Road Intersection

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**SUBJECT:** Discussion and action regarding a revised scope of work and budget from the City's contract engineer, CH2M Hill, for a safety evaluation of the Juniper and Elkhorn Road intersection.

**BACKGROUND:** On October 18, 2012, the City Council approved \$15,050 from the FY 2013 General Fund Contingency for safety measures at the Juniper and Elkhorn bike path and street intersection. The work identified included reduction of the dirt road cut shoulder adjacent to the existing bike path and the installation of a standard street light. The dirt modification design received Sun Valley Elkhorn Association (SVEA) approval on September 27, 2012. The approved street light was installed and illuminated by the City and the dirt modification element was left for the next building season due to the onset of winter conditions.

The City Council again discussed the modification project at their January 3, 2013 regular meeting in response to numerous public comments on the project. The Council directed staff to turn the street light off pending further investigation of potential safety, light and aesthetic impact issues and return to the next meeting of the Council with a range of options, measures or designs for consideration.

On February 7, 2013, the City Council reviewed a proposal from Betsy Roberts of CH2M Hill which contained a series or range of potential subtasks for the Council to select from as may be deemed appropriate. The City Council passed a motion to select a revised Task 1 that evaluates solely the Juniper and Elkhorn Road intersection with additional evaluation of any existing crash data, a lighting evaluation, inclusion of other safety options, and consideration of off-site mitigation measures.

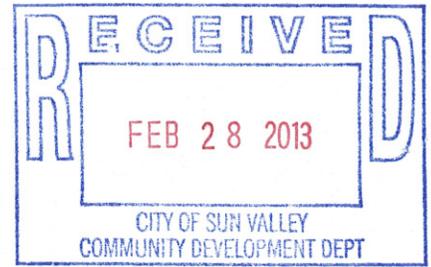
**ANALYSIS:** The goal for the City Council is to evaluate conditions at the Juniper and Elkhorn Road intersection to examine if a safety issue exists due to the interactions of various users of the roads and path. If a safety issue exists, the Council should decide which methods or options are most appropriate to mitigate danger and maximize public safety in a proactive manner that also minimizes lighting and aesthetic impacts on the neighborhood.

As directed, the revised draft CH2M Hill Task 1 Order for City engineering evaluation is attached to this Report for consideration as **Exhibit "CC-1"**. Four (4) additional public comment emails have been received by staff since the February 7, 2013 meeting and these are added to the record and forwarded to the Mayor and City Council as attached **Exhibit "CC-2"**. The action before the City Council for this Thursday, March 7, 2013 meeting is to review and take action on the draft Task Order from CH2M Hill as proposed or as may be amended to reflect the comments of the Mayor and Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Community Development Director recommends the City Council review and discuss the requested draft scope of work and consider a motion to approve the Task Order as presented or as may be amended.

**LIST OF ATTACHED EXHIBITS:**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Exhibit "CC-1" | CH2M Hill Task Order for City of Sun Valley for the 2013 Sun Valley Elkhorn-Juniper Intersection Evaluation, consisting of four 8.5" by 11" pages stamped received by the City on February 28, 2013.   |
| Exhibit "CC-2" | Public comment emails received by staff since the February 7, 2013 City Council meeting on this matter, including a February 8, 2013 email from John Calvert, a February 8, 2013 email from Matthew Snyder, a February 13, 2013 email from Mal Campbell, and a February 25, 2013 email from Michelle and Frank Dega. |



**CH2M HILL TASK ORDER FOR CITY OF SUN VALLEY**

**Task** 2013 Sun Valley Elkhorn-Juniper Intersection Evaluation

**Project Description:** CH2M HILL, Inc. (CH2M HILL) will evaluate the Elkhorn-Juniper Road Intersection to allow the City of Sun Valley Council to determine if a safety issue exists due to current intersection configuration and interaction of various users. City Engineer will provide alternatives for intersection improvements that Council may consider implementing based on their conclusion regarding intersection safety. The evaluation will be based on current standards and guidelines (as of execution of this task order) such as AASHTO, MUTCD, and the Illuminating Engineering Society.

CH2M HILL and the City of Sun Valley have agreed that CH2M HILL will perform the following services, which are part of the Standard Agreement for Professional Services dated December 19, 2001. The services covered by this Task Order will be performed in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Standard Agreement for Professional Services together with any attachments or schedules.

**Period of Performance:**           **Start:**                   March 11, 2013  
**Completion:**               April 18, 2013. CH2M HILL's ability to meet this timeframe is contingent upon City staff's ability to provide requested data in a timely manner.

**Scope of Services:**           **Elkhorn-Juniper Intersection Evaluation.** This location includes a multi-use path crossing at the intersection that the City recently illuminated to improve visibility of pedestrians and cyclists at night. The purpose of the study is to address neighborhood complaints concerning light trespassing into their homes from the luminaire. The City of Sun Valley is also interested in recommendations for improving safety for pedestrians and vehicles at this intersection. See Attachment 1 for the scope of work.

*Sun Valley  
Intersection  
Evaluation*

- Assumptions:**
- Existing TOPO / Aerial Photo - Microstation or AutoCAD drawing (.dgn or .dwg) or Aerial photo (.sid) to scale with contours of the intersections is available and will be provided by the City.
  - Existing Luminaire specifications (type of light fixture, pole, height, location of pole, shielding type, and lumens) will be provided by the City, including specific location of light.
  - If available, the City will provide the last 5 years of crash data for

the intersection. Crash data will include date and time, type of crash (including any pedestrian related), severity, and any near misses if available. Additionally, a conference call will occur with Bill Whitesell, Mark Hofman, and the Fire and Police Chiefs regarding their experience responding to or seeing incidents occur at the intersection.

- The most current directional Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volumes for the intersecting streets will be used. It is assumed these will come from the 1997 Transportation Masterplan developed for the City by CH2M HILL.
- Pedestrian Counts (if available).
- No cost estimate for recommendations will be prepared as part of this scope.
- Site visit and conference call needs - A site visit will be incorporated into the visit conducted for Pavement Condition Assessment. Up to two conference calls are included with this subtask. Photos will be taken at the time of the Pavement Condition Assessment site visit.
- CH2M HILL may reasonably rely upon the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of information/data provided by the City.

**Compensation:** Estimated Cost Based on Current Per Diem Rates: \$5,898

**Other Terms** N/A

This Task Order sets forth the total compensation for performing the work described herein. All terms, covenants, and conditions of the above-referenced Standard Agreement for Professional Services dated December 19, 2001 remain in full force and effect except if duly modified by this Task Order.

### APPROVAL

CH2M HILL, Inc.

By:

  
Signature

Neil Handyside, PE, Vice President

City of Sun Valley Idaho

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Dewayne Briscoe, Mayor

Date: 2/28 2013

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2013

# Attachment 1

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## *JUNIPER & ELKHORN ROAD INTERSECTION ANALYSIS*

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### *Study Description*

The City of Sun Valley is requesting an engineering study at the intersection of Elkhorn Road and Juniper Road in Sun Valley, ID. This location includes a multi-use pathway crossing near the intersection that the City recently illuminated to improve visibility of pathway users at night. For purposes of this scope, pathway users will include all non-motorized users, and may simply be called pedestrians. The purpose of the study is to address concerns about pedestrian and vehicle safety at the intersection and neighborhood complaints concerning light trespassing into their homes from the luminaire and to provide recommendations to improve the intersection with respect to safety and light trespass. Evaluation of the intersection will be based on current engineering standards and guidelines such as AASHTO, MUTCD, and the Illuminating Engineering Society.

### *Engineering Study*

The engineering study at the Elkhorn Road and Juniper Road Intersection will include the following four elements:

1. Existing illumination review
2. Illumination improvement options
3. Intersection sight distance calculations
4. Options for improving intersection and pathway user safety

**1. Existing Illumination Review** - The study will focus on an illumination analysis of the existing luminaire based on the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) guidelines in order to determine if the light provided meets the recommended guidelines for the existing situation or if modifications may be needed. The IES guidelines will be reviewed with the City's Exterior Lighting Regulations.

**2. Illumination Improvement Options** - The study will provide on-site and off-site improvement option(s) that meet the recommended illumination guidelines but also reduce/eliminate light filtering into nearby homes. Examples of potential improvement options could include:

- Berms
- Landscape features
- Light shield placement
- Modification of light height or type in conformance with dark sky regulations
- Replacement of single light fixture with multiple lower fixtures
- Motion detectors or other methods for triggering warning lights by either pathway users or vehicles
- Reflective paint, reflective or illuminated street signs

**3. Intersection Sight Distance Calculations** – Existing condition intersection sight distances will be calculated and compared against the AASHTO recommended guidelines for both streets and pathways.

**4. Options for Improving Intersection and Pathway User Safety** - The evaluation team understands that pathway familiarity and user behavior will vary, especially during the peak visitor season. This may result in a range of recommended safety improvements. Possible options, regarding pedestrian-vehicle conflict will be reviewed and discussed with the City. Examples of potential safety improvements could include:

- Reduction of the existing ridge between Juniper and the pathway on the northeast side
- Modification of pathway or street alignment
- Installation of detectable warning devices

### ***Products and Deliverables***

A concise memorandum will be prepared summarizing the findings of the four elements of the engineering study. Recommendations and mitigation measures will be discussed based on the results of this study. A concept layout will be provided in Microstation drawing format for the City selected improvement.

### ***Schedule***

Week of March 11<sup>th</sup> - Kick off and gather information

Week of March 18<sup>th</sup> through April 5<sup>th</sup> - Preliminary analysis and draft technical memo

Week of April 8<sup>th</sup> – City staff Review

April 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> – Incorporate City comments and provide final deliverable (concise memorandum)



**Mark Hofman**

**From:** John Calvert [jscalvert@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2013 9:51 AM  
**To:** Mark Hofman  
**Cc:** Chuck Rumpf; 'Suzanne Hazlett'; 'Matthew Snyder'; 'Mark Houtchens'  
**Subject:** CH2M HILL Contract

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

Sun Valley City Council:

I attended the City Council meeting last night, February 7, but was not able to stay for the discussion on Agenda Item 18 regarding the intersection evaluation. I do have some comments regarding the contract with CH2M HILL as it affects the future City expenditures. My comments are:

- If you are going to develop the usage figures ("Pedestrian counts") – how do you do that in four months and not even evaluate the busiest months of the year (the summer months).
- How are they going to get a count of "near misses" – if they are going to talk to people who had "near misses" don't they have to talk to all those (like me) who have never had a problem either driving or walking.
- Is the City taxpayer going to spend \$35,000 to have a consultant tell us how to spend money on eight intersections for "improving intersection and pathway user safety" – I have never had a consultant that didn't have a lot of suggestions on how to spend taxpayer money.
- Aren't there more urgent matters before the City Council???? It seems there must be if the Council meetings have to be seven hours long!!!! Please, let's deal with real problems and not imaginary safety concerns.

Respectfully,

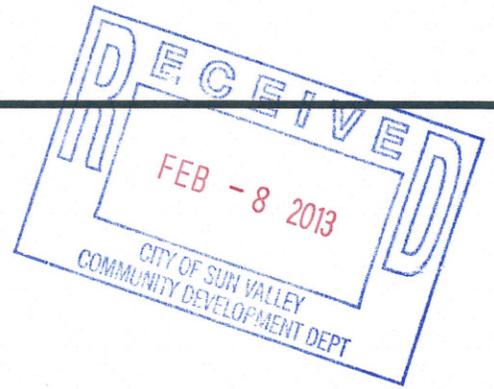
John Calvert  
Alice Calvert  
216 Sunrise

## Mark Hofman

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**From:** Matthew Snyder [mandpsnyder@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2013 2:34 PM  
**To:** Mark Hofman  
**Subject:** Fwd: Juniper Intersection

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



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

**From:** **Matthew Snyder** <[mandpsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:mandpsnyder@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** 8 February 2013 21:14  
**Subject:** Juniper Intersection  
**To:** [mhoffman@svidaho.org](mailto:mhoffman@svidaho.org)  
**Cc:** Chuck Rumpf <[svelkhorn@gmail.com](mailto:svelkhorn@gmail.com)>, John Calvert <[jscalvert@msn.com](mailto:jscalvert@msn.com)>

My husband and I have owned 213 Sunrise for about 35 years.

We are very disheartened to hear the plans for studies of this, and possibly other intersections. This is a rural area, and the solution for bad traffic behaviour is not to 'enable' the inconsiderate amongst our drivers. Enforcement of good driving practise is what is needed - and that is not a costly solution.

Times are difficult and we should not be wasting precious tax dollars on unnecessary studies when it appears we already have the answers to the studies. People do not drive in a manner appropriate to the layout of the roads and stop signs. Paying for the studies, and then digging up a chunk of the hillside (possibly) depending on the results of those studies represents an insult to the taxpayers of the area. These hard-earned dollars would be much better employed elsewhere - or kept for a time of real need.

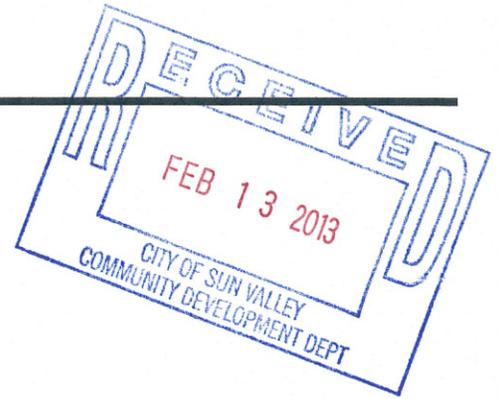
Priscilla and Matthew Snyder

**Mark Hofman**

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**From:** MalCampbe@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2013 10:28 AM  
**To:** Mark Hofman  
**Subject:** (no subject)

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



Looks like our safety issue might be about finished. The only thing left is to mount a traffic mirror on the light pole. This would give a driver at the stop sign a clear uphill view of the trail of ~1000- ft. Though a simple test is required, my guess is it would be effective, could be installed within days at minimal cost, and eliminate the need for further work on the hill. A 32" reflector would be ~ \$300 (see [www.trafficmirror.com](http://www.trafficmirror.com) ).

Would appreciate your thoughts.

Mac

**Mark Hofman**

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**From:** Isabel Lui  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2013 9:57 AM  
**To:** Degadogs@aol.com  
**Cc:** Mark Hofman  
**Subject:** RE: follow-up note on Juniper and Elkhorn Roads



Michelle and Frank,

Thank you for your input about the safety concerns on Juniper and Elkhorn Roads. We will follow up and hopefully will come up with an optimal solution to address the safety issues. Thank you.

Isabel

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**From:** [Degadogs@aol.com](mailto:Degadogs@aol.com) [<mailto:Degadogs@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2013 9:48 AM  
**To:** Isabel Lui  
**Subject:** follow-up note on Juniper and Elkhorn Roads

Dear Isabel: I'm just confirming our conversation on Friday, Feb. 22 about the inherent dangers at the intersection of Juniper Road and Elkhorn Road. My husband and I have been BCRD Ambassadors on the Wood River Trail for over five years, and we are very concerned about the probability of a serious accident happening at this intersection. We ride our bikes down the path through that intersection almost every day from May into October, and we are fearful every time we cross Juniper because the cars just do not stop before the path but instead stop mid-path and often just roll through the stop sign. Obviously we are aware of this problem and, although frightened of the possibility of being hit, we do slow down and use extra caution. However, we are only two of the many bikers who cross the intersection daily, and most of the visitors would not be aware of this dangerous situation, especially children riding ahead of their parents. It is impossible for a driver to see a biker coming from their right because of the berm, and the biker, rollerblader, etc. cannot see a car approaching from their left. Before there is a serious accident, we hope that this intersection will become a much safer intersection. Sincerely, Michelle and Frank Dega, P. O. Box 2715, Sun Valley, ID 83353, (622-4913).