

***Community Impact
Assessment***

4th National CIA Conference

August 23, 2004

Portland, Maine

***Urban Campers:
Unexpected Issues in
Community Impact
Assessment***

***A Case Study of US 301
Through Sarasota***

Urban Campsite



CIA Team

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CIA Process Overview

The Five Steps of the CIA Process

1. Define the Project and Study Area
2. Develop A Community Profile
3. Analyze Impacts
4. Identify Solutions
5. Document Findings



Step 1: The US 301 Project

From Wood St. to S. of University Parkway



Step 1: Camper Locations

- Segment 3

Myrtle St. to South of University Parkway



Step 2: Develop a Community Profile

Identify Neighborhood Boundaries



Step 2: Develop a Community Profile

Research Community Characteristics



Step 2: Develop a Community Profile

Inventory Community Facilities



Step 2: Develop a Community Profile

Discovered Urban Campers During Routine Pond Site Evaluation



Step 3: Analyze Impacts

Direct Impacts

- One Business to be Relocated
- Previous Impact to Neighborhoods by Existing Frontage Road System



Step 3: Analyze Impacts

Indirect Affects

- Congestion
- Livability
- Aesthetics and Landscaping
- Dispersal of Urban Campers



Step 4: Identify Solutions

Avoid

- Minority Neighborhoods



Step 4: Identify Solutions

Mitigate

- Pedestrian Surveys to be Conducted in Design



Step 4: Identify Solutions

Mitigate

- Notification Plan for Urban Campers



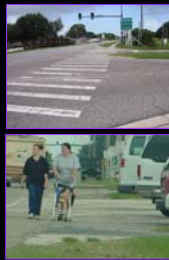
Step 5: Document Findings

- A Summary was Prepared for Inclusion in the NEPA Document and the PER
- A Stand-Alone CIA Document was Produced



CIA Issue Identified

1. The Lack of Pedestrian Amenities was of Concern to the Residents



CIA Issue Resolved

Lack of Pedestrian Amenities

- Held Neighborhood Meetings to Discuss Concerns:

- Newtown Neighborhood
- Amaryllis Park Neighborhood
- Gillespie Park Neighborhood



CIA Issue Resolved

Lack of Pedestrian Amenities

Three questions were asked of the residents:

1. Are there pedestrian and bicycle safety concerns?
2. What is the social structure of your community?
 - School locations
 - Park locations
 - Shopping locations
3. Are there special community needs or concerns?

CIA Issue Resolved

Lack of Pedestrian Amenities

Primary Resident Concern:

“ Children safely crossing US 301.”

CIA Issue Identified

- 2. The Urban Camper Enclaves at Pond Site Locations Needed to be Relocated or Removed



CIA Issue Resolved

Urban Camper Enclaves

- Met with County and City Officials and Staff to Discuss Possible Solutions
- Held Meetings with Organizations that Specialize in Serving the Needs of the Homeless.



CIA Issue Resolved

Urban Camper Enclaves

- Agencies That We Contacted:
 - Salvation Army
 - Sarasota County
 - Parks & Recreation Dept.
 - Health & Human Services
 - Social Services
 - Public Works
 - City of Sarasota
 - District Commissioner
 - Development Services Dept.
 - Neighborhood Development Dept.



CIA Issue Resolved

Urban Camper Enclaves

- Identified Organizations/Agencies That Specialize in Serving the Needs of the Homeless. Developed a Plan to Reach Out Through These Organizations.

- Church
- Housing Agencies
- Free clinics
- Emergency Rooms
- Red Cross
- Soup Kitchens
- Outreach Ministries



Urban Camper Profile

- 3,000 in Sarasota County (approx.)
 - 1/3 suffer from abuse problems
 - 1/3 suffer from mental problems
 - 1/3 suffer from economic problems
- 40% are women with children
- Average age is 9 years old



Plan for Relocating Urban Camper Enclaves

GOAL

To Ensure that Human Values and Concerns Receive Proper Attention During Project Design

Plan for Relocating Urban Camper Enclaves

- To Reach Out, We Asked a Series of Questions:
 - What/where are the places where the homeless may potentially disperse?
 - ♦ Open spaces and parks
 - What are the needs of the homeless?
 - ♦ Food and shelter

Plan for Relocating Urban Camper Enclaves

- What are the potential effects on the surrounding community if the homeless disperse?
 - ♦ Adjacent open spaces and parks were reviewed for their vulnerability or availability.
 - ♦ Adjacent residential and commercial structures were assessed as to their vulnerability.

Plan for Relocating Urban Camper Enclaves

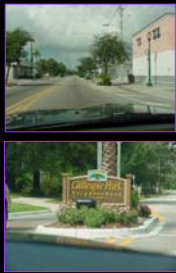
- Can the homeless enclaves safely relocate in advance of construction?
 - How: Utilize contacts from the organizations and agencies to act as agents.
 - What: 'Message' - Site is privately owned land that will be under construction soon.

Plan for Relocating Urban Camper Enclaves

- Can the homeless enclaves safely relocate in advance of construction?
 - Why: Ask that they relocate themselves. No police will be involved.
 - When: Six months in advance of REAL date.
 - Provide flyers in necessary languages repeating the REAL date and a listing of social services available in the area.

Outcome PD&E Commitments

1. A Commitment to Coordinate with the City and County to Determine Appropriate Landscaping Features



Outcome PD&E Commitments

2. A Commitment to Resurvey to Determine Feasible Pedestrian Amenities



Outcome

PD&E Commitments

3. A Commitment to Notify Urban Camper Enclaves Six Months Prior to Construction



Conclusions

- Commissioners, City, And County Staff are Pleased
- Social Agencies Loved It
- Neighborhoods Felt Empowered
- Improved the DOT Image
- A Better Way to do Business



Lessons Learned

- Beware of Scope Creep! Don't Try to Solve Problems that are Not Ours to Solve.
- Coordination and Follow-Through with Design Portion of Project is Essential.
- Issues are Best Addressed Early in the Process.

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