

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

APPROVED

HELD ON March 19, 2019

The Transportation Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in the Lower Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on March 19, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

<u>TAB Members Present</u>	<u>TAB Members Absent</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
David Camp (Chairperson)	Jennifer Love	Ryan Hudson
Ron Wilson (Vice Chairperson)	Sam Gatton	Stephanie Derivan
Chris Scott		Sabine Ellis
Ian Murray		Erik Guderian
Ryan Wozniak		Richard Smith
Dave Bergner		Anna Janusz
Megan Neal		
Vern Mathern		

Chairperson David Camp called the March 19, 2019 Transportation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Item 1. Approval of the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on January 15, 2019

It was moved by Chairperson David Camp, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Camp – Wilson – Scott – Murray – Wozniak – Bergner – Neal – Mathern

NAYS – None

Item 2. Acknowledge outgoing board member Amanda Abou-Eid

Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer, acknowledged that Amanda Abou-Eid has officially resigned due to personal business.

Chairperson David Camp acknowledged the need to find a new board member.

Item 3. Items from citizens present

None.

Item 4. Discuss and take action on staff recommendation to approve the installation of speed cushions on Adobe Street between 24th Street and Lindsay Road (Council District 1).

Board Member Ian Murray abstained from this vote, since this is his neighborhood.

Ryan Hudson, Senior Transportation Engineer, introduced himself and indicated he would be giving a high-level overview of Item 4 and presenting a staff recommendation for the installation of speed cushions on Adobe Street between 24th Street and Lindsay Road.

Mr. Hudson presented an overview map showing the location for the proposed speed cushions, the speed data collected, road conditions for Adobe Street and the survey results and feedback. He indicated that Mesa Fire does not object to speed cushions on this segment.

Board Member Dave Bergner asked if these speed cushions were initiated by residents in the area.

Mr. Hudson answered that was correct.

Board Member Dave Bergner asked for the daily traffic volume.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak stated that below 5,000 vehicles can warrant speed cushions.

Chairperson David Camp asked if other methods have been tried on this road.

Mr. Hudson stated this is the most effective means of mitigating speeds – this is the process followed for residential traffic.

Chairperson David Camp asked if staff had previously used speed signs in this area.

Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer, explained the process and the effectiveness of speed cushions and the financial impact of signs versus speed cushions.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak explained how the design speed for roadways plays into the posted speed limit.

Ms. Ellis explained that speed limits are determined depending on the area and land use and how Developers are encouraged to design roads to discourage high speeds.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson asked if there are speed cushions nearby this area.

Mr. Hudson answered yes and provided the locations of nearby speed cushions.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson asked if there were any thoughts about shifting traffic to other streets without speed cushions.

Mr. Hudson answered that staff had recently completed a traffic study for a neighborhood street network where speed cushions were recently installed. The results of the study concluded that traffic volumes were not increased on the street network surrounding the subject street where speed cushions were installed.

Chairperson David Camp asked if there are any other comments and then called the following citizen to speak on this item.

Richard Schmidt – 2542 E Adobe, opposes speed cushions.

Chairperson David Camp asked if there are any other comments or questions.

It was moved by Board Member Vern Mathern, seconded by Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson, to approve the installation of speed cushions on Adobe Street between 24th Street and Lindsay Road.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Camp – Wilson – Scott – Wozniak – Bergner – Neal – Mathern

ABSTAIN - Murray

NAYS – None

Chairperson David Camp thanked Mr. Hudson for the presentation.

Item 5. Discuss and take action on staff recommendation to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 35 mph on Main Street from Stapley Drive to Gilbert Road (Council District 4)

Mr. Hudson indicated he would be giving a presentation on staff's recommendation to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 35 mph on Main Street from Stapley Drive to Gilbert Road. Mr. Hudson explained that this item is broken into two different parts. The first is modifying the boundaries to encompass the new limits of the light rail, which would require the modification of two Mesa City Codes sections to change the speed limit. The second was to modify the boundaries of the existing speed limit segments on Main Street within Mesa City Code as they are today. Mr. Hudson referred to a map that showed the proposed boundary changes.

Chairperson David Camp asked if the posted speed limit would need to change again to a lower speed depending on future potential light rail extensions.

Mr. Hudson shared that staff is only recommending reducing the speed limit on this segment.

Chairperson David Camp asked if the Board was voting on two items.

Mr. Hudson indicated it was only one item.

Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer, clarified that both items are on one vote, and that they are tied together, since light rail plans were designed with a 35-mph speed limit in mind.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak asked for clarification on the bike lanes.

Ms. Ellis explained there is no buffer between the bike lanes and traffic lanes. At the roundabout at Horne, the sidewalk was widened to 10 feet around the roundabout so bicyclists and pedestrians can share the sidewalk. The rest of the sidewalks along Main Street are 6 feet wide.

Chairperson David Camp stated they had the same discussion some months ago – basically the City is giving cyclists two options: bike lane or sidewalk.

Ms. Ellis shared that the sidewalk was designed to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak questioned the sharing of sidewalk.

Ms. Ellis states it is not prohibited in this area for bicyclists to ride on the sidewalk.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak asked about city standards for multi-use lanes.

Ms. Ellis shared that City Staff would like to have separated bike lanes everywhere, but it comes down to the amount of right of way that is available. The City cannot afford to acquire properties.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak asked about the dimensions of the bike lane and the travel lane.

Ms. Ellis answered the question.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak shared his support for separated bike lanes and would be open to amending this proposal to 30 mph.

Ms. Ellis answered that there are no bike lanes downtown and the speed limit was adjusted based on the surroundings.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak made a proposal to take it to 30 mph, since most people are not comfortable riding in mixed traffic.

Ms. Ellis stated that staff can do follow-up studies.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson asked how much of a difference 5 mph would make and questioned if we will be back here in a few years going from 35 to 30 mph.

Ms. Ellis explained how on-street bike lanes share the road with vehicles.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson said we need to look farther ahead.

Erik Guderian, Deputy Transportation Director, shared that if the City has dense development in the future, a slower speed limit could be evaluated, but at this time, 35 mph is the appropriate speed.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak shared his thoughts about adapting and supporting land uses.

Board Member Megan Neal asked about light rail's operating speed.

Ms. Ellis answered that light rail cannot exceed the speed limit of the road.

Mr. Guderian added that the light rail's speed is typically 30 mph.

Board Member Ian Murray stated that the only item on the agenda is to vote on a speed limit reduction from 40 mph to 35 mph, and not a further reduction to 30 mph.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak asked if we would be in violation amending the proposal tonight.

Ms. Ellis stated she is not aware.

Mr. Guderian added for the sake of not knowing the Board should not continue discussing the reduction to 30 mph.

Board Member Vern Mathern stated that a study would need to be completed prior to considering a further reduction.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson asked about the building off Main Street, near the Temple.

Mr. Hudson answered and showed on a map.

Chairperson David Camp asked if anyone is aware of zoning east of that property.

Mr. Guderian answered there is nothing currently.

Chairperson David Camp asked if the Board is ready to take a vote.

Ms. Ellis reminded the Board that they will have to vote on the existing proposal as written.

Chairperson David Camp asked if everyone understands.

Board Member Dave Bergner asked when the project will be completed.

Mr. Guderian indicated that the light rail extension is expected to open on May 18, 2019.

Board Member Ian Murray shared that staff should review the area after traffic is flowing but he will support the staff recommendation.

Chairperson David Camp stated the vote will be on staff's recommendation.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak commented on the burden of replacing signs.

Ms. Ellis answered there is no fiscal burden.

It was moved by Board Member Ryan Wozniak, seconded by Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson, to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 35 mph on Main Street from Stapley Drive to Gilbert Road.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak stated he would still like for staff to consider the option of reducing to 30 mph in the future.

Chairperson David Camp asked staff to come back with a revised plan at the appropriate time.

Ms. Ellis stated they will do the appropriate studies and provide an update in the future.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak stated we could deny the proposal.

Chairperson David Camp asked if there are any more comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Camp – Wilson – Scott – Wozniak – Bergner – Neal – Mathern - Murray

NAYS – None

Chairperson David Camp moves to adjourn meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM.