



# City Council Report

**Date:** June 26, 2017  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Karolyn Kent, Assistant City Manager  
**From:** RJ Zeder, Transportation Department Director  
Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer  
**Subject:** Updates to City Code:  
Signing and Sight Distance Visibility Requirements in Subdivisions

## Purpose and Recommendation

To be in compliance with current design requirements and preferred practices, staff recommends the following modifications to the Subdivision as well as the Off-Site Improvement Regulations in Mesa City Code (City Code):

1. Subsection 9-6-3(C)4.(i): Remove Figure 20 of sight distance visibility requirements and refer to Engineering Procedure Manual (Manual).
2. Subsections 9-6-4(D)12. and 9-8-3(H)10.: Make the installation of street name signs the responsibility of the subdivider/developer, not the City.

## Background

During a routine review of City Code, it was noted that the sight distance visibility requirements shown in Figure 20 of Subsection 9-6-3(C)4.(i) are outdated.

Per City Code Subsections 9-6-4(D)12. and 9-8-3(H)10., it is the responsibility of the subdivider/developer to install signposts and pay a fee to the City for the installation of street name signs. However, staff discovered that this fee has not been charged, nor is it included in the City's Schedule of Fees and Charges. This means that there is no mechanism in place to allow for the collection of these costs.

## Discussion

### Sight Visibility

Sight visibility requirements are covered in detail as part of the Manual, which is updated in regular intervals. Thus, Figure 20 shall be removed and replaced with a reference to the Manual.

### Street Name Signs

Per City Code, subdividers/developers are responsible to install all traffic control devices within City right-of-way (Subsection 9-6-4(D)11. and 9-8-3(H)9.) except for street name signs (Subsection 9-6-4(D)12. and 9-8-3(H)10.). City staff installs approximately 150 street name signs in new subdivisions every year, at a total cost of \$12,000. After internal discussions, it was decided that it would be in the best interest of the City to require subdividers/developers to install street name signs themselves. That way, the City can utilize its resources more effectively. It should be noted that the City of Scottsdale and the Town of Gilbert follow this same procedure, while other municipalities in the valley charge developers for the installation of street name signs.

Refer to the attached Figures for the proposed changes to City Code.

### **Alternatives**

Doing nothing is an alternative that is not recommended. For the sight visibility requirements, it would mean that Figure 20 is in conflict with the Manual and thus, not in compliance with current design standards. For street name signs, a new fee would have to be established in the City's Schedule of Fees and Charges and a process be put in place to quantify the number of signs in order for the City to be able to collect the applicable costs from the subdivider/developer.

### **Coordination**

The proposed changes to City Code have been coordinated with Engineering, Development Services, and the City Attorney's office. They have also been presented to the Developers Advisory Forum on December 14, 2016 and no concerns were raised. The Transportation Advisory Board has reviewed and concurred with the recommendation to implement the changes described in this report at their December 20, 2016 meeting.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact to these updates.