



City Council Report

Date: September 22, 2025
To: City Council
Through: Marc Heirshberg, Assistant City Manager
From: Erik Guderian, Interim Transportation Department Director
Ryan Hudson, City Traffic Engineer
Subject: Modify Speed Limit
Extension Road, Baseline Road to Southern Avenue
Council Districts 3 & 4

Purpose and Recommendation

The intent of this report is to modify the posted speed limit on Extension Road from Baseline Road to Southern Avenue. A pavement reconstruction project on Extension Road from Baseline Road to Main Street is planned for construction this year. As part of the project, a new pavement marking layout will be installed to integrate enhanced bike lane facilities. To account for the updated lane configurations and pavement marking features, consider new street characteristics, and better align with posted speed limits to the north and south, staff recommends reducing the speed limit from 40 mph to 35 mph on Extension Road between Baseline Road and Southern Avenue.

See attached **Figure 1** for a location map.

Background and Discussion

Extension Road from Baseline Road to Main Street is a major collector street that provides north/south access over the US-60 freeway and is set between Alma School Road and Country Club Drive. The collector-street corridor serves as a connection to many residential, local street networks, multi-family residential communities, public schools, parks, Fire Station 204, and commercial land use sites. The corridor between Baseline Road and Main Street is currently striped as a 5-lane cross section with two travel lanes in each direction, a center two-way-left-turn-lane, and conventional bike lanes. Portions of the corridor will be restriped with a different lane configuration as part of the planned pavement reconstruction and bike lane project. Some of the street width will be reallocated to provide buffered and separated bike lanes. This will be accommodated with narrower vehicle travel lanes along some segments and a new street cross-section that is largely focused between the US-60 overpass and 6th Avenue. The new street cross-section will include separated bike lanes, two southbound travel lanes, one northbound travel lane, and a center two-way-left-turn-lane. See attached **Figure 2** for more detail on this street cross-section and the above-mentioned project limits.

Currently, Extension Road has a posted speed limit of 40 mph between Baseline Road and Southern Avenue, 35 mph between Southern Avenue and University Drive, and 30 mph south of Baseline Road. Given the proposed lane configurations and respective tapers, transitions, and characteristics and adjacent segments of Extension Road to the north and south, it is proposed for the posted speed limit to be reduced from 40 mph to 35 mph on Extension Road between Baseline Road and Southern Avenue.

Speeds of 40 mph and 35 mph are covered in Mesa City Code Sections 10-4-4 and 10-4-5, respectively. The proposed speed limit reduction would require modification, by means of Ordinance and amendment of the respective sections.

Coordination

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) has reviewed the proposed speed limit reduction for Extension Road and concurred with staff's recommendation to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 35 mph between Baseline Road and Southern Avenue. The TAB reviewed and concurred at their May 20, 2025 meeting.

Alternatives

As an alternative, a speed limit other than the recommended 35 mph could be established or the existing 40-mph posted speed limit could remain. However, considering the lane configurations and roadway characteristics, the posted speed limits on the adjacent sections, and the adjacent land uses, the recommended speed limit is most appropriate and reasonable.

Fiscal Impact

The installation of speed limit signs between Baseline Road and Southern Avenue is included in the pavement reconstruction and bike lane project, resulting in no fiscal impact.



