



Transportation

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2012
TO: Mayor and Council
THROUGH: Kari Kent, Deputy City Manager
FROM: Dan Cleavenger, Transportation Department Director *DC*
SUBJECT: Downtown Area Speed Limits

At the January 19, 2012 Study Session, Council reviewed items on the agenda for the January 23, 2012 Council Meeting including the introduction of an ordinance to raise the speed limits from 35 mph to 40 mph on five arterial streets and one collector street in the downtown area. The affected street segments include portions of Broadway Road, Center Street, Country Club Drive, Mesa Drive, Stapley Drive, and University. The intent of the speed limit changes is to establish a more reasonable speed limit closer to the 85th percentile speed as determined by recent studies and avoid multiple transitions from lower to higher speed limits and vice versa.

In conjunction with the speed limit changes, staff has proposed the installation of five electronic driver speed feedback signs covering eastbound and westbound Broadway Road, eastbound and westbound University Drive, and southbound Center Street. These signs have been effective in reducing higher end speeds on other roadways in Mesa.

At the Study Session, Councilmember Richins asked for this item to be pulled from the agenda to allow Transportation staff to do more outreach with the community before considering this item.

Per Councilmember Richins' suggestion, staff gave short presentations to and discussed the proposed speed limit changes with the Mesa Grande Steering Committee on January 25, 2012 and the Downtown Mesa Association on February 28. Both organizations endorsed increasing the speed limit on all six streets.

Also at Councilmember Richins' request, staff touched base with Robert and Heather Scantlebury who live on the north side of University Drive between Country Club Drive and Center Street. Although the Scantleburies would prefer to keep the speed limit at 35 mph on University Drive, they are in favor of adding the proposed driver speed feedback signs on University to help control the speed of traffic.

These speed limit modifications were also brought before the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and they supported the changes. Based on feedback from the TAB, the Mesa Grande Steering Committee, and the Downtown Mesa Association, and considering feedback from the Scantleburies, the staff recommendation remains to increase the speed limits on these six street segments from 35 mph to 40 mph.