



# City Council Report

**Date:** December 9, 2024  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Candace Cannistraro, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** RJ Zeder, Transportation Department Director  
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**Subject:** City of Mesa 2050 Transportation Master Plan  
Citywide

## Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to present the City of Mesa 2050 Transportation Master Plan to the Council for information, discussion and adoption. Staff recommends the adoption of this document for use as the City's transportation plan.

## Background

The Mesa 2040 Transportation Plan needed to be updated to be relevant to current conditions. The Transportation Department also wanted to align with the update of the General Plan which was taking place at the same time.

## Discussion

Since the Fall of 2022, the City's Transportation Department has teamed up with the consulting firm Kittleson and Associates, Inc. to create the *City of Mesa 2050 Transportation Master Plan* (Plan). This update will serve as the long-range transportation plan for the City with a planning year horizon of 2050. The Plan process included public involvement, coordination with other departments, technical analysis, and review by the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) as well as Sustainability and Transportation Committee (SAT) and local and regional stakeholder groups.

The City of Mesa Transportation Department was fortunate to begin the update of this Plan while the City's Planning Department was updating the General Plan. This timing allowed coordination between the two plans, not only for schedule, content, and public outreach, but also for philosophy and intent. Both Planning and Transportation discovered the same opinions expressed by residents during public meetings and surveys – they want reduced traffic congestion and a focus on safety, but they also indicated a strong desire for more options to traveling, such as transit and bicycling. Planning and Transportation also understand the connection between land use and adjacent roadway characteristics when developing future

improvements. This land use connection led to the inclusion of an appendix that provides concepts for “Roadway Typologies” that can be considered with future projects.

The Goals and Objectives found in Chapter 1 of the Transportation Plan reflect an intention to maintain our facilities, focus on safety, provide multimodal options, adapt to emerging technologies and advance economic development. Chapter 5 of this plan presents comprehensive lists of proposed future needs. These needs are categorized as Roadway and Safety Needs, Pedestrian Needs, Bicycle Needs and Transit Needs. Again, these needs are meant to align with what was heard from the public, stakeholders, the TAB and the other plans. The needs also consider the Plan’s Goals and Objectives along with future data analysis.

This new version of the Plan introduces the concept of Travel Sheds in Chapter 6, which are eleven sub-areas within the City. These Travel Sheds are determined by socioeconomic factors, along with travel patterns, unique to a geographic area. The future needs were listed Citywide, but then separately for each Travel Shed. Each Travel Shed has a section in the Plan that lists its characteristics, needs, existing conditions and what the residents there had to say during public outreach.

The Transportation Department worked with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) to produce a future traffic conditions model. Staff presented periodic updates to the TAB, receiving input and direction along the way. In July of this year, the TAB was presented with the final complete draft of the Transportation Plan update where all final comments were received. In September of this year, Transportation delivered a presentation of the final Plan to SAT, and then in October presented the final Plan to the City Council. All comments have been addressed and the plan is ready for adoption.

### **Alternatives**

The alternative would be to not adopt this updated plan and continue to use the current Mesa 2040 Transportation Plan.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact with the adoption of this plan. However, there will be fiscal impacts as programs and projects recommended in the plan are carried out over time.

### **Coordinated With**

The Mesa Transportation Department has coordinated this effort with the Mesa Planning Division, which recently updated the City of Mesa General Plan, and the Transit Services update of the Transit Plan. Throughout this process, Transportation shared planning materials, chapter reviews, and updates on the TomorrowsMesa.com website. Throughout the course of the planning process, the Transportation Department has relied on oversight and advisory input from the TAB.