

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 7, 1998

The Transportation Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the City Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on April 7, 1998 at 7:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Pat Gilbert, Chairman
John Giles
Dennis Kavanaugh

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Denise Bleyle
Glen Gorke
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Harry Kent
Peter Knudson
Ron Krosting
Keith Nath
Tom Remes
Debbie Vickman
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Keno Hawker
Mark Howard
Others

1. Further consideration of the proposed widening and landscaped medians for the intersection of Dobson Road and Guadalupe Road.

Transportation Director Ron Krosting referred to a study from 1987 that indicated a need to widen all arterial streets within the City of Mesa to six lanes by 2015. Mr. Krosting briefly described the current intersection and traffic volume and presented a diagram of accidents that have occurred at the intersection during the past 12 months. Mr. Krosting explained that five accidents at any given intersection warrants the need for the installation of left-turn arrows and outlined the difference between third car detection, first car detection, and fully protected left-turn arrows. Mr. Krosting expressed the opinion that the utilization of a first car detection or fully protected left-turn arrow would increase congestion at the intersection.

Mr. Krosting advised that a forecast from Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) previously estimated that approximately 3,000 vehicles would utilize that intersection of Dobson Road and Guadalupe Road per day by 1995 but noted that currently 20,000 vehicles utilize the intersection daily. Mr. Krosting advised that traffic will increase in the future relative to the high growth rate that the Town of Gilbert is currently experiencing and the need for commuters to access the Price Freeway and/or the Superstition Freeway.

In response to a question from Chairman Gilbert, Mr. Krosting stated that rear end collisions are the most common type of accident occurring on the southbound leg of Dobson Road.

Engineering Design Director Peter Knudson stated that staff has proposed to maintain as much access to the businesses and residential neighborhoods as possible but noted that the installation of medians would limit some access.

In response to questions from Chairman Gilbert, Mr. Krosting explained that median breaks could provide additional access to the businesses. Mr. Krosting expressed the opinion that median breaks would not create a greater safety hazard than non-median streets.

Chairman Gilbert stated support for intermittent medians and adjacent decorative bowmanite in order to provide maximum access to businesses. Chairman Gilbert noted the importance of creating an intersection that would compliment the roads located within the neighboring Dobson Ranch development.

In response to a question from Committeemember Giles, Mr. Knudson advised that the installation of a right-hand turn lane and double left-turn lanes would require the acquisition of right-of-way.

Committeemember Giles suggested that staff research the possibility of acquiring right-of-way from the businesses located on the south side of Guadalupe Road versus the properties located to the north and requested that staff provide cost estimates to the Committee.

In response to a question from Chairman Gilbert, Mr. Knudson noted that acquiring right-of-way from the commercial properties would result in the deletion of parking spaces. Mr. Knudson added that if parking spaces are not eliminated there would not be a sufficient amount of space for the installation of landscaping.

Committeemember Giles suggested that staff determine an appropriate percentage of right-of-way that may be acquired from both the commercial and residential sides of Guadalupe Road.

In response to a question from Committeemember Giles regarding the widening of the intersection and the potential relocation of existing power poles, Mr. Knudson said that staff anticipates minimal movement of the power poles along Guadalupe Road.

Chairman Gilbert requested that staff identify the power poles that require relocation, that a public meeting be held at Rhodes Junior High School, and that staff investigate the feasibility of shortening the proposed medians.

Committeemember Giles noted the importance of the Committee hearing from the citizens regarding the proposed raised sound walls.

Public Works Manager Harry Kent requested that the Committee consider holding the public meeting in approximately 60 days to provide staff sufficient time to complete a survey of the area.

Mark Howard, 1843 West Naranja Avenue, expressed concern relative to the potential increase in traffic on Guadalupe Road near Dobson High School. Mr. Howard questioned the impact the improvements would have on Dobson High School, and the consequences of commuters utilizing Guadalupe Road to reach the Price and the Superstition Freeways. Mr. Howard expressed the opinion that widening the Dobson Road and Guadalupe Road intersection would create safety issues.

Chairman Gilbert stated that Mr. Howard's concerns will be added to the list for staff's review and analysis. Chairman Gilbert requested that the neighbors maintain open communication and relay any concerns to staff as they arise. Chairman Gilbert thanked staff for the presentation.

2. Consider a proposed widening project for the intersection of Dobson Road and Baseline Road.

Mr. Krosting informed the Committee that the Dobson Road and Baseline Road intersection project was chosen by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Street Committee to receive federal aid based on its poor level of air quality. Mr. Krosting explained that the Federal Highway Administration will provide 95 percent of the cost to widen the intersection and added that the City will provide funding for the right-of-way design and the remaining 5 percent of the construction cost. Mr. Krosting advised that staff recommends double-left turn lanes on Baseline Road and that a southbound right-turn lane be constructed.

Mr. Knudson informed the Committee that bus pullouts and shelters have been proposed for the two existing bus stops located on the northeast and southeast corners of the intersection.

In response to a question from Chairman Gilbert, Mr. Knudson stated that the estimated cost of the project would be approximately \$625,000. Mr. Knudson reiterated that 95 percent of the construction cost would be paid by the Federal Highway Administration.

Mr. Kent informed the Committee that the construction of a bus pullout and shelter proposed for the southeast corner would eliminate parking spaces.

Mr. Knudson noted that staff will hold a public meeting to obtain citizen input and that staff would provide the results of the public meeting to the Committee at a future Committee meeting.

Committeemember Kavanaugh acknowledged the importance of the bus pullout and shelter but expressed concern relative to the elimination of the parking spaces.

Chairman Gilbert suggested that staff consider constructing the bus pullout farther east of the intersection to avoid the elimination of the parking spaces.

Mr. Kent advised the Committee that a report outlining schedules for intersection improvement projects has been attached to the Committee's report.

Mr. Krosting informed the Committee that the Dobson Road and Baseline Road project is a high priority project relative to the importance of maintaining a timeline that will satisfy federal aid requirements.

Chairman Gilbert thanked Mr. Krosting and Mr. Knudson for the report and acknowledged the need to proceed with the project in a timely manner.

3. Consider the wall color for the upcoming Gilbert Road wall project.

Public Works Manager Harry Kent provided photographs of the sound wall located along McKellips Road and requested direction relative to the selection of color for the proposed Gilbert Road sound wall. Mr. Kent stated that the proposed Gilbert Road wall could be painted similar to the McKellips Road wall or the natural color of the concrete block. Mr. Kent advised the Committee that staff recommends painting the wall to match the McKellips Road wall.

Chairman Gilbert expressed support for the color utilized on the McKellips Road wall.

Committeemember Giles expressed the opinion that the installation of landscaping will provide the wall a more aesthetically pleasing appearance and that the wall on Gilbert Road should be consistent in color with that along McKellips Road.

It was moved by Committeemember Kavanaugh, seconded by Committeemember Giles, to recommend to the Council that the color utilized on the McKellips Road wall also be utilized on the Gilbert Road wall.

Carried unanimously.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Transportation Committee adjourned at 8:06 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Transportation Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 7th day of April 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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Dated this ____ day of _____ 1998

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK