



**CITY OF  
MESA**

# **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

February 23, 1998

The Transportation Committee of the City of Mesa met at Rhodes Jr. High School, 1860 South Longmore, on February 23, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

**COMMITTEE PRESENT**

Pat Gilbert, Chairman  
John Giles  
Dennis Kavanaugh

**COMMITTEE ABSENT**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

Robyn Baker  
Cindy Barris  
Glenn Gorke  
Mike Hutchinson  
Barbara Jones  
Harry Kent  
Peter Knudson  
Ron Krosting  
Keith Nath

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jim Davidson

Chairman Gilbert welcomed the citizens to the meeting and thanked each for their attendance. Chairman Gilbert introduced members of the Committee and City staff present.

Chairman Gilbert outlined the meeting structure and requested cooperation in adhering to speaking procedures. Chairman Gilbert stated that staff will be available following the meeting to answer any questions.

Engineering Design Director Peter Knudson provided an overview of proposed improvements to the West Guadalupe Road and South Dobson Road intersection as a result of current and expected traffic volume in the vicinity. Mr. Knudson noted that consideration is being given to increasing the number of lanes to 6 (3 in each direction with double left-turn lanes and a right-turn lane from south to west); raised medians; low-water use, desert landscaping; and an 8' wall along residential properties. Mr. Knudson invited those in attendance to view schematics of the proposal following the meeting.

In response to a request from Chairman Gilbert, Mr. Knudson outlined the anticipated time frame for the project, including public input, design, and right-of-way acquisition. Mr. Knudson stated that construction is estimated to begin in the spring of 2000.

1. Conduct a public hearing and receive input from interested parties regarding proposed improvements to the Dobson Road and Guadalupe Road intersection.

Chairman Gilbert announced that now is the time and place for a public hearing regarding the proposed improvements to the Dobson Road and Guadalupe Road intersection.

Ken Wroblewski, 1941 West Guadalupe Road, #111, representing Craft Fair, located on the southeast corner of Guadalupe and Dobson Road, spoke regarding projected traffic volume, commenting that any freeway traffic will have a minimal impact on the intersection and is likely to be temporary. Mr. Wroblewski

questioned the potential "bottleneck" effect if the number of lanes is not increased farther south on Dobson Road by the City of Chandler.

Mr. Wroblewski expressed concern relative to access to the shopping center in which his business is located and requested additional information pertaining to the proposed medians and left-turn lanes. Mr. Wroblewski stated the opinion that access is adequate at this time.

Mr. Wroblewski questioned the anticipated length of time for construction.

At the request of Chairman Gilbert, Transportation Director Ron Krosting provided statistics pertaining to current and anticipated (Year 2010) traffic volume based on a Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) traffic model. Mr. Krosting noted concerns in relation to freeway traffic and existing congestion. Mr. Krosting advised that the City of Chandler is aware of the proposed improvements at Guadalupe/Dobson Road (as well as Guadalupe/Alma School Road) and has projects planned for Elliot/Alma School Road (Year 2000) and Elliot/Dobson Road. Mr. Krosting estimated that construction at Guadalupe/Dobson Road will require six to seven months to complete.

Lee Mills, 16609 South 39th Way, Phoenix, supervisor/owner of the Sonic Drive-In, expressed concern regarding the proposed medians and the potential effect on access to his facility and the shopping center encompassing the southeast corner of the intersection. Mr. Mills commented that construction would severely impact businesses in the vicinity and could present safety hazards. Mr. Mills recommended a median design that would include a cut to allow for left-turn access into the shopping area between Waldenbooks and the Sonic Drive-In.

Brad Justesen, D.D.S., 2120 West Guadalupe Road, dentist, advised that he has operated at this site for approximately 18 years and that his practice is located within a plaza containing other service-oriented businesses/organizations (optometrist, orthodontist, and chiropractor). Dr. Justesen stated concern relative to the proposed medians and access to the plaza, noting that many of his patients are elderly and would have difficulty adjusting to changes.

Gus Dekavallas, 1857 West Naranja Avenue, said that he has been a resident of the area for approximately 20 years. Mr. Dekavallas questioned the effect of the proposed lane increases on existing fences and power lines. Mr. Dekavallas commented that to his knowledge, traffic congestion is realized only when proceeding north along Dobson Road during the morning rush hour. Mr. Dekavallas suggested that consideration be given to utilizing funds to improve downtown Mesa rather than this intersection.

Chairman Gilbert stated that City staff will be available to discuss sources of funding with Mr. Dekavallas.

Dale Brugger, 2808 South Pennington, advised that his home is located on the corner of Guadalupe Road and South Pennington. Mr. Brugger requested additional information pertaining to the proposed walls for the project and the impact on traffic near his home and along Pennington.

Chairman Gilbert said that in addition to traffic issues, City staff can review with Mr. Brugger the plans for the walls, which are anticipated to be similar to those along McKellips Road.

Connie DeMichiei, 1857 West Naranja Avenue, a resident at this location for 10 years, noted concern regarding the effect of the proposal on neighborhood safety, the placement of power lines, and access to the shopping center. Ms. DeMichiei commented that traffic projections may not be realized, particularly given the number of traffic lights near Dobson High School and the ability to detour traffic from surface streets when Freeway 101 is completed.

Mark Howard, 1843 West Naranja Avenue, stated that he has been a resident of Dobson Ranch for 15 years. Mr. Howard spoke concerning the stability of the neighborhood and the high caliber of the Rhodes and Dobson schools. Mr. Howard expressed the opinion that traffic projections for the area are inaccurate and stated concern that the proposal may negatively impact housing values. Mr. Howard requested additional information pertaining to the proposed landscaping and walls.

Steven Thorpe, 1848 West Naranja Avenue, commented regarding the potential negative impact of the project on both businesses and residences, including neighborhood access and safety factors. Mr. Thorpe requested statistics pertaining to traffic volume, stating that traffic flow is greater near Baseline/Dobson Road and Baseline/Alma School Road. Mr. Thorpe asked if the improvements will be constructed simultaneously with those proposed for Guadalupe/Alma School Road and requested accountability on behalf of City staff to provide responses to questions/concerns raised at the meeting.

Chairman Gilbert advised that a City staff report will be prepared following the meeting and presented to the Transportation Committee, who in turn will be asked to provide a recommendation to the City Council concerning the project. Chairman Gilbert encouraged residents and business owners/tenants to provide input to the Transportation Committee and City Council.

Vince Enriquez, 2766 South Yucca, expressed concern relative to safety risks posed by an increase in the number of traffic lanes. Mr. Enriquez requested additional information pertaining to the availability of schematics and suggested that funds could more appropriately be utilized to improve other intersections throughout the City.

Chairman Gilbert indicated that drawings can be provided illustrating the scope of the project.

Patrick Stafford, 2120 West Guadalupe Road, manager of R. T. O'Sullivan's Sports Bar, located at the northwest corner of Guadalupe/Dobson Road, reiterated concerns expressed by residents concerning area neighborhoods. Mr. Stafford requested reconsideration of the proposed medians for the project, commenting that difficulties will be imposed in accessing the plaza in which his sports bar is located.

David Henderson, D.D.S., 1941 West Guadalupe Road, #120, resident and representative of A Dental Concept, located on the southeast corner of Guadalupe/Dobson Road, spoke regarding the area as a neighborhood of both residences and businesses and noted aesthetics and conveniences provided within the vicinity. Dr. Henderson stated concern in reference to the safety of children and expressed the opinion that the proposal does not represent an effective tool for reducing traffic.

Dr. Henderson commented relative to the inconvenience the project poses for his patients and recommended that improvements be implemented at other intersections which he believes are a greater priority. Dr. Henderson said that it may have been more appropriate for the City to have provided notice of this meeting to tenants in addition to landlords and to have provided a map for review.

Chairman Gilbert outlined the public input process and advised that remedies will be considered relative to items such as meeting notices and maps.

Chairman Gilbert and Committeemember Kavanaugh advised that the purpose of the meeting this date is to conduct a public hearing and noted restrictions imposed by the Open Meeting Law in responding at this time to questions concerning the proposal.

Steven Thorpe spoke again and requested information as to when responses can be expected to inquiries/suggestions submitted at the meeting.

Patrick Stafford reiterated his concerns and encouraged reconsideration of the proposed medians and access to businesses.

Committeemember Giles noted that this meeting represents the beginning of the improvement process and is an opportunity to educate and provide input. Committeemember Giles encouraged citizens to discuss the issue with Committeemembers and City staff following the meeting.

Dr. Henderson spoke again and requested additional information pertaining to the time frame for the project.

Mark Howard reiterated encouragement to City staff to include tenants as well as homeowners in the notification process.

Salvatore Mele, 1854 West Naranja Avenue, stated the opinion that the proposal may not represent an effective tool for improving traffic flow. Mr. Mele expressed concern that the project may negatively impact housing values.

Gus Dekavallas spoke again and questioned the emphasis on the Guadalupe/Dobson Road intersection, commenting that Dobson Road has been designed for residential traffic while Alma School Road has been designed for businesses. Mr. Dekavallas noted that the 101 Freeway and tie-in to U.S. 60 heading east exits onto Alma School Road, not Dobson Road.

Bonnie Howard, 1843 West Naranja Avenue, advised that there are many children in the area who utilize the stores at the shopping center. Ms. Howard stated concern relative to the safety risk posed should Guadalupe Road be widened to six lanes. Ms. Howard reported that traffic backup is realized only at graduation or when students are entering/leaving Dobson High School in the morning, at noon, and in the afternoon. Ms. Howard commented that the area is a neighborhood of both residences and businesses.

There being no other citizens present to speak on the issue, Chairman Gilbert declared the public hearing closed.

2. Adjournment.

Chairman Gilbert thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the meeting. Chairman Gilbert advised that City staff will be available to answer any specific questions pertaining to the proposed improvement project.

Without objection, the Transportation Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

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 23rd day of February 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1998

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK