

# JOINT DEVELOPMENT/ TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 24, 1997

The Development and Transportation Committees of the City of Mesa met in a joint meeting in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on April 24, 1997 at 9:32 a.m.

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PRESENT

Wayne Pomeroy, Chairman  
Pat Gilbert  
Jim Stapley

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PRESENT

Pat Gilbert, Chairman  
John Giles  
Dennis Kavanaugh

## COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

## STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster  
Wayne Balmer  
Cindy Barris  
Mike Hutchinson  
Barbara Jones  
Harry Kent  
Greg Marek  
Bryan Raines  
Tom Remes

## OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Davidson  
Chris Moeser  
Terry Smiley  
Tom Verploegen  
Claudia Walters  
Jim Zaharis  
Others

1. Hear a presentation on the impacts of the proposed closing of Center Street from Broadway Road to 2nd Avenue as part of the proposed Downtown Education Center project

Transportation Director Ron Krosting introduced Terry Smiley of Bolduc, Smiley & Associates, Inc., a consultant hired to conduct a traffic evaluation relative to the proposed closing of Center Street as part of the proposed Downtown Education Center project.

Mr. Smiley briefly provided background information concerning his firm and the purpose of the traffic analysis. Mr. Smiley indicated that the study included the identification of existing traffic conditions within the study area, analysis of existing and projected traffic volume data to understand the manner in which traffic passes through the area and potential redistribution to other streets should Center Street be closed, and evaluation of the role of Center Street in downtown Mesa's traffic circulation system.

Mr. Smiley highlighted the following conclusions of the study: a) traffic counts reveal that Center Street is functioning as a major collector street and is critical to the half-mile collector street system in Mesa, b) the proposed closure of Center Street will result in traffic being diverted to other north-south streets, c) traffic volume projectors indicate that major intersections along Country Club Drive and Mesa Drive will operate at unacceptable levels of service in the future, and diverting traffic from Center Street to these parallel arterial streets will exacerbate such conditions, d) increased traffic volumes on Macdonald and Serrine could necessitate striping for additional travel lanes on Macdonald, Serrine, and 2nd Avenue, possibly resulting in a loss of approximately 100 on-street parking spaces, e) the proposed closure of Center Street will affect the continuity of the existing bicycle route and will require designating and signing a new route within the system, f) transit re-routing will be necessary at a cost of approximately \$2,500 per year in operating costs, and g) increased traffic volumes on Serrine and 2nd Avenue will have an adverse effect on residential properties in the area.

Mr. Smiley responded to questions from the Committee pertaining to the effects of the proposed closure on short, local trips as well as through trips (traffic that does not have a destination in the area); impacts on surrounding neighborhoods; the possible need to implement neighborhood mitigation measures to discourage through travel on adjacent streets; and the potential utilization of under-/overpasses to maintain continuity along Center Street.

In response to a question from Committeemember Stapley, Mr. Smiley expressed the opinion that Center Street should not be closed to accommodate the proposed Downtown Education Center.

Mr. Smiley and staff spoke concerning current traffic counts, potential impacts on a nearby elementary school, results of a recent "floating car" study (vehicles followed through the downtown area), and the diversion of traffic to adjacent streets should Center Street be closed. Mr. Krosting advised that a breakdown of existing traffic volumes throughout the day can be charted and forwarded to the Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of closing Center Street for a trial period to determine effects on traffic and neighborhoods.

Committeemember Giles expressed the opinion that the advantages of an urban high school outweigh potential adverse impacts on traffic.

Jim Davidson, Downtown Development Committee (DDC), related the DDC's support of an urban school and the resulting enhancement of the downtown area.

Committeemember Kavanaugh concurred with Committeemember Giles, noting the capacity to mitigate adverse effects. Committeemember Kavanaugh stated that he favors the proposed urban school.

Chairman Pomeroy expressed appreciation to Mr. Smiley and staff for the study and information.

2. Tour the area surrounding the proposed Downtown Education Center.

At 9:58 a.m., the Committee toured the area surrounding the proposed Downtown Education Center.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned following the tour.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the joint meeting of the Development/Transportation Committees of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 24th day of April 1997. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 1997

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK