



mesa·az Transportation Advisory Board Report

Date: December 15, 2015
To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer
Subject: Recommended Updates to City Code
Sidewalk Width and Flashing Yellow Arrows

Purpose and Recommendation

To be in compliance with current requirements and practices, staff recommends the following updates to City Code:

1. Subsection 9-6-5(B): Modify sidewalk width on local residential streets from four feet to five feet
2. Subsection 10-3-13(E): Add Flashing Yellow Arrow as a Traffic-Control Signal Legend

Background

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not dictate minimum widths for sidewalks. However, the 2010 ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) mandate that accessible routes (which include sidewalks) be a minimum of 36 inches of clear width of walking surfaces. See ADAAG Section 403.5.1. The ADAAG further requires that an accessible route with a clear width of less than 60 inches provide passing spaces at intervals of 200 hundred feet maximum. Passing spaces shall be either a space 60 inches minimum by 60 inches minimum; or, an intersection of two walking surfaces providing a T-shaped space where the base and arms extend a minimum of 48 inches beyond the intersection. See ADAAG Section 403.5.3. For the ease of implementation, the overall sidewalk width should be increased from the currently required 48 inches (four feet) to 60 inches (five feet) along all local residential streets within the public right-of-way. Mesa's Standard Details and Engineering and Design Standards will also be updated to reflect this change.

The flashing yellow left turn arrow (FYLTA) was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) after extensive research indicated that the flashing yellow arrow (FYA) was more effective and more intuitive to drivers than the simple circular green light, showing a reduction in the number of left-turn crashes. Based on this research, the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (published by FHWA) included the

FYA as a permitted signal indication, which was subsequently adopted by its Arizona Department of Transportation Supplement in January of 2012. To date, Mesa installed FYLTA at a total of 28 intersections or 58 approaches. Thus, the FYA should be included as a traffic-control signal legend in City Code.

Alternatives

DOING NOTHING is an alternative that is not recommended. Making no changes would result in non-compliance with current ADAAG requirements (sidewalk width) and omission of an already established technology within the City and nationwide (flashing yellow arrows).

Coordination

The proposed changes to City Code have been coordinated with Engineering, Development Services, and the City Attorney's office.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to these updates.