

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

APPROVED

HELD ON September 19, 2017

<u>TAB Members Present</u>	<u>TAB Members Absent</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
Kay Henry, Chairperson	Mike Schmidt, Vice Chairperson	Sabine Ellis
Dave Bergner	Jennifer Love	Erik Guderian
David Camp	Louis Stephen	Renate Ehm
Ian Murray	Ryan Wozniak	Ryan Hudson
Ron Wilson		Lt. Gina Nesbit
Vern Mathern		Amy McConnell
Michael Book		James Hash
		Al Zubi

Chairperson Kay Henry called the September 19, 2017 Transportation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Item 1. Approval of the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on July 18, 2017.

Board Member Vern Mathern motioned to approve the minutes as written. Board Member Ron Wilson seconded and the Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2. Items from citizens present.

None.

Item 3. Hear a presentation on transportation related ideas submitted via Imagine Mesa.

Amy McConnell, Imagine Mesa Ambassador and Transportation Public Information Officer, introduced herself and shared that she would be giving an update on transportation related ideas submitted via Mesa’s new digital community engagement campaign, Imagine Mesa.

Ms. McConnell gave a quick overview of some Imagine Mesa campaign highlights including website analytics, top forums and ideas, and what happens after the campaign closes on October 31. She also shared and described a few of the forty unique transportation ideas that have been submitted up until this point.

Ms. McConnell explained that the City Council-appointed Imagine Mesa Advisory Committee would be evaluating and prioritizing ideas submitted through the platform and would give their recommendations to the City Council.

Board Member Ron Wilson asked if the campaign hit the citywide goal for resident participation.

Ms. McConnell shared that she was not sure what the goal was, but that the City of Mesa was

pleased with the participation it had seen so far.

Board Member Ian Murray asked if the site included a “con” button.

Ms. McConnell shared that while there was not a “dislike” button on the website, people were welcomed to leave their feedback in the comment sections.

Board Member Ian Murray stated that a “con” button would have been helpful and allowed users to easily compare support for ideas.

Chairperson Kay Henry wanted to know what happens after the campaign concludes.

Ms. McConnell explained that the Council-appointed committee would review, prioritize, and recommend ideas to the City Council.

Chairperson Kay Henry thanked Ms. McConnell for the presentation and said she was looking forward to future updates.

Item 4. Discuss and take action on staff recommendation to approve the installation of speed cushions on McLellan Road between Stapley Drive and Harris Drive (Council District 1).

Chairperson Kay Henry shared a brief history regarding the discussions involving McLellan Rd.

Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer, introduced herself and indicated that she would be presenting a staff recommendation to approve the installation of speed cushions on McLellan Road between Stapley Drive and Harris Drive.

Ms. Ellis shared a brief history of McLellan Rd and reviewed key events during staff’s evaluation of the street. She presented a location map for the proposed speed cushions, speed data, survey results, and feedback received. Ms. Ellis also noted that the proposed speed cushions received the necessary support from the residents living within the affected area.

Board Member Ron Wilson asked if staff considers no response from a property owner a no vote, and if Ms. Ellis knew how many no responses were received within the affected area.

Ms. Ellis acknowledged that was correct, and stated that this area had around three or four no responses, but also noted that she did not have those numbers in front of her.

Ms. Ellis continued her presentation and shared that the cost for three sets of the proposed speed cushions would be \$24,000, which staff has in its budget. She shared that the two options for the Board to consider are approving the proposed speed cushions, or not approving the proposed speed cushions.

Board Member Michael Book asked if there is any data to support the comment that speed cushions decrease property values.

Ms. Ellis explained that she was not aware of any data that would support that comment.

Board Member Ian Murray asked if staff could install Driver Speed Feedback Signs on McLellan Rd.

Ms. Ellis explained that Driver Speed Feedback Signs could be installed in this area; however, staff typically explores speed cushions first, because they tend to be more effective.

James Michaud, 1434 E McLellan Rd, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Whitney Godinez did not address the Board but indicated that she is against the proposed speed cushions.

Seth Miller, 1665 E Hope St, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Megan Miller, 1665 E Hope St, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Chairperson Kay Henry stated that Mesa Fire and Medical needs to approve speed humps and speed cushions prior to installation.

Heidi Jensen, 1729 E McLellan Rd, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Talmage Pearce, 1661 N Forest, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Andria Cesar, 1645 E Hope St, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Board Member David Camp asked if staff had data that suggests traffic is diverted to other streets when speed cushions are installed.

Ms. Ellis explained that it is possible for speed cushions to change traffic patterns, but it depends on the surrounding streets in the area.

Board Member Ron Wilson asked how effective Driver Speed Feedback Signs are at reducing speed.

Ms. Ellis explained that Driver Speed Feedback Signs are typically not as effective at reducing speeding behaviors as speed cushions, since the sign simply provides a notification, which does not change the driving behavior in the long run.

David McNamara, 1602 N Gilbert Rd, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Gina Nesbit, Mesa Police Lieutenant, explained that flasher assemblies typically cost more to install and are used in school zones, and not neighborhood streets. Lt. Nesbit also shared that Mesa PD's Traffic Unit only has 13 Motorcycle Officers for the entire city, which is down from 30 Motorcycle Officers years ago. She also noted that while enforcement is key in reducing speeding, there needs to be a combination of education, enforcement, and traffic engineering.

Board Member Ron Wilson asked if flasher assemblies typically make a difference.

Ms. Ellis explained that flasher assemblies are effective in school zones during certain times during the day, and are installed only on arterial streets.

Bob Blackshaw, 1620 N Barkley, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Ms. Ellis explained the definition of the 85th percentile speed, and clarified the difference between speed humps and speed cushions.

Board Member Michael Book excused himself and left the meeting.

DeEtte Snell did not address the Board but indicated that she is against the proposed speed cushions.

Valerie Southwick, 1434 E McLellan Rd, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Robert Southwick, 1434 E McLellan Rd, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Rebecca Clarkson, 1627 E Indigo St, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Board Member Ron Wilson shared that the Board does not discuss items prior to the meeting and does not come into the meeting with a decision already in mind.

Logan Pearce did not address the Board but indicated that he is against the proposed speed cushions.

Jennifer Peters, 1633 E Indigo St, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Frederic Peters, 1633 E Indigo St, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Shauna Day, 1757 E Indigo St, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Don Day-Gomes, 1757 E Indigo St, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Barry Udall, 1618 E McLellan Rd, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Herberta Millet, 1746 E Hope St, is against the proposed speed cushions.

Mike Court, 1451 N Delmar, is in support of the proposed speed cushions.

Ryan Smith, 1755 E Hope St, is in support of the proposed speed cushions.

Danny Court, 1756 E Hope St, is in support of the proposed speed cushions.

Board Member Ian Murray asked the Board to consider the rest of the neighborhood in addition to those that live off McLellan Rd.

Board Member Dave Bergner shared that in his personal and professional opinion he does not like speed cushions. He also stated the importance for a combination of traffic engineering,

education, and enforcement.

Board Member Ron Wilson asked if staff knew the breakdown in driver's speeds for the survey dates.

Ms. Ellis explained how staff looks at the 85th percentile but that she did not have a detailed breakdown in front of her.

Board Member Ian Murray asked if this area would have qualified for speed cushions prior to lowering the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph, since the cited speed data showed an 85th percentile speed of 35.7 mph, which would not have met the 8 mph threshold if the speed limit were still 30 mph.

Ms. Ellis acknowledged that was a correct statement.

Board Member Ian Murray stated that this item would not have been brought to the Board, had the speed limit remained at 30 mph.

Lt. Nesbit explained that this was not a simple comparison and that a driver will only push the boundaries to a certain extent when speeding, so the lowering of the speed limit would likely change the data.

Board Member Ian Murray said that he recollected that lowering the speed limit to 25 mph had little effect on driver speeds.

Lt. Nesbit asked if staff had completed a speed study prior to lowering the speed limit.

Ms. Ellis referenced speed counts from 1998 and noted that the 85th percentile speed was 37 mph in 1998. Speed counts taken in July 2016, after the striping and stop sign was installed, and when the speed limit was still 30 mph, showed that the 85th percentile speed was 37.5 mph. She indicated that the reduction in the posted speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph essentially lowered the 85th percentile speed by 2 mph.

Board Member David Camp asked for an overview of the speed cushion policy guidelines.

Ms. Ellis explained the criteria that must be met as well as a high-level overview of the steps in the process from resident request to the TAB approval.

Board Member Vern Mathern asked if the 70% requirement was met for McLellan Rd.

Ms. Ellis explained that 73% of property owners within the affected area were supportive of the proposed speed cushions.

Board Member Vern Mathern shared that he was inclined to support the proposed speed cushions.

Chairperson Kay Henry shared some additional background from the previous discussions regarding McLellan Rd.

Ms. Ellis clarified that the presence of an HOA does not change the speed cushion process, and shared the difference between a private street and public street. She also explained that there is a process to remove speed cushions, and if after 12 months, 51% of the affected property owners would like the speed cushions removed, the City of Mesa is able to do so.

Board Member Ian Murray wanted to reiterate his opinion that based on the original criteria, when the speed limit on McLellan Rd was 30 mph, the 85th percentile speed was 7.5 mph over the 30 mph speed limit, which would have failed to meet the speed requirement for speed cushions; thus, the TAB would not be considering the proposed speed cushions.

Ms. Ellis clarified that while the reduction of the posted speed limit did reduce driver speeds, previous speed data, prior to the speed limit reduction, would have still technically met the criteria. The 85th percentile speed of 37.5 mph would have been rounded up to 38 mph; thus, the speed requirement had been met when the speed limit was 30 mph.

Board Member Vern Mathern made a Motion to move forward with the proposed speed cushions. Board Member David Camp seconded the motion.

The Motion did not pass due to a 3-3 vote. Chairperson Kay Henry, Board Member Dave Bergner, and Board Member Ian Murray opposed.

Chairperson Kay Henry thanked Ms. Ellis for the presentation.

Item 5. Hear a presentation on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program accomplishments in fiscal year 2016-2017.

Jim Hash, Senior Planner, introduced himself and shared that he would be giving an update on programs, events, and projects that have been conducted and completed by the City of Mesa's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program in FY2016-17.

Mr. Hash shared some highlights from the events throughout the past year and noted that the City of Mesa received a Silver award for being a Bicycle Friendly Community, which was presented by The League of American Bicyclists.

Board Member David Camp asked if any other cities in Arizona have won similar awards.

Mr. Hash explained that Scottsdale, Tucson, and Tempe have also won similar awards.

Mr. Hash continued his presentation, and explained that several key projects have completed construction, entered the design phase, or had a study completed. Mr. Hash highlighted recent signage that was installed along Main St to encourage bicyclists to ride on the street and not on the sidewalk.

Mr. Hash also shared some statistics on shared-use pathways, and the City of Mesa's bike share program, Grid, which continues to see its ridership numbers increase.

Mr. Hash indicated that the Transportation Department will be updating its Bicycle Master Plan,

and will bring updates to the TAB in the future.

Board Member David Camp asked if the City of Mesa has data on the number of accidents involving cyclists, and, if so, wanted to know about the trend.

Ms. Ellis explained that the City of Mesa analyzes crash data for fatalities, bicycle crashes, and pedestrian crashes, and is almost complete with the analysis for 2016.

Board Member David Camp stated that he would like the TAB to see data regarding the trends.

Lt. Nesbit clarified the difference between a cyclist and a bicyclist, and shared that, so far in 2017 the City of Mesa has had two bicycle fatalities and 13 pedestrian fatalities.

Ms. Ellis indicated that staff would bring a report to the TAB in the future, and noted that the nationwide trend is going up.

Board Member Murray stated that with an increase in population you would expect to see an increase in accidents.

Lt. Nesbit shared that Mesa is still on the low end for these types of accidents, given the size of the City.

Board Member David Camp asked if staff reaches out to local cycling clubs.

Mr. Hash indicated that staff does make a point to connect with cycling clubs in the area.

Board Member David Camp stated that not all cycling clubs train their cyclists to be safe cyclists, and was happy to hear the City connects with them.

Chairperson Kay Henry thanked Mr. Hash for the presentation.

Chairperson Kay Henry thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.