



mesa·az Transportation Advisory Board Report

Date: May 17, 2016
To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer
Subject: Speed Limit Change - Main Street from Country Club Drive to Hobson

Purpose and Recommendation

Recently, the Valley Metro light rail was extended through downtown Mesa. As part of this project, the Main Street cross section was reduced from two traffic lanes per direction and designated bike lanes to a single traffic lane per direction that is shared with bicyclists.

To promote a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly Mesa in the downtown area, staff recommends decreasing the speed limit to 25 mph on Main Street from Country Club Drive to Hobson. See attached figure for a location map.

Background

Per Mesa City Code Section 10-1-15, no person shall ride a bicycle, skateboard, motorized skateboard, or scooter upon a sidewalk within a Pedestrian Overlay Area (POA). The boundaries of the downtown POA are the east side of Country Club Drive to the west side of Centennial Way, the south side of 1st Street to the north side of 1st Avenue. Shared lane markings, also commonly referred to as sharrows, and "Bikes May Use Full Lane" signing have been installed on Main Street in downtown Mesa to create awareness that bicyclists have a legal right to occupy the travel lane as well as to educate bicyclists that they should cycle in the travel lane and not on the sidewalk where it is prohibited.

Discussion

With the extension of the light rail, downtown Mesa has seen an upsurge in pedestrian and bicycle activity. Even more so since April of this year when the Grid Bike Share system became available in Mesa and more than 10 stations were installed along Main Street between Country Club Drive and Horne as well as other various destinations in the vicinity (e.g., Mesa Public Library, Mesa Convention Center).

Speed counts were conducted on Main Street between Country Club Drive and Mesa Drive in February of this year. The results are as follows:

- Average speed between 22.1 mph and 25.3 mph
- 85th percentile speed between 28.0 mph and 31.9 mph
- Average volume approximately 11,000 vehicles per day

The currently posted speed limit on Main Street is 30 mph from Country Club Drive to Mesa Drive and 35 mph from Mesa Drive to Stapley Drive. Mesa's downtown square mile is bordered by Country Club Drive to the west and Mesa Drive to the east. Staff recommends that the 25 mph speed limit be extended past the eastern limits of the downtown square mile to Hobson to include the frontages of Pioneer Park and Mesa Arizona Temple, where many events are held throughout the year.

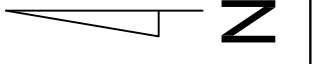
Alternatives

One alternative is to make no changes to the posted speed limit.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of making any changes discussed in this report is estimated to be less than \$800, which would come from the existing traffic operations budget. No other fiscal impacts to the City of Mesa are anticipated.

Fiscal impact is not a consideration in making a recommendation in this instance.



35 MPH EXISTING SPEED LIMIT

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25 MPH PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT

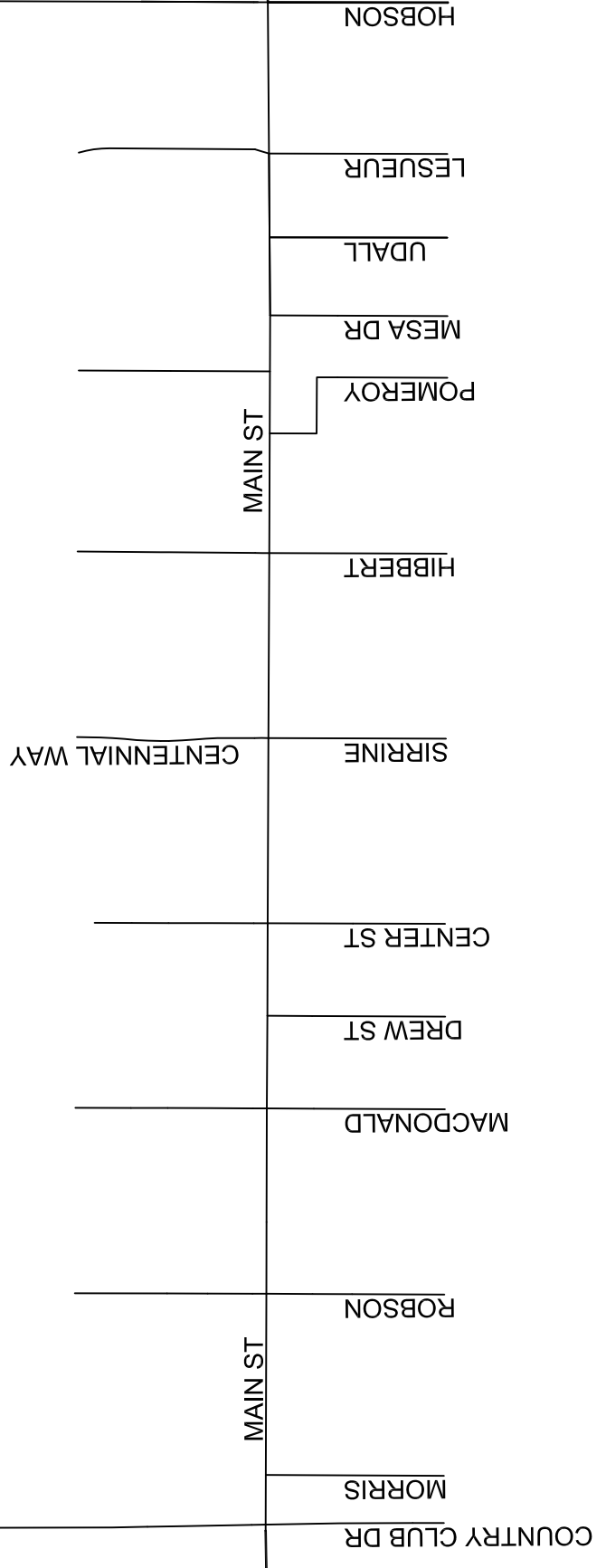


FIGURE: LOCATION MAP

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TRANSPORTATION