



Transportation Advisory Board Report

Date: February 18, 2025
To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Ryan Hudson, City Traffic Engineer
Subject: Modify and Establish Speed Limits
Val Vista Drive, Pomegranate Street to North City Limits

Purpose and Recommendation

The intent of this report is to modify and establish speed limits on Val Vista Drive from Pomegranate Street to north City limits. The majority of this corridor was recently annexed from Maricopa County (County) and is largely being reconstructed as part of development projects between the South Canal and Thomas Road. Currently, Val Vista Drive does have an established speed limit in Mesa City Code (City Code), but those respective limits were based on the former Mesa jurisdiction. Staff recommends the following:

- Establish a speed limit of 35 mph on Val Vista Drive from Quenton Drive to north City limits in City Code.
- Modify the limits of the existing posted speed limit of 40 mph for Val Vista Drive from Pomegranate Street to Quenton Drive in City Code.

See attached **Figure 1** for a location map.

Background and Discussion

Val Vista Drive, from McDowell Road to north of SR-202, is a four-lane with raised median arterial street cross-section. A portion of this corridor, from the South Canal to Thomas Road, used to reside within County jurisdiction and is currently being improved as part of the Burden Orchard and Pioneer Crossing developments that are being built on the east and west sides of Val Vista Drive. By means of an ordinance, the City annexed this segment of Val Vista Drive between the South Canal and Thomas Road, and the respective annexation was recorded on June 19, 2023 (Ordinance 5790). Val Vista Drive, north of Thomas Road and to north City limits, includes the SR-202 interchange and a cul-de-sac that resides approximately 350 feet north of the SR-202 westbound ramps.

Currently, Val Vista Drive has a speed limit of 45 mph south of Pomegranate Street, 40 mph between Pomegranate Street and the South Canal, 35 mph between the South Canal and Thomas Road (previously County jurisdiction), and 40 mph from Thomas Road to north City limits. Current City Code lists the existing speed limits as follows:

- Speed limit of 45 mph from Pomegranate to south City limits
- Speed limit of 40 mph from Pomegranate to north City limits

Given the existing vertical and horizontal curvature of Val Vista Drive between Quenton Drive and Thomas Road and the proposed land uses and developments that are actively being constructed between the South Canal and Thomas Road, it is proposed for the Val Vista Drive speed limit to reduce from 45 mph to 40 mph at Pomegranate Street and from 40 mph to 35 mph at Quenton Drive. The roadway alignment between Quenton Drive and Thomas Road includes three horizontal curves and a vertical curve, which is located at and adjacent to the South Canal bridge. The roadway curves meet criteria for a 40-mph design speed, as defined by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and typically, speed limits are set at 5 mph below the design speed. The adjacent developments along Val Vista Drive between the South Canal and Thomas Road include three residential subdivisions and a mixed-use center that will include event space, limited-service restaurants, and retail. Additionally, a signalized pedestrian crossing is being constructed on Val Vista Drive for residents to cross Val Vista.

The proposed 40-mph speed limit between Pomegranate Street and Quenton Drive and proposed 35-mph speed limit from Quenton Drive to north City limits must be established by means of Ordinance and amendment of Sections 10-4-4 and 10-4-5 of City Code.

Alternatives

As an alternative, a speed limit other than the recommended 35 mph (between Quenton Drive and north City limits) and 40 mph (between Pomegranate Street and Quenton Drive) could be established. However, considering the roadway geometrics and characteristics of these segments of Val Vista Drive, the posted speed limits on the adjacent sections, and the adjacent land uses, the recommended speed limits are most appropriate and reasonable. Additionally, as a new roadway inventory, City Code needs to be updated.

Fiscal Impact

The installation of speed limit signs between Pomegranate Street and north City limits is included in the construction of the adjacent developments' offsite improvements, resulting in no fiscal impact.

