



mesa·az Transportation Advisory Board Report

Date: September 19, 2023
To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Joe Draper, Traffic Studies Analyst
Subject: Preston Street between 64th Street and Sericin
Speed Cushion Installation

Purpose and Recommendation

This report presents the level of support for the proposed installation of speed cushions on Preston Street between 64th Street and Sericin from affected property owners and from other road users. See **Figure 1** for the location map. Under the current Speed Hump Policy (Policy), once a street meets all the warranting criteria that make it eligible for the installation of speed cushions, the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) must decide to approve or not approve the installation.

Staff recommends approval of the installation of speed cushions on Preston Street between 64th Street and Sericin.

Background

Preston Street is a collector type street that serves as a connection between the arterial and local neighborhood streets and serves as a direct connection to residential driveways. Under the current Policy, the 85th percentile speed must be at least 8 mph over the posted speed limit, traffic volumes must be less than 5,000 vehicles per day, at least 70% of the affected property owners must support the installation, there must be less than 70% opposition from the secondarily affected property owners, and the Fire Department and the TAB must approve of the installation.

Discussion

Preston Street between 64th Street and Sericin has met all the warranting criteria that make it eligible for speed cushions.

Preston Street between 64th Street and Sericin has a posted speed limit of 25 mph, 85th percentile speed of 35.3 mph, and daily traffic volume of 958 vehicles. The Fire Department does not object to the installation of speed cushions in this street section.

The survey of the 129 affected property owners confirmed at least 70% approval. Affected properties include all that are within 300 feet of this segment of Preston Street.

Ninety-one (91) or 71% of the 129 affected property owners approve of the speed cushions. Sixteen (16) property owners are not in favor and twenty-two (22) property owners could not be reached and therefore, thirty-eight (38) are considered to not approve.

The survey of the ninety-two (92) secondarily affected property owners confirmed less than 70% opposition. Secondarily affected properties include all that are over 300 feet and within 600 feet of this segment of Preston Street. Since no neighborhood liaison was identified for the denial survey, staff conducted a mail-out survey with postcards sent out in June 2023 and the denial survey concluding in September 2023.

We received six (6) responses from the ninety-two (92) secondarily affected property owners. Six (6) are not in favor and eighty-six (86) did not respond. Therefore, eighty-six (86) are considered to approve.

Comments from other road users were generated through the placement of information signs on Preston Street. The signs indicated that speed cushions may be coming, and directed the public to a webpage, or a telephone number, for more information. The signs were up for two weeks in August/September of 2023.

Twenty-three (23) comments were received from people who live outside the affected areas (i.e., the properties not included in the neighborhood acceptance and denial surveys). Seven (7) supported the installation of speed cushions saying vehicles travel at a high rate of speed, there are speed cushions on Preston Street west of 64th Street, and the devices are needed for the safety of the kids that walk and ride their bicycles along Preston Street. Sixteen (16) were opposed to the installation saying speed cushions do not deter speeding, the devices are a nuisance, and the devices add wear and tear to vehicles.

Table 1: Speed Cushion Survey Results

RESPONSES	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED
Within affected area	91 (71%)	38 (29%)
Within secondarily affected area	86 (93%)	6 (7%)
Outside affected and secondarily affected areas	7 (30%)	16 (70%)

When dealing with potential traffic calming measures on collector streets, staff's experience has been that support for traffic calming largely comes from those who live on the affected streets, while there is little or no support from others who do not live on or adjacent to the affected streets. This is not unexpected since traffic has a larger impact on the quality of life for the adjacent residents than for drivers who use a particular street but live elsewhere. Thus, historically more weight has been given to the desires of the residents of a street in implementing traffic calming, while still leaving the street available to all drivers.

Alternatives

One alternative is to not approve the installation of speed cushions; however, this would be one less tool to address traffic speeds on this street.

Fiscal Impact

Three sets of speed cushions on Preston Street are estimated to cost \$18,000 (\$6,000 each set on a 40-foot-wide road.)

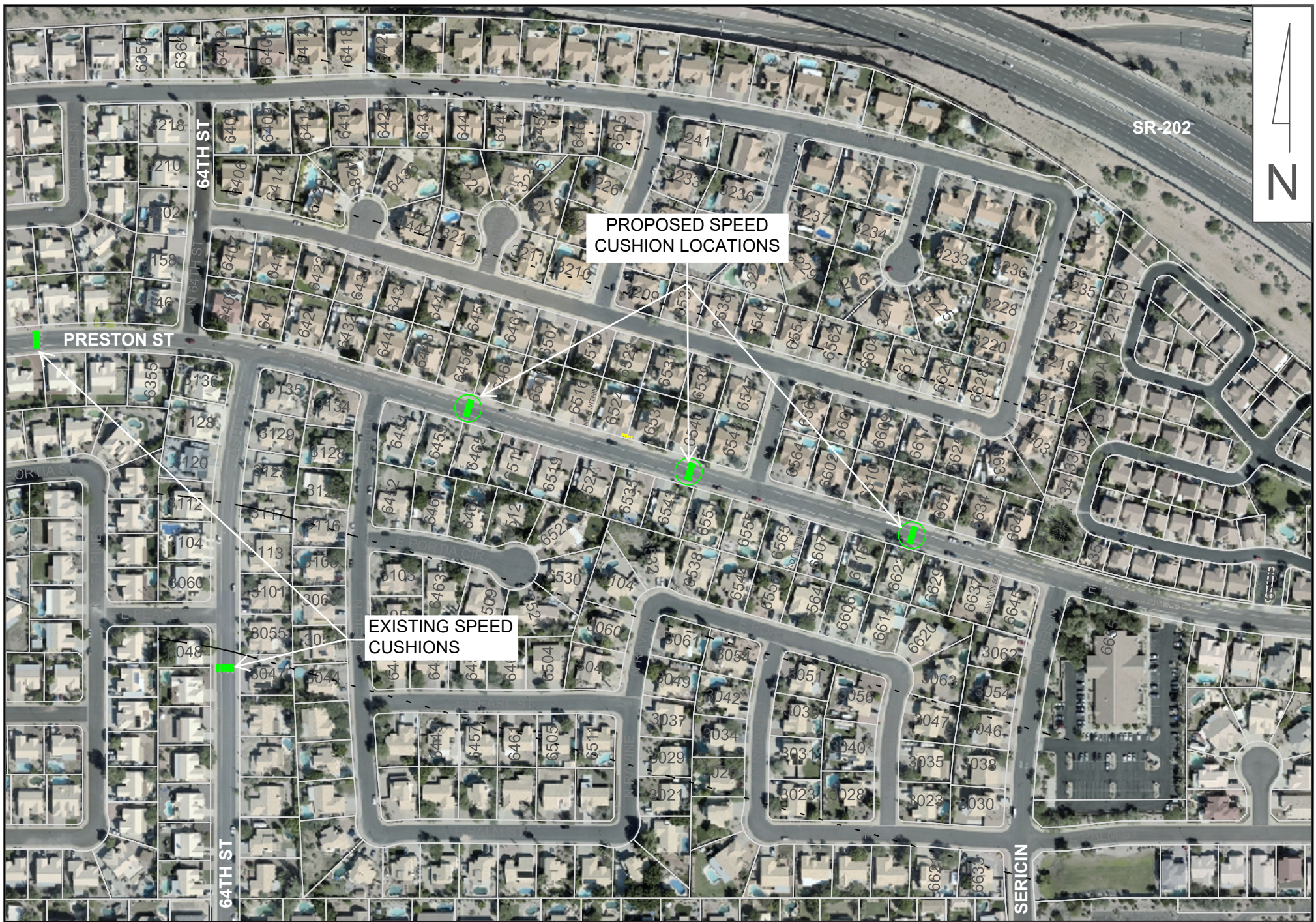


FIGURE 1 - PRESTON ST LOCATION MAP