



mesa·az Transportation Advisory Board Report

Date: September 17, 2024
To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Elizabeth Valdez, Traffic Studies Analyst
Subject: Meseto Avenue between Alma School Road and Patterson
Speed Cushion Installation

Purpose and Recommendation

This report presents the level of support for the proposed installation of speed cushions on Meseto Avenue between Alma School Road and Patterson 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 Meseto Avenue between Alma School Road and Patterson.

Background

Meseto Avenue, between Alma School Road and Patterson, is a collector type street that serves as a connection between the arterial and neighborhood collector/local street network. It also serves as a direct connection to residential driveways and a school/church driveway on the south and north sides of the street segment, respectively. 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

Meseto Avenue between Alma School Road and Patterson has met all the warranting criteria that make it eligible for speed cushions.

Meseto Avenue between Alma School Road and Patterson is a 25-mph street with a

recorded 85th percentile speed of 33 mph, and a daily traffic volume of 1,460 vehicles. The Fire Department does not object to the installation of speed cushions on this street section.

The survey of the 36 affected property owners confirmed at least 70% approval. Affected properties include all that are within 300 feet of this segment of Meseto Avenue.

Twenty-nine (29) or 81% of the 36 affected property owners approve of the speed cushions. Two (2) property owners are not in favor and five (5) property owners could not be reached. Therefore, seven (7) are considered to not approve of the speed cushions.

The survey of the twenty-one (21) 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 Meseto Avenue. Since no neighborhood liaison was identified for the denial survey, the City conducted a mail-out survey with postcards sent out in May 2024 and the denial survey concluding in August 2024.

We received one (1) response from the 21 secondarily affected property owners. The one (1) respondent was in favor and twenty (20) did not respond. Therefore, twenty-one (21) are considered to approve.

Comments from other road users were generated through the placement of information signs on Meseto Avenue. 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 of 2024.

Nineteen (19) comments were received from people who live outside the affected areas (i.e., the properties not included in the neighborhood acceptance and denial surveys). Nine (9) supported the installation of speed cushions citing regular occurrences of high vehicle speeds when dropping kids off at St. Timothy Catholic School, the street segment not being safe for children walking or crossing the street, and lots of speeding with too many schools in area. Ten (10) were opposed to the installation saying they are against any more speed cushions in the area, the devices cause damage to the bottom of vehicles, the devices slow down the bus drivers who are already late causing kids to be late to school, and it is a waste of taxpayer money that could be used elsewhere.

Comments from another two (2) people were received; however, these people did not provide their address. These two (2) respondents were in favor of the speed cushions.

Table 1: Speed Cushion Survey Results

RESPONSES	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED
Within affected area	29 (81%)	7 (19%)
Within secondarily affected area	21 (100%)	0 (0%)
Outside affected and secondarily affected areas	9 (47%)	10 (53%)
Area not known	2 (100%)	0 (0%)

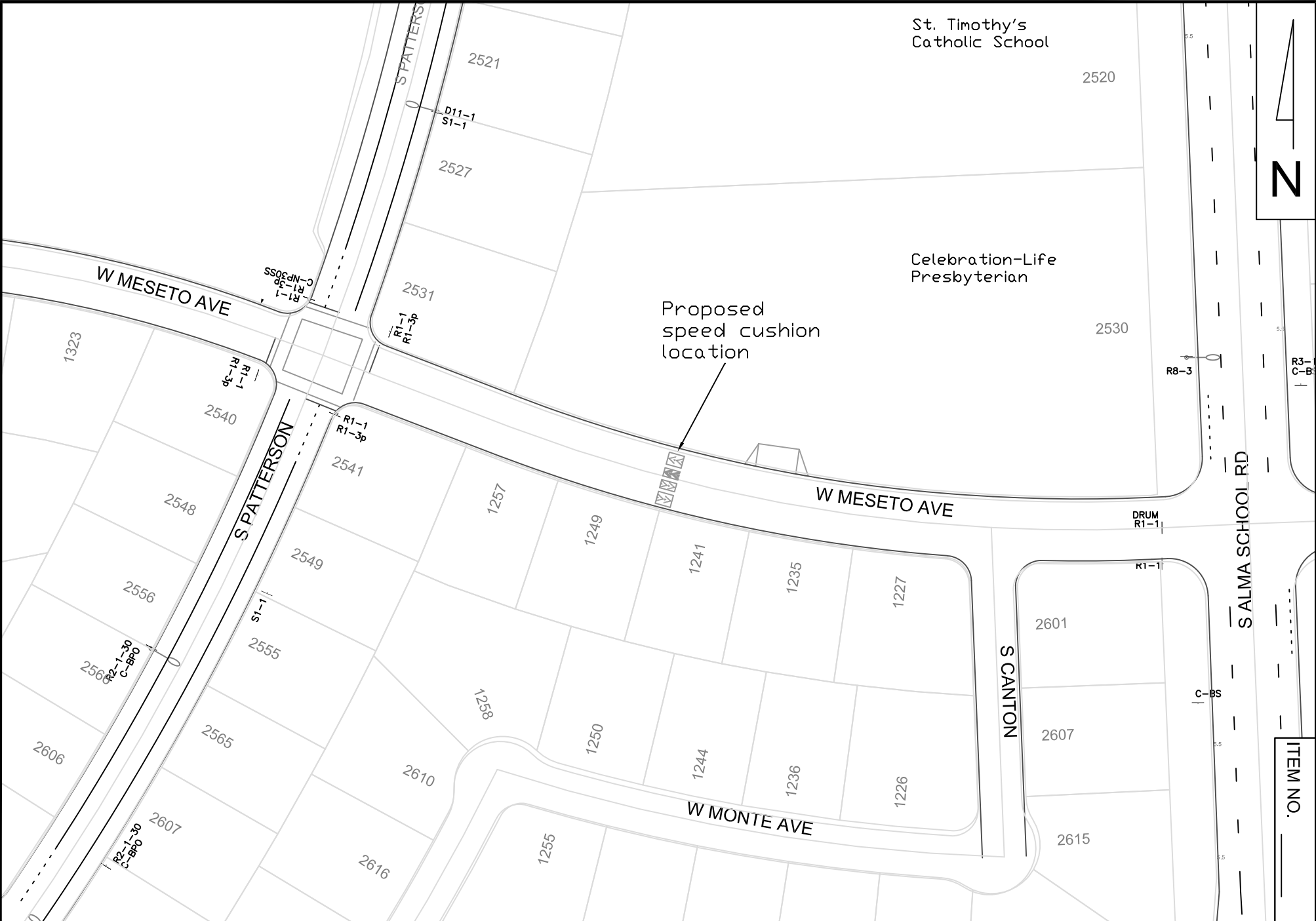
When dealing with potential traffic calming measures on collector streets, staff's experience has been that support for traffic calming largely comes from those who live on the affected streets, while there is little or no support from others who do not live on or adjacent to the affected streets. This 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

One set of speed cushions on Meseto Avenue, which is a 48-foot-wide street, is estimated to cost \$6,000.



ITEM NO. _____