



## mesa·az Transportation Advisory Board Report

**Date:** March 17, 2009  
**To:** Transportation Advisory Board  
**From:** Benny Rodriguez, Senior Traffic Studies Analyst  
**Subject:** Parking Conditions  
Encanto Street East of Lindsay Road

### **Purpose and Recommendation**

At the December 16, 2008 Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) meeting, the Board discussed the on-street parking conditions on Encanto Street, just east of Lindsay Road. The matter was tabled for 60 days to give the Central Christian Church of the East Valley (CCCEV) 60 days to try to eliminate or reduce on-street parking associated with church-related activities. The Board also requested that a speed study be done on Encanto Street.

This report discusses staff's recent observations of on-street parking as well as the results of the speed study.

Staff recommends that CCCEV continue its efforts to encourage church attendees to park on-site, and that no additional measures be taken by the City. The number of vehicles observed parking on-street and the traffic speeds measured are both low.

### **Background**

Encanto Street east of Lindsay Road is a 34-foot wide local street. Single family homes line the north side of the street, and Central Christian Church of the East Valley (CCCEV) is on the south side of the street. See Figure 1.

To address neighborhood speeding on this section of Encanto Street, speed humps were installed in January 2002.

In 2007 CCCEV opened a second campus in Gilbert. The opening of the second campus has drawn many members from the Lindsay campus resulting in a reduction in the demand for parking.

## Discussion

The speed data collected in January of 2009 reveals that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed has been reduced by five miles per hour when compared to the 2001 speed data. The average speed has been reduced by more than six miles per hour. This data shows that the desired effect of reducing speeds on this section of Encanto Street by installing speed humps has been achieved.

Furthermore, the data also reveals that speeds on Encanto Street during the weekends are lower than speeds during the week. The speed data is shown in the table below.

<b>SPEED DATA AUGUST 2001</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Average Speed</b>	<b>85<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>
August 22-24, 2001	29	33
<b>SPEED DATA JANUARY 2009</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Average Speed</b>	<b>85<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>
Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009	21.1	27
Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009	21.6	26
Monday, Jan. 26, 2009	22.5	28
Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009	22.4	28

The number of church-related vehicles traveling on Encanto Street is minor. Data confirms that the majority of church-related traffic is confined to the driveways off of Lindsay Road. A total of 6,216 vehicles entered and exited the church parking lot from the five driveways that serve the parking lot over a Saturday and Sunday (January 24 & 25, 2009). Of the 6,216 vehicles, approximately 5% (i.e., 304 vehicles) used the two Encanto Street driveways.

Staff also made observations of on-street parking conditions during the weekend services. The amount of on-street parking observed is summarized in the following table.

<b>OSERVATIONS DONE FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2009</b>		
<b>Service Date and Observation Time</b>	<b>Number of Church-Related Vehicles Parking on North (Residential) Side of Encanto</b>	<b>Number of Church Related Vehicles Parking on South (Church) Side of Encanto</b>
Sunday, Feb. 22 9:30am	0	3
Sunday, Feb. 22 11:15pm	0	0
Saturday, Feb. 28 4:30pm	0	0
Saturday, Feb. 28 6:30pm	0	0
<b>OBSERVATIONS DONE FALL 2008</b>		
<b>Service Date and Observation Time</b>	<b>Number of Church-Related Vehicles Parking on North (Residential) Side of Encanto</b>	<b>Average Number of Church-Related Vehicles Parking on South (Church) Side of Encanto</b>
Eight Dates and Times	0	7

CCCEV has been and will continue to encourage its members to use the church parking lots by including messages in church bulletins, and leaving flyers on windshields of vehicles parked on Encanto Street.

### **Alternatives**

1. Post courtesy signs near the church’s west gate on the south side of Encanto Street.

The church continues to place notices in their church bulletin and puts notices on vehicles parking on the street. These efforts are working. Courtesy signs would be redundant at this time but could be revisited in the future. The cost to install two courtesy signs is about \$200. If courtesy signs are desired they should be worded in a way that is agreeable to both the church and residents. An example may be “Please Park in Parking Lot, Not on Encanto Street”, or “Please Respect the Neighborhood and Park in the Parking Lot When Possible”, which would serve as a reminder to church members to use the on-site parking lot.

2. Prohibit parking on Encanto Street, either on one side of the street, or both sides.

Under City Code, the City of Mesa can prohibit on-street parking when the

parking creates a significant burden (nuisance) to adjacent property owners. An example of a significant burden, as given in City Code, is heavy/frequent parking due to a nearby church.

Staff recommends against this alternative because it has been the practice of the City to only prohibit nuisance parking adjacent to a property only with the consent of the adjacent property owner. CCCEV objects to a parking prohibition along the south side of Encanto. Also, prohibiting parking along the south side of the street would likely move the on-street parking to the north side of the street, which would be more of a burden to residents than the parking along the south side.

Not all residential property owners along the north side of the street would agree to a prohibition along the north side of Encanto Street because some need additional parking. Staff observed no church related parking along either side of Encanto Street in recent weeks.

Based on staff's recent observations, the amount of congestion in this area is minimal and infrequent. Encountering vehicles parked on both sides of residential streets can be expected in residential areas.

3. Develop a residential street permit parking program.

Staff recommends against this alternative. Currently, the only on-street permit parking in Mesa is in the downtown area. The program is administered by the Downtown Mesa Association.

Staff has received similar requests in the past, and has turned down the requests due to the resources required to administer such a program. Currently, Transportation does not have the resources to administer the program. Additional police resources would be needed to enforce such a program.

If the City were to offer this program to this neighborhood, it must be prepared to offer it to other neighborhoods when requested. The City could expect requests in areas near schools, parks, churches, and other popular facilities that are located near residential streets.

## **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with staff's recommended.

The fiscal impacts of the three alternatives are as follows:

1. Approximately two signs would be installed at a cost of \$200.

2. About six signs would be installed per side of the street. If parking is prohibited on one side of the street, the cost would be \$600. If parking is prohibited on both sides of the street, the cost would be \$1,200.
3. The manpower required for administration and enforcement of a residential permit parking program could cost tens of thousands of dollars per year.

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