



# mesa·az Transportation Advisory Board Report

**Date:** April 21, 2009  
**To:** Transportation Advisory Board  
**From:** Sanja Grujakovic, Traffic Studies Analyst  
**Subject:** Left Turn Prohibition  
Freemont Junior High School Driveway; 1001 North Power Road

## Purpose and Recommendation

At the request of Ms. Patricia Christie, Principal of Freemont Junior High School at 1001 North Power Road, staff reviewed the school's south driveway on Power Road for a possible westbound left turn prohibition. Ms. Christie is concerned with drivers making left turns out of the driveway onto Power Road. She is concerned that traffic backup at the school's south driveway may be creating potentially dangerous situations during student drop-off and pick-up times. See Figure 1.

In an effort to reduce the backups and crash potential caused by drivers waiting to make left turns out of the school's driveway during student drop-off and pick-up times, Ms. Christie is requesting that the driveway be posted with "No Left Turn" signing. The left turn prohibition is expected to reduce the overall delay experienced by exiting drivers.

In order to address the concerns of Ms. Christie, it is recommended that westbound left turns be prohibited between 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM and between 3:30 PM and 4:00 PM, School Days from the driveway located on the east side of Power Road with centerline located 360 feet north of Adobe. If approved, the left turn prohibition will be reflected in City Code allowing police enforcement as needed.

## Background

Freemont Junior High School is located on the east side of Power Road 360 ft north of Adobe. Power Road is a six-lane roadway, with three through lanes in each direction. The portion of Power Road adjacent to the school consists of three northbound lanes and three southbound

lanes with a raised median on the north side of the driveway. Power Road has a posted speed limit of 45 MPH with 35 MPH for portions of the day when children are on their way to or from school.

The school's driveway consists of two lanes; one for traffic to enter and one to exit the school property. The school has posted a sign prohibiting left turns from this driveway, but this unauthorized sign is not enforceable.

Observations at the school revealed heavy traffic volumes in the parking lot create a backup at this driveway. Northbound traffic on Power Road backs up across the driveway due to the students crossing at the signalized intersection of Ensenada Street and Power Road. This contributes to the delay exiting the parking lot. The heaviest volume for the driveway is between 3:45 pm and 3:55 pm. This is the same 10-minute period with the most students crossing Power Road and northbound traffic backing up thru the driveway. Zero left turns were made during this 10 minute period. A review of crashes reveals low crash frequency history at this driveway.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Two signs will be required to indicate the left turn prohibition at a cost of \$200.

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Sanja Grujakovic, Traffic Studies Analyst



FREEMONT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

PROPOSED WESTBOUND  
LEFT TURN PROHIBITION

SCHOOL DRIVEWAY

ENSENADA STREET

360'

POWER ROAD

ADOBE ROAD

ADOBE STREET

