



mesa·az Transportation Advisory Board Report

Date: August 18, 2009
To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Renate Ehm, Senior Transportation Engineer
Subject: Jensen Street between Power Road and Ivyglen Street
Speed Cushion Installation

Purpose and Recommendation

This report presents the level of support for the proposed installation of speed cushions on Jensen Street between Power Road and Ivyglen Street from immediately affected property owners and from other road users. See Figure 1 for location map. Under the current Speed Hump Policy, the Transportation Advisory Board must approve the installation.

Staff recommends approval of the installation of speed cushions on Jensen Street between Power Road and Ivyglen Street.

Background

On February 5, 2009, the City Council approved a revision to the Speed Hump Policy that would permit the use of speed cushions on streets designated as fire routes. This policy change followed a pilot project whereby speed cushions were installed on Hermosa Vista Drive between Lindsay Road and Gilbert Road.

City Council approved \$150,000 for the speed hump program in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Jensen is a collector type street that serves as a connection between the arterial and local neighborhood streets. Under the current Speed Hump Policy, when a street functions as a collector street, all road users shall have an opportunity to comment so as to determine the level of support/opposition from the broader community for speed cushions.

Discussion

Jensen has met all of the warranting criteria that make it eligible for speed cushions. It has a posted speed limit of 30 mph, the 85th percentile speed is 41 mph, which is at least 8 mph over the posted speed limit, the daily traffic volume is 2,900 vehicles per day, and the Fire Department does not object to their installation on this street. The survey of the 102 affected property owners confirmed at least 70% approval. Affected properties include all that abut this segment of Jensen, and three properties or a minimum of 300 feet on each side of the connecting streets.

Seventy-two (72) of the 102 affected property owners (71%) approve of the speed cushions, six (6) do not approve, and 24 did not answer or could not be reached and are therefore considered not to approve.

Comments from other road users were generated through the placement of information signs on Jensen. The signs indicated that speed cushions were coming, and directed the public to a webpage, or a phone number, for more information. The signs were up for approximately three weeks in July.

Forty (40) comments were received from people who did not live in the affected area (i.e., the properties included in the neighborhood survey). Twenty-three (23) were opposed to the installation saying they were not needed, there is no problem, the devices are unsightly, they will reduce property values and increase emergency response times, they inhibit traffic flow, are inconvenient, don't improve safety, increase wear and tear on vehicles, and are a waste of money. Seventeen (17) supported speed cushions saying they were long overdue and that they would like to see cushions installed all the way to Brown Road.

Comments from another 21 people were received; however, these people did not provide their address. Twelve (12) respondents said they were opposed to the speed cushions, eight (8) were in favor, and one (1) did not register an opinion.

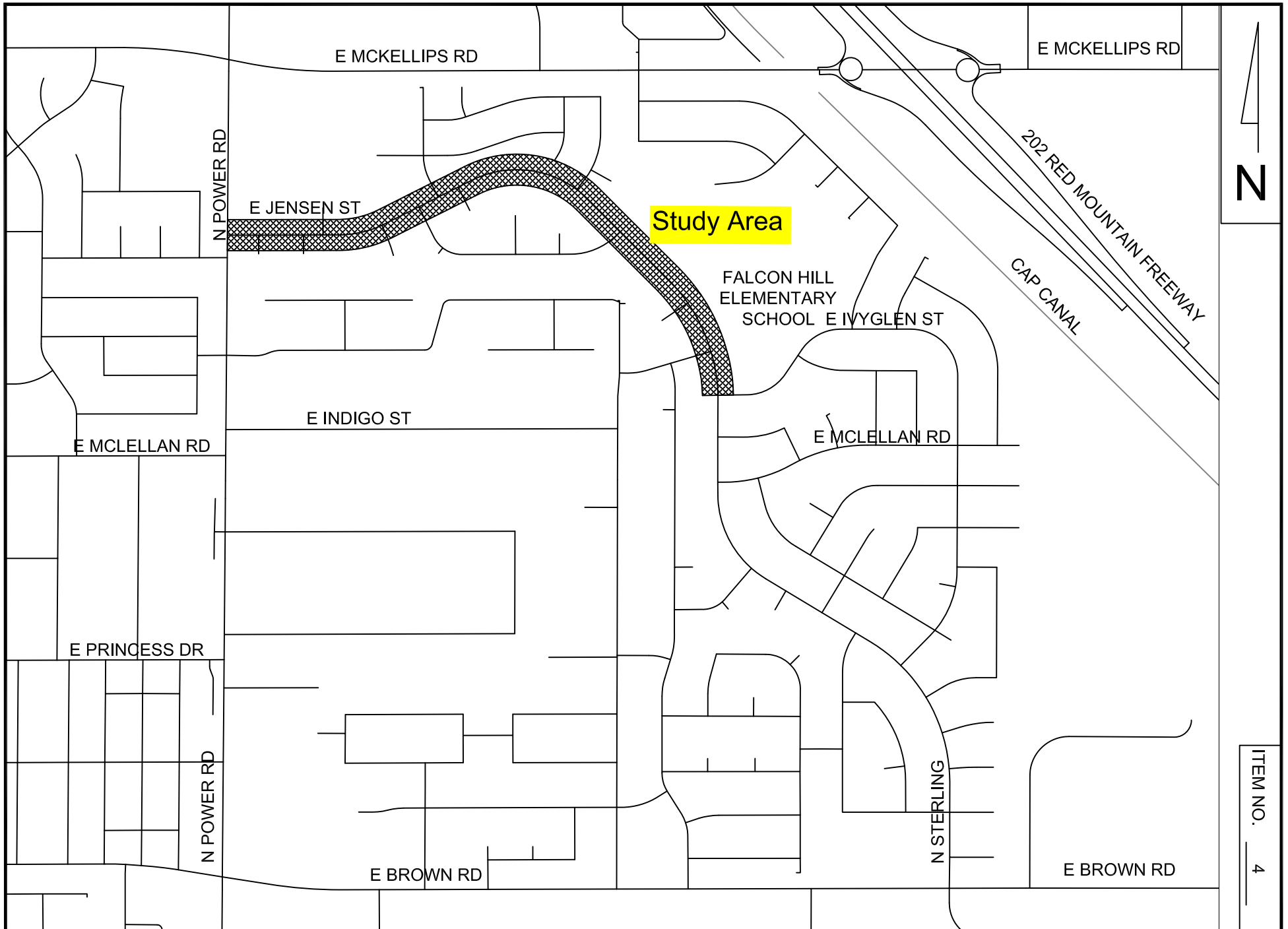
When dealing with potential traffic calming measures on collector streets, staff's experience has been that support for traffic calming largely comes from those who live on the affected streets, while there is little or no support from others who use but do not live on or adjacent to the affected streets.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

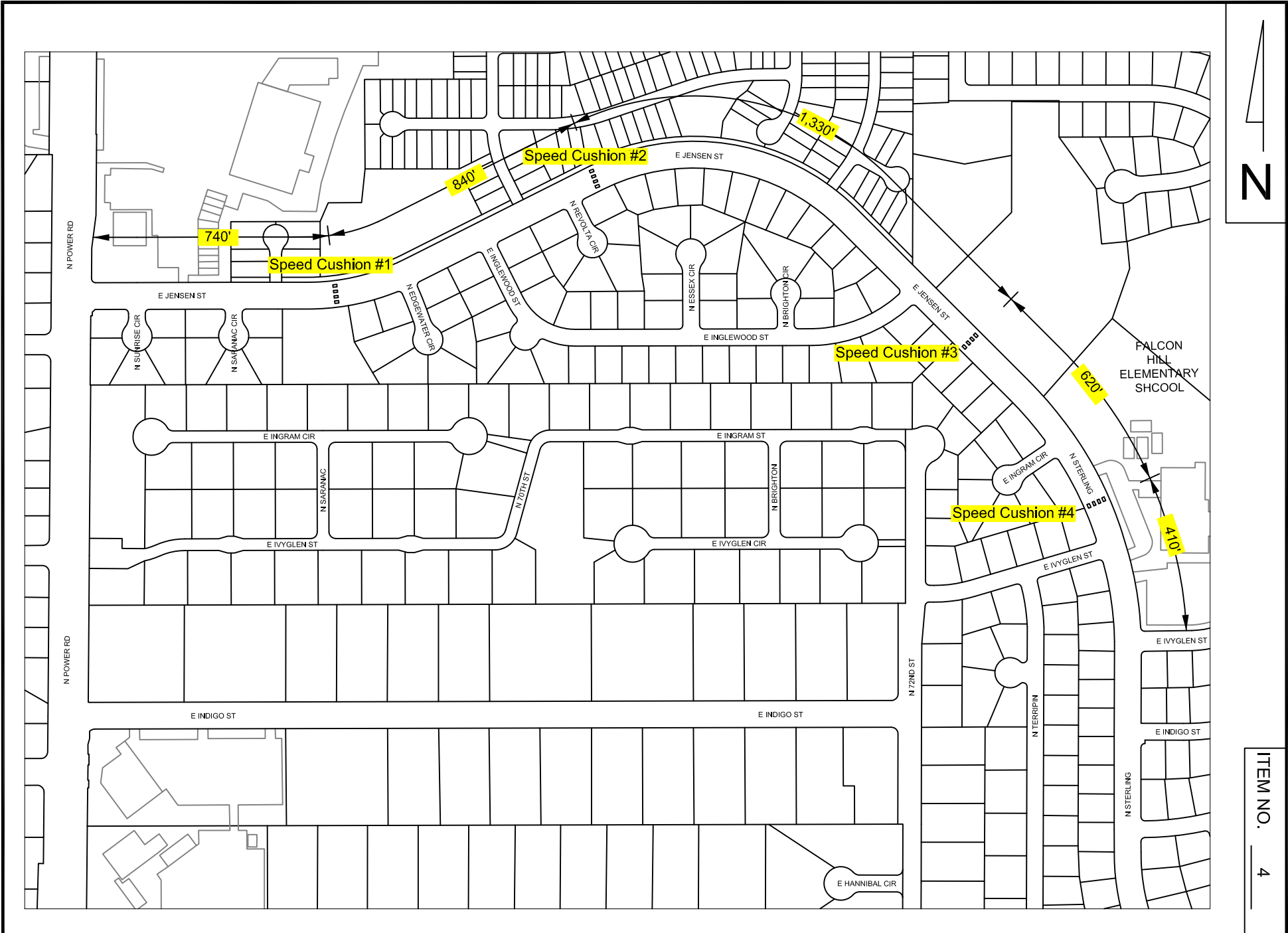
Alternatives

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

Fiscal Impact

Four sets of speed cushions on Jensen are estimated to cost \$14,800.





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FIGURE 2: PROPOSED SPEED CUSHION LOCATIONS