

Transportation Advisory Board Report

Date: August 18, 2009

To: Transportation Advisory Board

Through: Fred Rustam, Deputy City Engineer – Design

From: Marc Ahlstrom, Senior Civil Engineer

Subject: **Southern Avenue and Mesa Drive Intersection Improvements - Alignment Study**
Project No. 01-817-001, Council District No. 4

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Board on the proposed alignment for the Southern Avenue and Mesa Drive Intersection Improvements. It is recommended that the Board approve the alignment for Southern Avenue and Mesa Drive as shown on the attached Exhibit "A".

Background

The City of Mesa *2025 Transportation Plan* approved by the City Council in June 2002 recommended the widening of Mesa Drive between US 60 and Southern Avenue as well as improving the intersection at Southern Avenue and Mesa Drive.

Following adoption of the *2025 Transportation Plan* in June 2002, the following activities have occurred:

- The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) (Proposition 400), including extension of the half-cent sales tax, was approved by the Maricopa County voters in November 2004. The RTP includes the widening of Mesa Drive and improvements to the Southern Avenue and Mesa Drive intersection.
- The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) widened Mesa Drive at the interchange with US 60 to match the proposed 6 lanes on Mesa Drive between US 60 and Southern Avenue. This project was completed in 2002.

- The approved Two-Year Streets Bond Program (November 2008) provided City funding necessary to construct this project.

The project will be coordinated with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) as well as the various utility companies and adjacent property owners, all of which are key stakeholders.

Discussion

Currently, Mesa Drive north of US 60 consists of two lanes in each direction (northbound and southbound) with a center two-way left turn lane. At the intersection with Southern Avenue, each leg consists of two through lanes and a single left turn lane.

From US 60 to approximately 1500' north of Southern Avenue (see Exhibit "A"), Mesa Drive will be improved to include three through lanes in each direction, a flush median with short raised landscaped sections, street lighting, signals, sidewalks, and bike lanes. Southern Avenue will be improved approximately 1500' east and west of Mesa Drive to include three through lanes in each direction, a two-way continuous left turn lane, lighting, sidewalks, etc. At the intersection of Mesa Drive and Southern Avenue, raised medians will be installed within 700 feet on each leg to limit left turn conflicts from adjacent driveways. Also, dual left turn lanes will be constructed on each leg of the intersection.

Two public meetings were held to allow input on the proposed alignment. Based on the comments received, Transportation and Engineering modified the alignment to allow more access to the intersecting roadways on Mesa Drive south of Southern Avenue and minimize the need to acquire right of way from the adjacent properties. The final alignment and improvements shown in the attached exhibits reflect these changes.

Community Impact

The proposed improvements will improve the overall operation of the intersection by providing additional capacity to meet current traffic volumes. Impacts associated with construction of this project may be temporary construction noise, dust, and temporary traffic restrictions.

Alternatives

Not constructing the improvements is the only alternative considered. This alternative would result in a continuation or worsening of the existing traffic congestion and is not recommended.

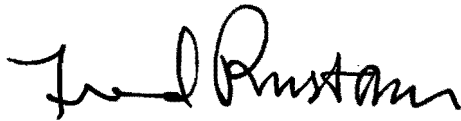
Fiscal Impact

Funding for this project is included in the approved Two-Year Streets Bond Program. The estimated costs of the project are as follows:

- Street Construction \$15 million
- Right of Way Acquisition \$5 million
- Utility Relocations \$1.5 million

Coordination

The Transportation and other impacted departments have been participants in the planning and design process, and concur with the proposed alignment.



Fred Rustam, Deputy Engineer - Design



Alan Sanderson, City Traffic Engineer



FOR

Marc Ahlstrom, Sr. Civil Engineer

Attachments

Exhibit "A" Proposed Southern and Mesa Intersection Alignment, August 2009

EXHIBIT A

PROPOSED SOUTHERN AND MESA
INTERSECTION ALIGNMENT, AUGUST 2009