



mesa·az Transportation Advisory Board Report

Date: September 15, 2009
To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Benny Rodriguez, Senior Traffic Studies Analyst
Subject: Installation of School Zone Flashing Lights

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of a project to install yellow flashing lights in nine reduced speed school zones this fiscal year.

Background

The City of Mesa currently has 14 reduced speed school zones where the speed limit is reduced to 35 mph during school hours. Of these sites, five have flashing lights that activate when the 35 mph speed limit is in effect. The remaining sites have static signs that indicate the times when the 35 mph speed limit is in effect.

The installation of yellow flashing lights improves driver compliance with the 35 mph reduced speed limit in these school zones by drawing driver attention to the reduced speed limit and by providing an active indication when the reduced speed limit is in effect. These sites are listed in Table 1.

Discussion

A comparison of driver speeds before and after the installation of the flashers at two school zones last year revealed that the 85th percentile speeds were reduced. The reductions ranged from 3 to 5 mph resulting in 85th percentile speeds ranging from 35 mph to 40 mph.

As a result of the reduction in speeds at the school zone sites with flashers, similar installations are desired for the remaining nine reduced speed school zones in Mesa. Installation costs are estimated at \$184,000. Seven installations would be adjacent to a Mesa public school while two would be adjacent to a Gilbert public school.

Fiscal Impact

Because of the economic slowdown the City will be installing fewer traffic signals, therefore, making funds available for this project.

Funding for this project will come from the Intelligent Transportation Systems capital and operations budgets whose revenues come from the Local Transportation Sales Tax and the Highway User Revenue Fund respectively.

In addition, both school districts have agreed to share in the cost (50%) of their respective school zones.

Mesa's cost is estimated at \$92,000 which is less than the cost one traffic signal.



Benny Rodriguez, Senior Traffic Studies Analyst

TABLE 1 - REDUCED SPEED SCHOOL ZONES IN THE CITY OF MESA

Static Signs

	SCHOOL	ON STREET	LIMITS	TIME WHEN 35 MPH IN EFFECT ON SCHOOL DAYS	SPEED LIMIT AT OTHER TIMES
1	FREMONT JHS	POWER	BROWN - ADOBE	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	45 MPH
2	SMITH JHS	CRISMON	8TH ST - BROWN	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	45 MPH
3	HIGHLAND JHS	GUADALUPE	POWER - SOSSAMAN	7:30 AM - 4:00 PM	45 MPH
4	MOUNTAIN VIEW HS	BROWN	LINDSAY - 24TH ST	7:30 AM - 4:00 PM	45 MPH
5		LINDSAY	BROWN - HOPE	7:30 AM - 4:00 PM	45 MPH
6	DOBSON HS	GUADALUPE	ALMA SCHOOL - DOBSON	7:30 AM - 4:00 PM	45 MPH
7	MESA HS	SOUTHERN	HARRIS - GILBERT	7:30 AM - 4:00 PM	45 MPH
8	DESERT RIDGE HS	CRISMON	GUADALUPE - MADERO	7:00 AM - 3:30 PM	45 MPH
9	SKYLINE HS	CRISMON	PUEBLO - SOUTHERN	7:30 AM - 4:00 PM	45 MPH

Yellow Flashers

	SCHOOL	ON STREET	LIMITS	TIME WHEN 35 MPH IN EFFECT ON SCHOOL DAYS	SPEED LIMIT AT OTHER TIMES	YEAR OF FLASHER INSTALLATION
1	LONGFELLOW ELEM. SCHOOL	BROADWAY	WILLIAMS - GILBERT	7:45 AM - 4:00 PM	40 MPH	2001
2	PORTER ELEM. SCHOOL	LINDSAY	SOUTHERN - HAMPTON	7:45 AM - 4:00 PM	45 MPH	2001
3	RHODES JHS	BASELINE	LONGMORE - DOBSON	7:00 AM - 8:00 PM	45 MPH	2006
4	RED MOUNTAIN HS	BROWN	POWER - SUN VALLEY	7:30 AM - 4:30 PM	45 MPH	2008
5	BRIMHALL JHS	SOUTHERN	HIGLEY - 48TH ST.	7:45 AM - 4:45 PM	45 MPH	2008