



Street Transportation Department

UPDATE ON SONORAN BOULEVARD PROJECT RECOMMENDATION ITEMS - NOVEMBER 2013

This report provides an update on the City Council action taken on July 6, 2011, which approved the recommendations that resulted from the solutions based forum concerning the construction of the Sonoran Boulevard construction project in north Phoenix. The status report below reflects that 12 out of the 16 recommendation items have been completed with 4 items still pending.

THE ISSUE

The following updates are for the recommendations listed in the July 6, 2011 City Council Report entitled, "Sonoran Boulevard Solution Based Forum Results." The recommendations are organized in the following categories: A.) Sonoran Boulevard Project Enhancements, B.) Future Area Transportation Priorities, and C.) Process Improvements.

NOVEMBER 2013 STATUS UPDATE

A.) Sonoran Boulevard Project Enhancements

1. *Initiate the process for renaming the roadways of Sonoran Boulevard and Sonoran Desert Drive. This process would include a community wide canvassing to determine a consensus on the name for the northern roadway (Sonoran Desert Drive/Lone Mountain Road/Sonoran Boulevard). Based upon the neighborhood responses and Council approval, produce and install the appropriate street name signs and coordinate with the Arizona Department of Transportation to erect new freeway signage with the new corresponding street names.*
- ✓ **Status: Complete** - The City Council granted approval of the revisions to the citywide street renaming policy on January 24, 2012. The revised policy was followed to complete street renaming evaluations in the Sonoran Preserve area. The survey results from the canvassed area for the Sonoran Boulevard alignment responded in support of changing the street name back to Dove Valley Road and City Council approved the renaming recommendation and associated funding on June 20, 2012. The survey results from the canvassed area for the Sonoran Desert Drive alignment responded in support of leaving the street name unchanged.
2. *Install speed control measures along Sonoran Boulevard [Dove Valley Road] between North Valley Parkway and 15th Avenue. The speed limit within this residential area shall not exceed 35 miles per hour. These measures may consist of addition speed limit signage or speed feedback indicators with associated flashers. Other measures may be warranted based upon field evaluations after roadway construction is complete. Additionally, the speed limit along Sonoran Boulevard [Dove Valley Road / Sonoran Desert Drive] east of 15th Avenue shall not exceed 45 miles per hour.*

✓	<p>Status: Complete - The recommended project speed limits are consistent with planned speed limits. A solar powered speed feedback sign has been installed to the east of 15th Avenue for westbound traffic and is functioning.</p>
3.	<p><i>Design and install enhanced landscaping along Sonoran Boulevard [Dove Valley Road] from approximately 22nd Avenue to 15th Avenue. The anticipated standard is to place a minimum of 3-inch caliper trees at 20-foot spacing on center in coordination with adjacent residents and Homeowner's Association (HOA) tract properties. Enhancements to tract areas will be subject to HOA approval. Additional landscaping will be maintained by the adjacent property owners.</i></p>
✓	<p>Status: Complete - The enhanced landscaping has been installed by the Sonoran Boulevard construction project contractor with concurrence from the adjacent HOAs.</p>
4.	<p><i>Install a traffic signal at the intersection of North Valley Parkway and Sonoran Boulevard [Dove Valley Road] upon completion of the current Sonoran Boulevard construction project.</i></p>
✓	<p>Status: Complete – The traffic signal equipment has been installed at this location and is fully functional.</p>
5.	<p><i>Conduct a final evaluation of the 27th Drive and Carefree Highway intersection once the Sonoran Boulevard project is complete. Traffic volumes and service levels will be used to determine if the installation of dual left turn lanes and traffic signal phase adjustments are warranted.</i></p>
□	<p>Status: Pending - This evaluation is planned be conducted in early calendar year 2014 after a traffic stabilization period post completion of the Sonoran Boulevard construction project and the Dove Valley Road connection from North Valley Parkway to I-17.</p>
6.	<p><i>Further investigate limiting the Gross Vehicle Weights along Sonoran Boulevard [Dove Valley Road] in compliance with local and state statues. This restriction would also require cooperation from the Police Department for field enforcement.</i></p>
✓	<p>Status: Complete - On September 2, 2011, Street Transportation and Police Department staff met and concurred that the City's commercial vehicle ordinances can address this issue. Staff does not recommend the installation of signage to prohibit trucks because this route will be an arterial street utilized for area deliveries and the transport of equipment for localized construction activities. Finally, there are City and State requirements that govern gross vehicle weights and their presence on public roadways. City Code sections 36-88.04 and 36-88.08 establish the weight limits allowed by State law and set the penalties that may be imposed. Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) 28-1099, 28-1100, and 28-1101 are referenced by City Code. No further legislative action is recommended at this time.</p>
7.	<p><i>Review and ensure compliance of the Sonoran Boulevard project with Edge Treatment Guidelines. This review will require coordination with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Planning and Development Department.</i></p>

- ✓ **Status: Complete** - Staff has reviewed the project and determined that the Sonoran Boulevard project design currently meets the intentions set forth in the City's Edge Treatment Guidelines in all applicable categories. Inspection staff will ensure that the project is constructed in compliance with the guidelines.
8. *Research the necessary elements required for the enforcement of sound levels generated by motorcycles. This effort requires analysis of the city code and motor vehicle code for authority and requires coordination with the Police Department for field enforcement.*
- ✓ **Status: Complete** - On September 2, 2011, Street Transportation and Police Department staff met and concurred that the City's existing noise ordinance, combined with police traffic enforcement, can address sound levels generated by motorcycles along public roadways. Finally, there are City and State requirements that govern noise levels of vehicles. City Code sections 23-12, 13 & 14, 36-68, and 36-69 restrict unnecessary vehicle noise and noise from out-of-repair vehicles. City Code references Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) 28-955, et seq. dealing specifically with motorcycle noise. No further legislative action is recommended at this time.

B.) Future Area Transportation Priorities

1. *Initiate an alignment study for Sonoran Desert Drive (southern alignment) from Sonoran Boulevard [Dove Valley Road / Sonoran Desert Drive] to Paloma Parkway to evaluate alternative or additional roadway connections and to site the required right-of-way for the corridor. Area stakeholders, including the Arizona State Land Department and the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, are to be invited to participate in the process.*
- **Status: Pending** - Street Transportation Department staff coordinated with the District 2 Council Office to identify available funding for this study. Consultant services for this study have been acquired and two public meetings have been held in the proximate area with a third meeting to be scheduled. Staff has also been coordinating with the Arizona State Land Department and will reach out to the Phoenix Mountain Preservation Council.
2. *There will be no future expenditure of city capital funds on Sonoran Boulevard [Dove Valley Road] (northern alignment) between Paloma Parkway and Sonoran Desert Drive to widen the roadway beyond the one lane in each direction that is currently under construction. Adjacent private development would still need to comply with City ordinances and provide improvements along their property frontage. Expansion to four lanes will not occur until such time as the southern alignment (Sonoran Desert Drive) is completed or adjacent development of State land warrants it.*
- ✓ **Status: Complete** - The Street Transportation Capital Improvement Program, which was approved by the City Council on June 22, 2011 and on May 30, 2012, identifies no additional funding along the preserve area portion of the Dove Valley Road (aka Sonoran Boulevard) alignment outside of the funds necessary to complete the roadway project currently under construction.

3. *Initiate the process to consider a Scenic Corridor designation for both the Sonoran Boulevard [Dove Valley Road] and the Sonoran Desert Drive alignments through the Sonoran Preserve area. Key stakeholders will be the Arizona State Land Department and the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council. The City of Phoenix may have to acquire and purchase land for the scenic corridor should that be one of the elements. This process is generated by the Planning and Development Department and requires Council approval to designate.*
- Status: Pending** - On September 14, 2011, Planning and Development Department staff received approval from the Planning Commission to initiate a Sonoran Boulevard [Dove Valley Road] and Sonoran Desert Drive Scenic Corridor Policy Document, a General Plan Text Amendment of the Circulation Element Goal 2B, and a General Plan Street Classification Map Amendment to consider a scenic corridor designation for Dove Valley Road (aka Sonoran Boulevard) and Sonoran Desert Drive in the area between Interstate 17 and Cave Creek Road.
- The formal public process starts with the impacted village planning committees. In this case, the committees are North Gateway and Desert View. Discussions with the stakeholders, such as the Arizona State Land Department and the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, will also take place. After review by the village planning committees, the Planning Commission will hold a hearing and develop recommendations to submit to City Council. City Council will also hold a hearing to determine the outcome of the Scenic Corridor designation.
4. *Confirm the roadway classification of Sonoran Boulevard [Dove Valley Road] (northern alignment) from North Valley Parkway east to Sonoran Desert Drive as a [minor] arterial street with a maximum of two (2) through lanes in each direction at ultimate build-out.*
- ✓ **Status: Complete** - The current Street Classification Map, as approved by the City Council on January 20, 2010, provides four total lanes of traffic with two lanes in each direction for the section of roadway currently designated as Dove Valley Road (aka Sonoran Boulevard) from North Valley Parkway to the intersection of the roadway currently designated as Sonoran Desert Drive. There are no efforts underway or anticipated that would revise the classification of this section of the roadway.
5. *Confirm the roadway classification of Sonoran Desert Drive (southern alignment) from North Valley Parkway east to Cave Creek Road as a major arterial street with a maximum of three through lanes in each direction at ultimate build-out.*
- ✓ **Status: Complete** - The current Street Classification Map, as approved by the City Council on January 20, 2010, provides six total lanes of traffic with three lanes in each direction for the section of roadway that is currently designated as Sonoran Desert Drive from North Valley Parkway east to Cave Creek Road. There are no efforts underway or anticipated that would revise this section of the roadway.
6. *Request that City staff review proposals for public-private partnerships to advance the construction of the roadway connection and bridge (100 year flood crossing) along the Sonoran Desert Drive alignment from the I-17 freeway to North Valley Parkway.*

- **Status: Pending** - Street Transportation staff has completed a preliminary scoping document to conceptually define the limits and impacts of this proposed project. Staff is moving forward with a Two-Step Design-Build-Finance delivery method which will allow for the selection of a designer / contractor team based upon qualifications, price, and the ability to finance the project until fiscal year 2016 when City funds are currently programmed.

A consultant team (via Gannet Fleming, Inc.) to provide general engineering services has been selected, with Council contract award, to assist with the design, procurement, and finance packages of the overall project. Right-of-way negotiations along the corridor are ongoing, with the Arizona State Land Department property having been acquired through auction. Procurement of the final design-build-finance project team could begin is currently underway with an estimated Council award in December 2013 and execution of the contract in March 2014.

C.) Process Improvements

1. *Initiate a task force to review the current street renaming process and recommend improvements to be instituted citywide. This process is facilitated by the Planning and Development Department. Residents from the Sonoran area communities must have representation on the task force.*

- ✓ **Status: Complete** - A task force was convened on August 25, 2011, to review the citywide street renaming process. The task force consisted of three representatives from north Phoenix (Sonoran Preserve area), two representatives from the South Mountain Village Planning Committee, one citywide neighborhood representative, and staff from various City departments. The group discussed changes that will significantly enhance community notification and feedback.

The proposed changes include notification to property owners within a minimum of one-half mile from eligible arterial streets and notification within a minimum of one-quarter mile from eligible collector streets. The proposal also includes posting signs along the eligible corridor, notifying area neighborhood/homeowner associations, and automatic notification of affected village planning committees.

The City Council granted approval of the proposed revisions to the citywide street renaming policy on January 24, 2012.

2. *Request that the District 2 Council Office create a formal "stakeholder list" for the Sonoran area and notify these stakeholders of all developments and City street projects within a defined geographic area.*

- ✓ **Status: Complete** - Street Transportation staff has provided the District 2 Council Office with an electronic copy of the up-to-date list of stakeholders.

FUNDING PLAN

Funding for the implementation of the project enhancements, future transportation priority studies, and process improvements identified in this report is proposed to be provided through City Council approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds with additional efforts to reprogram funds from other projects within Council District 2 or other revenue sources outside of the City.