



June 18, 2021

UPDATE: Central Avenue (Bethany Home Road to the Arizona Canal) Proposed Lane Changes

A Note from Street Transportation Director, Kini Knudson

Thank you for sharing feedback with the city of Phoenix Street Transportation Department regarding the proposed lane changes on Central Avenue from Bethany Home Road to the Arizona Canal. I know your time is valuable and I would like to express that your participation in this process was vital and greatly appreciated.

I am writing to share an update on the proposed changes. We proposed to adjust the motor vehicle travel lanes from two motor vehicle lanes in each direction to one motor vehicle lane in each direction with a center turn lane and buffered bicycle lanes in each direction.

Our [Accelerated Pavement Maintenance Program](#) provides an opportunity to change the lane configuration on freshly treated streets to meet the goals set forth in the voter-approved [Transportation 2050](#) plan – improving safety and adding bicycle connectivity – in a cost-effective manner. However, any time a proposal will adjust the number of motor vehicle travel lanes or restrict on-street parking, we go through a robust public input process.

The city of Phoenix highly encouraged all users of this corridor – people who walk, bike or drive – to attend a live virtual public meeting on May 20 and to provide input on the proposed changes by taking a survey that closed June 11 through the project website. In the public meeting presentation, my team explained that there were tradeoffs to consider with the proposed lane changes. In addition, the project survey asked the community about their priorities for this segment of roadway.

In response, hundreds of residents attended the live meeting, watched a recording of the meeting, called the project hotline or emailed the project team, and thousands of residents took the online survey. As I mentioned in our public meeting, your feedback was important, and I am extremely pleased that we did hear from so many members of the community, including residents, commuters, bicyclists, runners, parents of school children, business owners, shoppers, church members and other stakeholders.

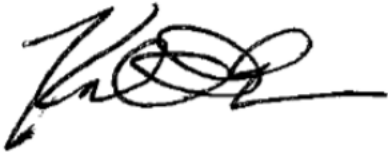
In the weeks following the virtual public meeting, staff evaluated the data collected from the online survey as well as feedback sent to the project team via the project hotline or email. **Based upon detailed review of the community input received, the Street Transportation**

Department is no longer pursuing the proposed lane changes on Central Avenue, between Bethany Home Road and the Arizona Canal. We will proceed with the pavement treatments on Central Avenue and restripe the road with the existing lane configuration.

For those of you who voiced support for the proposed changes, and might be disappointed by this decision, I would like to remind you that there are several projects to add or improve bicycle infrastructure in Phoenix underway that received enthusiastic community support, including plans to add bicycle lanes on [3rd Street](#) between Garfield Street and Indian School Road. Another project to enhance and protect the bicycle lanes on [3rd Avenue](#) between Osborn Road and Indian School Road is near completion and was recently celebrated with a community bike ride. The city's first [two-way protected bicycle lanes](#) were also recently opened on 3rd Avenue between Roosevelt Street and McDowell Road. The Street Transportation Department will continue to maximize active transportation and bicycle infrastructure opportunities throughout the city and keep the community engaged and informed.

Thank you again for your participation in this process.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kini L.E. Knudson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kini L.E. Knudson, P.E.
Director