



## **UPDATE: 55th Avenue from Pinnacle Peak to Happy Valley Roads Proposed Lane Changes**

October 14, 2021

As part of the voter-approved Transportation 2050 Plan, the City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department's [Accelerated Pavement Maintenance Program](#) provides an opportunity to change the lane configuration on select streets to improve safety.

The section of 55th Avenue between Pinnacle Peak and Happy Valley Roads is scheduled to be repaved soon. Following the repaving project, the roadway will be striped with a new lane configuration. A virtual public meeting about proposed lane changes was held on September 2, 2021, during which the Street Transportation Department team presented two options.

**Option 1:** Proposed an edge line to better define the traffic lanes and the addition of a center turn lane where room allows. Additional lanes of traffic in each direction would be added in the northern section of the project corridor where room allows. All turn lanes and turn pockets would remain the same. The existing parking options and restrictions also would remain the same.

**Option 2:** Proposed buffered bike lanes throughout the project corridor and the addition of a center turn lane where room allows. Additional lanes of traffic in each direction would be added in the northern section of the project corridor where room allows. All turn lanes and turn pockets would remain the same. This option would restrict on-street parking. In the southern portion of the corridor, where there is an existing median, this option would remove one lane of traffic in each direction for approximately 800 feet. The lane removal would not impact traffic at the intersections or overall capacity of the street.

More than 30 community members provided their input on the proposal by participating in a live poll and Q&A session during the meeting. Feedback also was gathered from more than 60 people through a survey that was available on the [project webpage](#).

Based upon a detailed review of the community input received during the meeting, from the online survey, through calls to the project hotline and from other communications sent to the project team, the Street Transportation Department will pursue option 2. Analysis of the meeting's live poll questions showed that 73 percent of attendees were in favor of option 2, as were 85 percent of those who provided input via the online survey.

During this public engagement process, several community members shared a concern that motorists driving within the project corridor exceed the posted speed limit. Additionally, many parents shared their concern about children walking to and from school and the speeding vehicles.

In response to those concerns, the selected option 2 helps encourage safer driving. To further quantify those concerns, a temporary speed radar trailer was deployed on 55th Avenue during the month of September. These trailers are deployed throughout the city and can be requested for additional deployments after four months by calling 602-495-5463.

The school zone and school crossing on 55th Avenue at Alameda Road will be upgraded as part of this project, to include extra signs and additional paint. Concerns for safety with school crossings can be directed to the department's School Safety Coordinator at 602-534-2020. The Phoenix Police Department also maintains a traffic complaint hotline – 602-534-SPEED or 602-534-7733.

The City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department thanks all who participated in this process.