

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: January 19, 2018

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Jeff Bauman, P.E., City Traffic Engineer
Mark Landsiedel, Community Development Director

CC: Josh Copley, Barbara Goodrich, Leadership Team

SUBJECT: US Highway 180 Pedestrian Crossings

Background:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) operates the intersections along US Hwy 180 / Fort Valley Road. The Forest Avenue intersection has been studied formally through consultant contract and internally by ADOT numerous times over the past decade or two. The Meade Lane intersection has been studied by ADOT internally as recently as this past fall.

ADOT has recently begun a pair of Corridor Master Plans (CMP) – Milton Road and US 180. The CMPs are comprehensive studies of the roadway corridor and the multitude of roadway users that rely on these corridors – transit, pedestrians, pedestrian crossings, freight, bicyclists, special event traffic, etc. The purpose of each study is to identify a 20-year vision for the corridor by obtaining public and stakeholder input on alternative improvement strategies.

Two specific locations have been identified by staff and the public along US 180 where pedestrian crossing enhancements have been requested – Forest Avenue and Meade Lane.

Forest Avenue and US Hwy 180:

The intersection of Forest Avenue at US 180 (180) was constructed in the late 1990's. Forest Avenue approaches 180 with a steep gradient due to the existing topography. This is an important detail, because as traffic volumes have increased at this intersection a traffic signal has been studied and considered, but the steep approach grade has been the determining factor in not considering traditional signalized control.

In the past several years, ADOT installed crosswalk markings across the south leg and a channelized right turn / pedestrian refuge treatment on the southeast corner of the intersection. The City also connected a new FUTS trail to the southeast corner, which has increased pedestrian crossings of 180. ADOT more recently

installed high visibility crosswalk markings and additional advanced warning pedestrian crossing signage on the Hwy 180 approaches to Forest Avenue.

Recently, the City and ADOT have received citizen reports of pedestrians having increased difficulty in crossing 180 and reports of numerous pedestrian – vehicle injury crashes. City Transportation Engineering, Flagstaff Police and ADOT have reviewed their crash reports for this area and have determined that no pedestrian crashes have occurred at this intersection area in the past 36 months.. One vehicle – bicycle injury crash did occur in the area, but it involved a high-speed southbound cyclist colliding with a northbound to westbound left turning vehicle at 180 and Beal.

Meade Lane and US Hwy 180:

The intersection of Meade Lane at 180 has recently received some attention from the public with the reopening of the restaurant (Fratelli's) and the reconstruction of the NAIPTA bus stop. Citizen concerns have been received by both the City and ADOT regarding the difficulty pedestrians have crossing Hwy 180 in the vicinity of Meade Lane.

With the improvements to the existing stop, NAIPTA requested that ADOT mark a crosswalk on 180. This request was denied by ADOT because a study had not been conducted to warrant the marked crosswalk installation. NAIPTA was given the opportunity to do the study, but chose not to. ADOT recently performed this study and found that pedestrian crossings were too low to warrant a marked crossing at this location.

Crash history at Meade Lane also shows zero injury crashes involving pedestrians in the past 36 months.

Recommendation / Conclusion:

The City is actively involved through both the Engineering Section and Planning Section in the Milton and 180 CMPs. The City has brought both the Forest Avenue and Meade Lane locations to the attention of the project team and we are expecting detailed analysis and recommendations for both in the CMP final reports.

The two CMP projects have websites for further information on their progress:

<https://www.azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/us-180-corridor-master-plan/overview>

<https://www.azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/milton-road-corridor-master-plan>

Ultimately the type of traffic control that is determined to be appropriate along the 180 corridor at each of these locations resides with the roadway jurisdictional authority, ADOT.

The public can contact ADOT via their website at www.azdot.gov. At the top right-hand corner of the screen, click “contact” to submit or provide feedback. An attachment can be added as well. ADOT can also be contacted via phone at the following numbers: 602-712-7555 for General Non-Motor Vehicle Inquiries and 602-255-0072 for the Motor Vehicle Division. Public feedback received is transmitted to the proper district or technical group for response.

This City Council Report is for information only.