

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: 7/13/2020

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Eli Reisner, Capital Improvements Project Manager

THROUGH: Bret Petersen, Capital Improvements Engineer
Rick Barrett, City Engineer
Daniel Folke, Community Development Director

CC: Greg Clifton, City Manager; Shane Dille, Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Tree Removal on Beal Road Due to Coconino Estates
Improvements Project Phase I

Background:

The Coconino Estates Improvements Phase I Project is a utility and roadway improvements project located in the Coconino Estates Neighborhood scheduled from spring 2020 through fall 2022. At the Beal Road and Fort Valley Road intersection portion of the Project, two mature trees within City right-of-way will be removed to install the proposed sidewalk and roadway improvements that will increase the safety and function of the intersection.

Discussion:

The Project will be adding sidewalk to both sides of Beal Road as a result of a collaborative neighborhood survey, which showed the majority of the neighborhood supported adding sidewalk to Beal Road where it does not currently exist. Beal is classified as a minor collector, meaning it has more traffic compared to other local streets in the neighborhood. Adding sidewalks to both sides of Beal will increase the safety for pedestrians using the roadway, it is supported by the neighborhood, it is recommended by the Design Team and City Staff given the high volume of traffic on Beal, and the sidewalks fit within the City's existing right-of-way.

The improvements at the Beal/Fort Valley intersection consist of sidewalks on both sides of Beal, sidewalk ramps on the west side of the intersection, widening the entrance of Beal onto/off Fort Valley, and replacing water and sewer infrastructure just west of the entrance. These proposed improvements will increase the safety and functionality of the intersection for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists as well as connectivity and use of the FUTS trail that parallels Fort Valley. Widening the entrance of Beal onto/off of Fort Valley will allow a vehicle to turn off Fort Valley onto Beal and for two cars to line up next to each other on Beal, allowing the north car to turn left and the south car to turn right onto Fort Valley all while maintaining the approximately perpendicular approach angle from Beal to Fort Valley per ADOT requirements. This widening at the intersection will

taper back down to the narrowed street section as quickly as possible to pull the improvements away from the west tree in an attempt to minimize the impacts to the west tree. The widening of the entrance of Beal Road onto/off of Fort Valley Road was added to the Project between the 60% and 90% stages of the design after discussions with several property owners at the second Open House Meeting held in November and was vetted by our Design Team, Capital Improvements Engineer, Traffic Engineer, and City Engineer. The widening of the intersection and therefore removal of the east tree will improve the sight-distance and safety of the intersection for all users, which was a concern raised by residents of the neighborhood at the open house meetings held during the design of the Project.

In the images below see the street view of the trees and a screen shot of the plans with the two trees to be removed outlined in red.



of the surrounding roadway improvements won't damage the root structure and compromise the stability of the tree. The canopy of both trees hang over the roadway and there will need to be a foot and half of material removed below the existing roadway in order to rebuild the new roadway over the existing poor soil conditions. The 510 Beal Road property owner has been offered to have the trees replaced with younger trees of similar species planted on her property, but she does not believe there is enough room on her property to plant any trees.

Recommendation / Conclusion:

Both trees are within City right-of-way and the plans call for their removal in order to install the proposed sidewalk and roadway improvements that will increase the safety, function, and connectivity of the intersection for FUTS users, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. These trees were the topic of many design meetings and multiple design iterations to the alignment of Beal trying to avoid them with the proposed improvements. Given the constraints, the Design Team and City Staff ultimately decided that the proposed safety, function, and connectivity improvements that the whole community could benefit from outweighed the benefits of the trees remaining. The trees are scheduled to be removed in the summer of 2021. Our hope is that the west tree can remain. However, our best efforts will be made to work around and save the west tree during construction, but there is no guarantee that it won't need to be removed as part of this Project.