



DATE: March 27, 2019

AGENDA ITEM # 2

TO: Complete Streets Commission

FROM: Jaime O. Rodriguez, Interim Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Cuesta Drive-Arboleda Drive Traffic Calming Project,
between S El Monte Avenue and Springer Road

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and provide input on revised concept drawings for the Cuesta Drive-Arboleda Drive Traffic Calming project between El Monte and Springer

INTRODUCTION

The Cuesta Drive Traffic Calming Project was presented to the Complete Streets Commission (CSC) at its January 23, 2019 meeting following an Open House Community Meeting. During both the Open House Community Meeting and the CSC meeting, resident input and commission input focused on two primary concerns:

- 1) Ensure the traffic calming measures currently proposed for the project, raised intersection speed tables at Cuesta Drive & Arboleda Drive and Cuesta Drive & S Clark Avenue, are properly designed to reduce vehicle speeds on Cuesta Drive, and
- 2) Include Arboleda Drive as part of the project with its own specific traffic calming measures to help reduce the likelihood of traffic diverting towards Arboleda Drive if traffic calming measures are only installed along Cuesta Drive.

BACKGROUND

Cuesta Drive is an east-west street connecting Downtown Los Altos with the City of Mountain View. The street is currently posted at a 25 MPH but the street is not enforceable by police radar because the Engineering & Traffic Survey for the roadway does not support the 25 MPH posted speed limit. The Cuesta Drive Traffic Calming project is currently in the design phase and includes the installation of two raised intersection speed tables at Cuesta Drive & Arboleda Drive and Cuesta Drive & Clark Avenue. The project also includes traffic data collection along both Cuesta Drive and Arboleda Drive to help determine before and after effect of the two intersection speed tables; should the data show impacts to Arboleda Drive, future traffic calming measures would be considered. This project is funded by the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project TS-01022, Collector Street Traffic Calming.

DISCUSSION

Based on community input from the January 27, 2019 Open House community meeting and the Complete Streets Commission meeting input on the same day, staff is recommending a rescope of the project to meet the two primary concerns expressed by the community.

The proposed changes to the project include the following elements:

- 1) Removal of the Proposed Raised Intersection Tables

The two proposed raised intersection tables at Cuesta Drive & Arboleda Drive and Cuesta Drive & S Clark Avenue would be removed in lieu of alternative treatments that staff believes will be more effective in helping to realize the desired reduction in vehicle speeds along Cuesta Drive

- 2) Speed Tables along Cuesta Drive

In lieu of the raised intersection tables, staff is proposing the use of placed strategically at mid-block locations. Speed tables are approximately 16-FT to 18-FT in width and include a flat top that allows the speed table to function simultaneously as a crosswalk for the community. Speed tables generate less noise as motorists drive over them because vehicles do not automatically begin to descend after reaching the crest of the speed table. Staff is recommending a speed table spacing of approximately 400-FT along Cuesta Drive.

During the Open House and commission meeting, staff will be presenting options that include the use of speed tables at the intersections of Arboleda Drive, Campbell Avenue, and S Clark Avenue along Cuesta Drive as an additional safety element for pedestrians.

The City of Los Altos currently has a council policy that does not allow for the installation of speed humps along collector streets such as Cuesta Drive so following community and commission input, staff will solicit City Council input on an exception to allow for the installation of these treatments, pending community and commission support.

- 3) Speed Humps along Arboleda Drive

Staff is recommending that Arboleda Drive be included into the design phase of this project so that traffic calming measures can be deployed simultaneously with measures on Cuesta Drive. Staff is recommending the use of speed humps that are approximately 10-FT to 12-FT in width. Unlike speed tables, speed humps do not have a flat top that allows the speed humps to be used as a pedestrian crosswalk but these types of traffic calming devices are more common on non-designed collector streets such as Arboleda Drive. Staff is recommending a tighter spacing of speed humps at 250-FT along Arboleda Drive in efforts to make Arboleda Drive a less attractive alternative route to Cuesta Drive for commute traffic.

4) Arboleda Drive Crosswalk at the Covington School Gate

Arboleda Drive includes a neighborhood access pathway to the rear of Covington School. Staff will be presenting options to improve access to the pathway that include high-visibility crosswalk markings and signage, use of a speed table crossing, median islands, and parking restrictions along the south side of Arboleda Drive near the crossings. Staff will be soliciting community input and commission input on these various alternatives to help advise the design phase and city council policy input.

5) Cuesta Drive & Springer Avenue Intersection Improvements

The existing project work scope for the Cuesta Drive & Springer Avenue includes modifications to the median island within the City of Los Altos jurisdiction. Staff is recommending options that can include: narrowing of the island to 2-FT with hardscape treatments; potential narrowing of the southbound Cuesta Drive approach to one lane; and reconstruction of the northeast corner of the intersection to provide pedestrian refuge islands with landscape treatments and a new “Los Altos Gateway Entry Sign”. These options would be pending further traffic model studies but the City is seeking community input on design preferences to help advise further policy input.

6) Campbell Avenue Intersection Treatments

The City will be presenting the community with options on new multi-way STOP control alternatives at Campbell Avenue & Arboleda Drive and Campbell Avenue & Rosita Avenue. New crosswalks and STOP controls for Los Pajaros Court-Glen Alto Drive at Campbell Avenue are also being considered for public input.

The intent of including Campbell Avenue into the project is to help ensure a wholistic view of the neighborhood to help benefit suggested route to school options to Covington Elementary School.

During the Open House prior to the Complete Streets Commission meeting, these items will be presented to the public for public input. To help ensure residents on and along the Cuesta Drive-Arboleda Drive corridors were properly notified regarding the March 27, 2019 Open House and Complete Streets Commission meeting, staff conducted the following public outreach efforts:

- Resident and Property Owner Mailers
- Door posting of community notices for residents on Cuesta Drive and Arboleda Drive
- Sign postings in the field at Cuesta Drive & El Monte Avenue, Cuesta Drive & Springer Avenue, and Arboleda Drive & Springer Avenue
- On-line notices on City Webpage
- Social Media Posting (Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Flyers at Los Altos Library and Community Center
- City Email and City Manager Weekly Update Announcements
- City Calendar
- News Story Notices to Town Crier

Staff will be soliciting a recommendation for their traffic calming measure preferences along Cuesta Drive and Arboleda Drive so that a community-preferred concept can be finalized for presentation to the City Council in the Spring 2019.

Attachments:

- Preliminary design drawings