



DATE: March 28, 2018

AGENDA ITEM # 2

TO: Complete Streets Commission

FROM: Aruna Bodduna, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Traffic Calming Plan on Cuesta Drive between El Monte and Springer

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and provide input on potential traffic calming measures for Cuesta Drive between El Monte and Springer

BACKGROUND

Cuesta Drive is a two-lane, east-west roadway, with a posted speed limit of 25 MPH. It connects Downtown area with City of Mountain View business district and is classified as a collector in the General Plan. All side streets are stop controlled at the intersection of Cuesta Drive. The intersection of Cuesta and Campbell has all way stop control. The intersection of Cuesta and El Monte is signalized, and intersection of Cuesta and Springer is all-way stop controlled.

The segment of Cuesta Drive between El Monte and Springer is approximately 0.6 miles (approximately 3,200 feet). Based on traffic counts conducted in February 2016, this segment carries approximately 9,500 vehicles per day. Cuesta Drive is not a designated truck route and commercial vehicles over three tons are prohibited.

Cuesta Drive is identified as a Class III bicycle facility in Bicycle Transportation Plan (2012). In Pedestrian Master Plan (2015), the segment between El Monte and Clark is identified as suggested route to Covington Elementary School.

Parking is allowed on both sides of the street. Paved shoulder area exists on the south side that is used by pedestrians and bicyclists. However, parking is not restricted in this paved shoulder area.

Based on the speed studies conducted in the past, 85th percentile speed was more than the posted speed limit. To reduce the 85th percentile speeds on collector streets and to allow enforcement of the current posted speed limits, Collector Traffic Calming Plan (2011) was developed. This plan identifies specific traffic calming devices necessary to achieve speed reductions. Raised intersection at Cuesta and Arboleda was identified in this plan.

DISCUSSION

In 2017, the City Council has directed staff to work with the Cuesta neighborhood on traffic calming plan. Since then Staff initiated discussion with the neighborhood representatives and the following improvements were recently completed on Cuesta Drive:

- Yellow piano key crosswalk and pedestrian crossing sign at Campbell
- Speed limit pavement markings and posted speed limit sign east of Campbell
- School crossing signage at Arboleda

Staff received complaints about increasing enforcement on Cuesta Drive. Following these complaints, Police Department (PD) staff increased enforcement in this area.

Based on discussion with representatives from the neighborhood, staff identified raised intersections at Arboleda and Clark as potential traffic calming measures along Cuesta Drive between El Monte and Springer. A raised intersection is a flat, raised area covering an entire intersection with ramps on all approaches. The purpose of a raised intersection is to slow vehicle traffic through the intersection and to improve safety for pedestrians. It has the advantage of calming two streets at once. Other potential improvements on Cuesta include the following:

At Springer intersection:

- o Adding gateway treatment (Signage)
- o Median improvements

Throughout the segment:

- o Shoulder area improvements on the south side

A component of a successful traffic calming plan is the evaluation and monitoring of prior traffic conditions versus the results of the post traffic calming device installation. Staff will conduct follow-up studies to evaluate the measures and to determine if the traffic problem has shifted to other neighborhood streets. These studies include, before and after speed surveys, traffic counts and diversion study. If the results of the follow-up studies indicate that adjacent streets are significantly impacted, Staff will coordinate with the residents along those streets to identify and implement appropriate traffic calming measures following the 2005 Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP). Staff is recommending funding the full implementation of traffic calming measures if the parallel streets are found to be impacted. However, the residents along the parallel streets have the option of implementing measures through NTMP process if they would like to proceed now, irrespective of Cuesta traffic calming plan.

Another request from neighborhood representatives is to reclassify Cuesta as “Local Collector” in the General Plan. Staff recommends this request to be evaluated during the General Plan update process.

Attachments:

None.