

Desert Shores/ South Shores Traffic Calming Improvements

Desert Shores and the South Shores are adjacently located in northwest area of Las Vegas in Ward 4. They are bordered by four major arterials; Cheyenne Avenue, Buffalo Drive, Lake Mead Blvd, and Rampart Blvd. Within the neighborhood, Harbor Island Drive, Coral Shores Drive, and Mariner Drive connect to form an internal horseshoe loop road that serves as the primary residential collector for both communities and provides access to all 4 major arterials. This loop road is currently posted 35 MPH and has 1 lane each direction with 8-ft shoulders. The neighborhood has lots of pedestrian activity. Joggers, dog walkers, and bicyclists are seen frequently traveling around the loop in the shoulder and the sidewalk.



City Traffic Engineering Division has received complaints from residents regarding speeding within Desert Shores and South Shores residential communities. In response to these concerns, the Traffic Division collected data, examined the crash history, and conducted multiple traffic studies in the area. This information along with a few lane striping options was presented to the residents at a Town Hall meeting. After much consideration, the Traffic Division has decided to install bike lanes as shown in the exhibit labeled as Option 2. In addition to the lane striping improvement, the City is lowering the speed

limit around the loop road to 30 MPH and installing a few custom signs to advise pedestrians they must walk the opposite direction of traffic if they walk or jog in the shoulder. (NRS 484B.297)

A before and after study will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of these improvements. The Traffic Engineering Division is optimistic that narrowing the lanes will reduce prevailing speeds and improve traffic safety for all road users. However, if the “after” study determines that the posted speed limit of 30 MPH is too low, the City may have to consider additional traffic calming measures or raise the speed limit back to 35 MPH. The basic intent of a speed limit is to identify the safe and reasonable limit for a roadway. An inappropriate speed limit can actually cause crashes. Frustrated drivers are not good drivers and they may ignore the posted speed limit, try to pass, cut drivers off to get ahead of the traffic and more. The differential speeds of those complying with the posted speed limit and those who don’t become greater when a speed limit is posted too low. This makes it difficult for drivers and pedestrians to judge the speeds of approaching vehicles and find safe gaps.



A proposed schedule for data collection and installation of the pavement markings and signs is provided below. The City expects to make these commitments unless unforeseen issues come up.

Proposed Project Schedule

8/13/18 to 8/24/18

The City will collect “before” speed and volume counts at designated locations along internal loop road within South Shores and Desert Shores. (The loop road consists of Harbor Island Drive, Coral Shores Drive, and Mariner Drive.)

8/27/18 to 9/7/18

The City Traffic Maintenance Division will be installing bike lane lines and bike lane symbols within South Shores and Desert Shores along Harbor Island Drive, Coral Shores Drive, and Mariner Drive as shown in exhibit labeled Option 2. In addition, the City will remove the 35 MPH signs and install 30 MPH signs. Lastly, signs will be installed at a few designated locations to encourage pedestrians to walk against traffic if they choose to walk in the shoulder.

November 2018

The City will collect “after” speed and volume counts at the same locations to determine whether the project successfully lowered the speeds and if the 30 MPH speed limit is appropriate along these roads.

Early 2019

If the project is successful, a formal change to the speed limit will be heard at the Traffic and Parking Commission meeting.