



Transportation & Streets Department
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Thomas Road Complete Street Project – 56th to 73rd streets Project History and Scope of Work

INTRODUCTION

The Thomas Road Complete Street project will improve safety for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists traveling on Thomas Road between 56th and 73rd streets. The project will reduce the number and width of travel lanes to discourage speeding and provide additional space for right turn lanes and bike lanes. The project will provide a consistent roadway through the city between 56th Street and Pima Road, similar to what has also occurred on Indian School and McDowell Roads.

Land Rights – Thomas Road 56th Street to 73rd Street (Future requested City Council Action)

No new fee simple right-of-way is being acquired for this project, however new land rights are needed and are as follows:

- Easements for upgrading ramps to be ADA compliant.
- Easements for new and existing traffic signal poles.
- Easements for two new streetlights just west of 68th Street where we are working with SRP to underground existing power poles so that a right turn lane can be constructed at the SWC of 68th and Thomas Road. The existing streetlights are currently mounted to the power poles which will be eliminated for the conversion from overhead to underground utility.

The City is also acquiring a few Temporary Construction Easements (TCE) which are temporary land leases for the contractor to have sufficient room to do their work. The largest one is in front of the Chase Bank on the NWC of Thomas Road and Scottsdale Road where the bus stop is being relocated closer to the intersection. This bus stop is heavily used, and there are frequent instances of pedestrians crossing mid-block to get to the existing bus stop.



Milestone Progress with Thomas Road: 56th to 73rd Street Project

- 2007 Project Assessment Thomas Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements: 64th Street to Pima Road.
- 2016 Transportation Master Plan Update – Thomas Road reclassified as Minor Arterial.
- 2017 Applied for federal funding.
- 2019 included in Adopted Fiscal Year 2019-2020 CIP Budget.
- 2020 Design started.
- 2022 TAP adoption.
- 2022 Public open house and project webpage.
- 90% Design complete.
- Utility coordination with SRP for undergrounding of overhead electric lines in progress.
- Appraisals in progress.
- 100% Design anticipated for May 2023.
- Submit full plans, specifications and estimates for final approval of federal funds in June 2023.
- 2024 construction to begin.

Public Outreach - Thomas Road 56th to 73rd Street Project

Staff conducted an open house on December 5, 2022 for both the Thomas Road and 68th Street projects. The open house allowed attendees to see the project's design details, future cross-sections and project areas, ask questions, and provide feedback. The meeting was promoted through a mailing to nearly 6,000 properties in the neighborhood and social media outreach. Two project websites have also been active and provide project information, contact information, and a comment link since that time.

To build off the previous outreach efforts that are typical of our CIP projects, staff will be canvassing businesses along Thomas Road, holding a second public open house, and taking the project to the Transportation Commission before taking the Land Rights to City Council on May 2, 2023. These are all opportunities to hear from the residents and provide information on the project.

Thomas Road 56th to 73rd Street

The Thomas Road 56th to 73rd Street Project will improve safety and provide a more consistent roadway for those traveling by car, bus, foot, or bicycle and other micromobility vehicles. ADA improvements, new traffic signals, a pavement treatment, right turn lanes and intersection improvements will be implemented on Thomas Road between 56th Street and 73rd Street. The dual left turn lane will remain throughout the project limits. Drainage improvements and a new right turn lane will be constructed at the southwest corner of Thomas Road at 68th Street. The project team will work with SRP to underground the power poles at this location. The unbalanced roadway configuration will change from three eastbound travel lanes to two travel lanes in each direction, to provide space for bike lanes and turn lanes and link to the improvements that will be implemented on 68th Street. This will

also match the existing roadway configuration from 73rd Street to Pima Road. The new bike lanes will fill the remaining gap in the bicycle network on Thomas Road between 56th Street and 73rd Street.

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2024. This \$5.2 million project is being funded by the 0.2% Transportation Sales Tax (\$1.5 million) and has Federal funding (\$3.7 million) through the Transportation Alternatives Program and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. This application was selected through a competitive process against other bicycle and pedestrian projects in the region. An emphasis on bicycle improvements made the most sense in Scottsdale's submittal especially since other eligible projects in the federal guidance includes alternative fuels and vehicles, freight facilities, dams, ports, public transit, and similar items.

Currently, the Transportation and Streets Department has \$25,337,897 of federal funding in the FY 23/24 CIP which illustrates the importance of augmenting our limited local resources with other opportunities. In addition, other city departments utilize \$20,341,802 in federal funding.

Key: *The SG02 - Thomas Road 56th to 73rd Street Project is currently in the approved Fiscal Year 2019-2020 - 2022/2023 CIP budgets and received a full roadway reclassification in 2016 to a Minor Arterial roadway. In addition, \$411,000 has been added to the Draft FY23/24 CIP to address increased paving costs.*

Regional Coordination

The city of Phoenix is proposing adding bike lanes from 48th Street to 56th Street during upcoming pavement maintenance on Thomas Road. The project would change from three eastbound travel lanes to two travel lanes in each direction. The City of Scottsdale project will coordinate design east of 56th Street with the Phoenix project to link improvements with our neighboring city, pushing forward a key goal in the TAP for regional coordination. The unbalanced traffic lanes were a byproduct of the travel patterns prior to the develop of the freeway system.

Completing this bike connection with Phoenix will provide an east/west connection from the 48th Street multi-use path to the Pima multiuse path. The connection will have a total 5 miles of complete bike access connecting the 48th Street multi-use path, Crosscut Canal multi-use path, Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt, and Pima multi-use path.

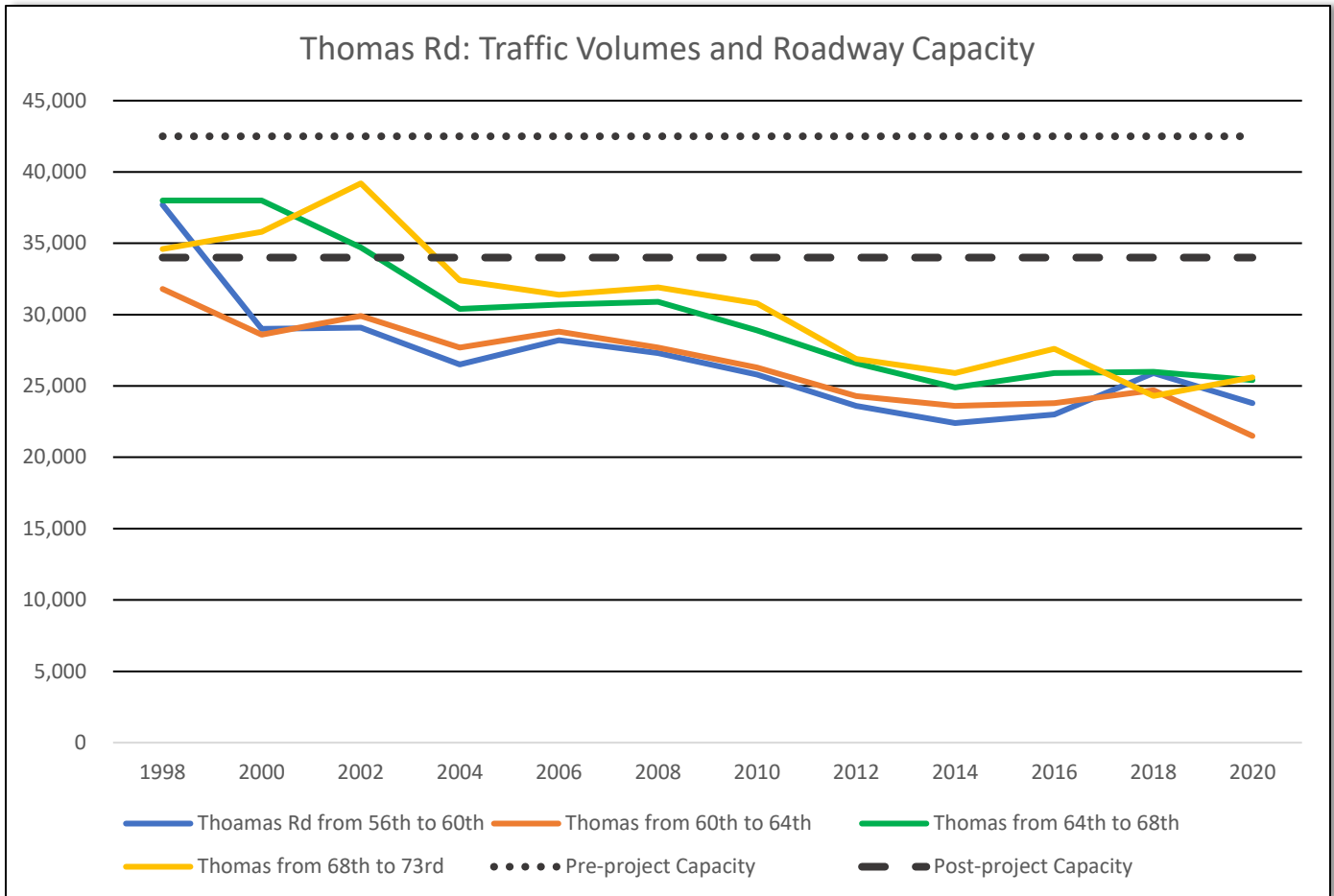
The level of automobile travel demand on most street corridors has not grown significantly over the past 20 years. Therefore, one of the first areas of emphasis in the development of the TAP was a review of the classifications for existing and planned streets. Important components of street classifications include standard right-of-way widths, the number of travel lanes, the type and general spacing of access, and the width of adjacent sidewalks. Several reductions in street classifications were included in the TAP. However, Thomas Road was fully reclassified to a Minor Arterial roadway across the city in the 2016 Transportation Master Plan Update approved by the Transportation Commission and adopted by City Council. The typical Minor Arterial roadway cross-section provides either a center turn lane or raised median, two travel lanes and bike lanes in each direction. This project will include a center turn lane.

KEY: *Travel demand on most corridors in the city has not grown significantly over the past 20 years, even with continued development. This is also indicative of traffic volumes on Thomas Road. See Graph 1, Thomas Road: Traffic volumes and Roadway Capacity.*

Benefits of the Thomas Road 56th to 73rd Street Project include:

- Accessibility improvements to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, sidewalks at driveways, and ADA ramps at intersections.
- Right turn lanes at 64th Street, 68th Street and Scottsdale Road to increase intersection capacity and improve traffic flow.
- New traffic signals.
- Reducing the number and width of travel lanes will discourage speeding.
- \$3.7 million of Federal funding.
- Matching the number of travel lanes and bike lanes east of the project area and linking to the proposed improvements in Phoenix from 48th Street to 56th Street by eliminating one of the three eastbound lanes to create a consistent roadway through the city.
- Connections to north/south bikeways including Scottsdale Road, 68th Street, 64th Street, Crosscut Canal Path, 56th Street.
- Standard bike lanes to complete the final gap in bike lanes in the city on Thomas Road.
- Increased separation between the sidewalk and vehicular travel lane for pedestrians.

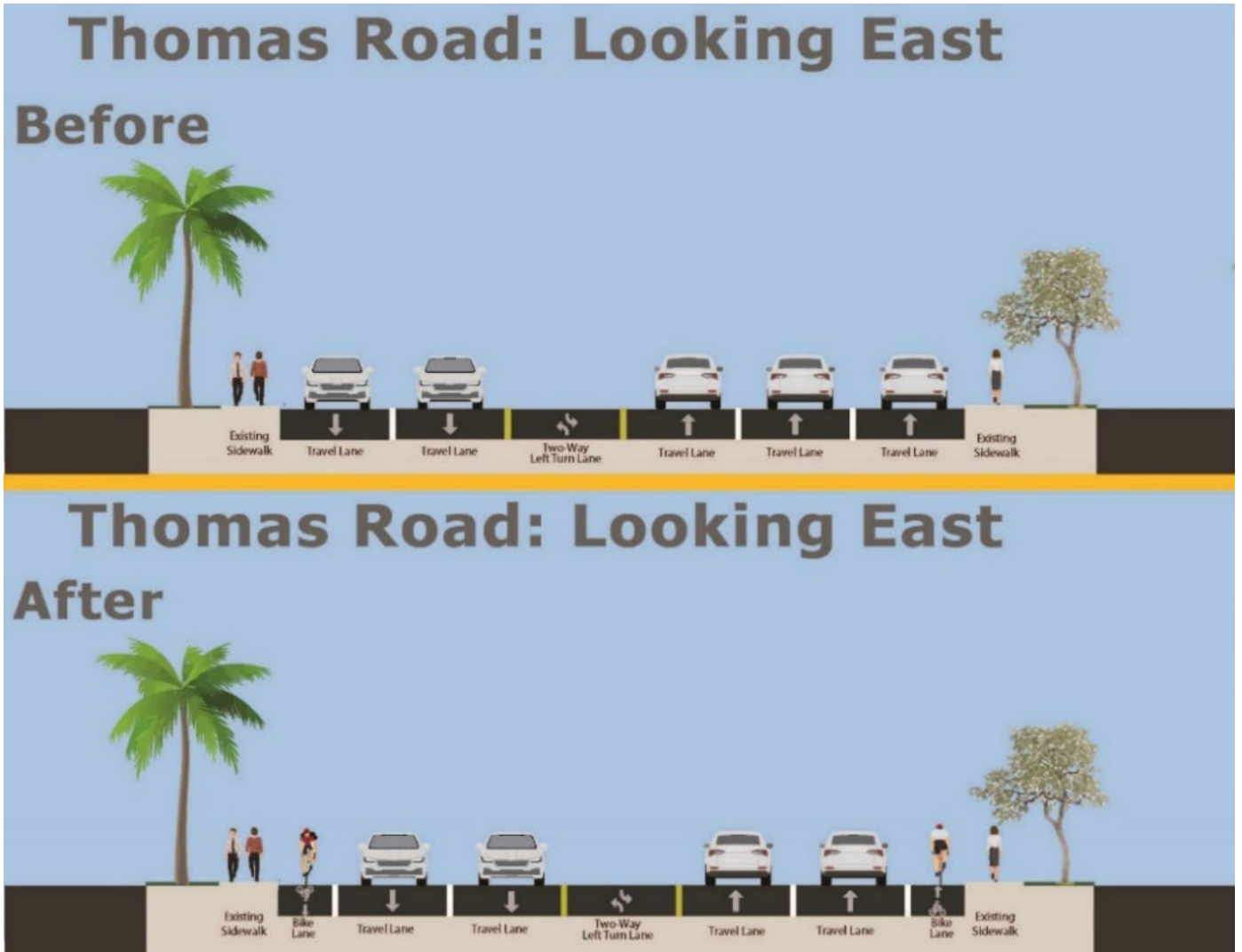
Graph 1



Source: Traffic Volumes and Collision Reports – Scottsdale Transportation and Streets Department



Figure 1 – Typical Section



Thomas Road 56th to 73rd Street Project
Scottsdale Transportation and Streets Department
April 7, 2023

