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Eagle Journal Candidate Questions

Mike Donovan Response

No. 5 – The city of Coronado has tried several approaches to slowing traffic in the city including bulbouts, installation of stoplights, and flashing signs indicating a car’s speed. Should the city pursue other avenues to address speeding including Automated (Photo) Speed Enforcement, Speed Tables, Raised Crosswalks, or turning restrictions? Specifically, which traffic control options would you pursue and why

Donovan Response:

Yes, we should pursue ways to address speeding and traffic calming on streets where this is a significant problem, for example 3rd and 4th Streets. Residents on these streets have started a local neighborhood organization called the Avenue of Heroes Neighborhood Association. The boundaries for this group’s focus are between 2nd and 5th Streets, between Orange Avenue and Alameda Blvd. Accomplishments include designation of 3rd and 4th Streets as the Coronado Avenue of Heroes (including the Heroes Banner Program), advocacy for the installation of in-street “Yield to Pedestrians” signs at F Avenue, and gaining California state designation of Blue Star Memorial Highway.

Another area this association is pursuing is development of a unified design concept addressing landscaping, street lighting, street furniture, and improved bus stop infrastructure. Other options I would like to see us pursue include:

- More distinctively marked crosswalks at existing stop lights and designated pedestrian crossings, such as at the F Avenue intersections. Using contrasting colors and textured materials, such as bricks or rougher concrete, will not only improve visibility to drivers but also provide a traffic calming effect by breaking the street into sections, visually reducing the length of the street.
- Additional landscaping and tree canopies, would not only be more aesthetic, they have been shown to add a traffic-calming effect.
- Pedestrian-activated stoplights strategically placed, would allow for safer pedestrian and bicycle crossing and provide additional traffic calming.
- Enforcement – establishing an enforcement strategy to include Coronado Police officers and California Highway Patrol officers. Continuing the practice of citywide cite days where officers focus on issuing citations to speeders, as well as conducting routine enforcement.

We should continue the use of speed measurement signs, which flash when a vehicle is exceeding the speed limit. It would help to place these near posted speed signs or include a speed limit sign on the flashing sign. With regard to automated photo speed enforcement, this approach is currently not allowed in California. Earlier this year, the city had our lobbyist look into passing a law to allow the use of these devices but reported that it would be an uphill battle with strong opposition from various interests, including some law enforcement groups.

Although 3rd and 4th Streets tend to generate the most attention with regard to speeding, other neighborhoods are also concerned about monitoring and enforcing speed limits, and the city may need to look at increasing a police presence.

The last item I will mention is the Gateway Project currently under development by the city. The parkway concept being pursued includes several traffic calming ideas at the Coronado's entrance and exit to the bridge, including landscaping, street lighting, enhanced pedestrian crossing for 3rd and 4th Streets, and other aesthetic features.