



October 23, 2023

Denise Garland, President
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Subject: Gates Pass Road/Speedway Boulevard between Camino de Oeste & Anklam Road

Dear Ms. Garland,

Thank you for reaching out to us on behalf of the Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association (GPANA) and the Colonial Trails Homeowners Association, following up on our response to your concerns about the collisions and speeding drivers on Gates Pass Road/Speedway Boulevard between Camino de Oeste and Anklam Road. Below you will find a point-by-point response to your recent letter regarding work that Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT) has agreed to complete and your recommendations for additional safety improvements.

1. *A strong emphasis on enforcement and education.” This seemed to be implemented after we got the letter, based on our observations of the Sheriff’s Department in the area for a brief period. Having PCDOT request the Sheriff’s Department commit to a regular rotation of traffic enforcement (writing tickets, no warnings) on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights could make an impact.*

PCDOT and the Pima County Sheriff’s Department (PCSD) meet bimonthly to discuss traffic issues throughout the county. We brought this issue to their attention at our last meeting in early September and have added this topic to the November agenda. Should you wish to reach out to PCSD directly to request additional enforcement, they can be reached at (520) 351-4600.

2. *According to your letter, PCDOT is going to pursue grants to purchase a portable speed feedback sign that could be used in our area. How can we help make that happen? When might we see grant applications submitted?*

PCDOT is focusing our efforts on the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety grant process for Fiscal Year 2025 which opens in January of next year. In addition, we will work with our Grants Management and Innovation Department to identify other funding opportunities as they arise. At the November PCDOT-PCSD coordination meeting, we will request that PCSD deploy their portable speed feedback signs on a regular basis.

3. *“Periodically reviewing operational and safety data” for the area mentioned. Can you tell us how and when this will take place?*

As previously stated, it is our goal to review locations that are operating with a higher-than-expected level of crashes on an annual basis. Based upon staffing levels, there may be delays in the frequency of these reviews. The crash data is typically reviewed once the prior calendar year is closed out by

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the Arizona Department of Transportation. When we are certain that all reported crashes are recorded correctly, we use this data to determine if there is a change in crash rate or an established pattern that can be corrected. We also use Pima Association of Government's Safety Explorer to compare the safety performance of similar roadways. Understanding that the roadway network is quite large, both in number of intersections and lane miles, to perform this level of screening is time intensive.

PCDOT was recently awarded a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant by the Federal Department of Transportation. One goal of this grant is to improve our ability to identify roadways that would benefit from safety improvements and select appropriate treatments based upon historical performance. Upon completion of the planning grant, we anticipate that our ability to screen our roadway network for potential projects will improve.

- 4. We have not seen any efforts to slow traffic at Camino de Oeste and Gates Pass Road. The north/south traffic has a stop sign (I have personally watched many drivers not stop and go through the intersection) and the east/west drivers have no stop sign. We would like to have a flashing red light on the stop signs in this area to warn approaching drivers from a greater distance that a stop is ahead.*

Informing road users of changes in conditions is a critical component of ensuring a safe roadway network. From your observations, motorists are ignoring the advance warning and regulatory signs along Camino de Oeste and Gates Pass Roads.

Upon review, we found that a STOP AHEAD warning sign is installed on Camino de Oeste approximately 620 feet in advance of the intersection with Gates Pass Road. This placement satisfies the minimum distance guidance provided in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for both the posted and prevailing speeds. Similarly on each leg of Gates Pass Road, there is a CROSS ROAD warning sign between 250-280 feet in advance of the intersection with Camino de Oeste, which also satisfies the minimum distance in MUTCD. In addition to these signs, the STOP sign on the southbound (Camino de Oeste) approach is oversized and has retroreflectivity bands to improve conspicuity. Sight distance obstructions that would prevent attentive road users from seeing the regulatory and warning signs were not observed. Additionally, between 2020-2022, there was one recorded intersection related crash. From the information provided in the crash report, neither speed nor disregarding the stop sign were identified contributing factors.

Hazard identification beacons (flashing lights) are primarily used to supplement warning or regulatory signs where there is a history of crashes or sight distance restrictions. Since neither condition is met at this time, the beacons are not recommended for installation.

- 5. Traffic traveling eastbound seems to be many of the speeding offenders. We suggest a flashing yellow light with a traffic sign telling drivers to slow down at Gates Pass Road and Via Roma, and about 300 feet east of the intersection of Camino de Oeste and Gates Pass Road (in the west end of the County landscaped triangle). This will slow drivers heading into the sharp curve just east of this location.*

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We do understand that drivers are traveling above the posted speed limit. As such, PCDOT intends to enhance the conspicuity of existing speed limit signs by installing a fluorescent yellow header panel above each sign and installing an identical sign on the left-hand side of the roadway between Via Scarmuzzo and Anklam Road.

6. *To avoid drivers constantly turning into the Colonial Trails gated entrance driveway, the current sign located just west of the driveway (reading Speedway straight ahead and turn right to Anklam) needs to be moved east closer to Anklam.*

The guide sign for Anklam Road is placed such that drivers traveling at the speed limit can see the sign and have adequate time to react and execute a turn if Anklam Road is their destination. The guide sign also shows an angled arrow for Anklam Road to match the angle of the roadway. This should indicate to drivers that Circulo Zagara is not Anklam Road. Further, the street name sign for Circulo Zagara has a warning sign on the street name sign indicating it is a no outlet roadway. PCDOT finds that there is no issue with the guide sign location for Anklam Road. To further alert drivers that Circulo Zagara is not Anklam Road, PCDOT will increase the size of the street name sign.

Managing and curbing speeding among motorists presents a persistent challenge to PCDOT. Balancing the need for strict enforcement with cultivating a culture of responsible driving through educational initiatives remains central to our ongoing efforts to enhance road safety. Recognizing what an important role education plays in keeping our roadways safe, PCDOT is initiating safety messaging through social media.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (520) 724-5885 or jana.potvin@pima.gov.

Sincerely,



Jana Potvin

Planning and Engineering Division Manager

JP:jh

- c: Kathryn Skinner, P.E., Director
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