

## SR 89 Yarnell Road Safety Assessment Executive Summary

The Arizona Department of Transportation recently completed a road safety assessment (RSA) on the two-mile section of State Route 89 in Yarnell (mileposts 276 - 278). The following is a summary of the RSA report.

As part of the assessment, ADOT:

- Reviewed the most-recent, five-year crash history on the section of SR 89.
- Conducted an on-site field observation of driver and pedestrian movements during different times of the day.
- Conducted a community survey to receive input on community safety concerns and priorities. The RSA team reviewed the public input received from the survey.

### Recommendations

As a result of the crash statistics, on-site field observations and input received from the community survey, the RSA team is recommending the following countermeasures for the two-mile section of SR 89 through Yarnell:

- Converting SR 89 from a four-lane highway to a three-lane configuration with one through lane in each direction and a center left turn lane to eliminate unsafe passing and reduce traffic speeds.
- Restriping both sides of the highway to include five-foot bike lanes to provide a greater buffer between pedestrians and oncoming traffic and provide more space between through traffic and vehicles parked along the roadway.
- Installing “pedestrian curb extensions” at two locations along SR 89 to help pedestrians crossing the roadway.
  - Curb extensions improve pedestrian crossings by reducing the pedestrian crossing distance, improving the ability of pedestrians and motorists to see each other and reducing the time that pedestrians are in the roadway.
- Installing “pedestrian refuge islands,” which are medians with a refuge area intended to help protect pedestrians crossing a multi-lane roadway, at two locations
  - Refuge islands at a mid-block or intersection location allows pedestrians to focus on one direction of traffic at a time as they cross, and gives them a place to wait for an adequate gap in oncoming traffic before finishing the second phase of crossing the road.
  - NOTE: The pedestrian curb extensions and refuge islands are recommended to be installed at the same two locations.
- Removing a limited number of on-street parking spaces at street corners along the highway in order to improve visibility for drivers as well as pedestrians looking to cross the street.
- ADOT has already installed new speed-limit reduction warning signs and pedestrian crossing warning signs on each side of the highway at the northern and southern entry points into Yarnell.

ADOT is planning to re-stripe the two-mile segment of SR 89 in Yarnell to the three-lane configuration by the end of 2023. For the other improvements, such as the pedestrian curb extensions and median pedestrian islands, a funding source will need to be identified first in order to determine when those improvements can be made.