



**DESIGN ASSISTANCE APPLICATION
for FY 2016**

Pedestrian Enhancements at Greenway Road and Thompson Ranch Road

Joint Application of Cities of Surprise and El Mirage

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE VIA ONLINE SUBMITTAL BY
10:00 AM ON MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015**

DESIGN ASSISTANCE FY 2016 APPLICATION

Surprise: Pedestrian Enhancements at Greenway and Thompson Ranch Roads

PART A - CONTACT AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Contact Information

1. Name of Sponsoring Agency	Surprise
2. Project Manager Name and Title	Martin Lucero, Transportation Planning Manager
3. Phone Number of Project Manager	623-222-3142
4. E-Mail Address of Project Manager	martin.lucero@surpriseaz.gov
5. Mailing Address of Project Manager	Community Development Department 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza Surprise, AZ 85374

Project Description

6. Please provide the Project Title.	Pedestrian Enhancements at Greenway and Thompson Ranch Roads
7. Please provide the amount of funding requested:	\$35,000
8. Please provide a specific description of the project (i.e. bike path or sidewalk, width, length, cement or asphalt, etc.) (250 character limit):	

This joint project between the Cities of Surprise and El Mirage proposes to install a pedestrian crossing at or near the existing paved intersection of Greenway Road and Thompson Ranch Road/El Mirage Road.

9. Please provide the project limits:

The crossing would span either Thompson Ranch Road or El Mirage Road within approximately 350 feet, north or south, of the intersection with Greenway Road.

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PART B - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. What type of project is this?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bicycle lane (4' min. w/o curb/gutter) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grade-separated crossing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bicycle lane (5' min. with curb/gutter) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sidewalk (5' min.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Buffered Bike Lane | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wide Sidewalk (8' min.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Protected Bike Lane | <input type="checkbox"/> | Detached Sidewalk with 4' min. buffer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Shared-use path (10' min.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Midblock Crossing |

2a. Please describe the existing condition of the project site and any problem(s) being addressed.

Greenway Road intersects Thompson Ranch Road/El Mirage Road at a curve in the roadway. The curve severely limits the line of sight for drivers as they approach Greenway Road. Greenway Road is controlled by a STOP sign, while traffic on Thompson Ranch Road/El Mirage Road is uncontrolled. This is an especially dangerous intersection for school children who live in the Original Town Site of Surprise and attend Thompson Ranch Elementary School in El Mirage. Children must cross the road at this location to access the sidewalk on the east side of Thompson Ranch Road.

2b. Why is this project important to the community?

Safety of school children is a top priority for the Cities of Surprise and El Mirage, Thompson Ranch Elementary School, and the Dysart Unified School District. While students would benefit from the proposed improvements daily, all other pedestrians that access this corridor would benefit from having a safer crossing at this location.

3. Connectivity: (Check all that apply)

- Project fills a gap in the regional system
Explain:
- Project connects to other local facilities
List the connected facilities:
- Multi Jurisdictional Project
List of Participating Jurisdictions:
- 10+ Total length of facilities connected by this project (in miles)

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4. Describe how this project will improve access from nearby neighborhoods and/or adjacent uses:

The proposed pedestrian crossing enhancement would drastically improve safety conditions by providing advanced warnings, alerting drivers to the potential presence of pedestrians and increasing the visibility of the crossing itself, none of which are currently in place. Pedestrians will be directed to a specified location that will be designed according to the needs of this particular location. The crossing provides a designated path for the numerous K-8 students that walk to school as well as acting as a safer alternate path for walking/biking between several nearby residential communities.

5. Describe how this project will improve access to transit:

The Cities of Surprise and El Mirage have limited transit access in the vicinity of this project. However, this project would help to justify future transit corridors as well as provide multimodal options for connecting to transit hubs in the future.

6. Describe how this project will address bike/vehicle or pedestrian/vehicle conflicts:

The proposed pedestrian crossing enhancement would place the crossing in a location that will maximize the visibility of the pedestrians and bicyclists to vehicles travelling in all directions through warning signs, flashing beacons, etc. Currently, the line of sight to/from this intersection is severely obstructed because of the curve in the roadway. All safety improvements will be designed per applicable AASHTO and FHWA standards.

7. What are the demographics of the area served:

[MAG Demographic Mapping](#)

1924 People Per Square Mile

21 % Families in Poverty

9 % Age 65 Plus

Use the MAG Demographic Mapping link above. Zoom in to your project area. On the right-hand side of the screen, under "Reports," select "Custom Summary." Next, select "Corridor of Interest." Left-click to begin drawing. Draw a line through all census blocks adjacent to your project, left-clicking where needed to change the direction of the line. Double-click to finish drawing the line. The selected census blocks will become highlighted in blue. A pop-up box will appear with "Report Results for Selected Block Groups." Select the "Summary Report" tab, and use the data found there. You may export the results to Excel (click the Excel icon at the top-right side of the pop-up window) for your records.

8. How will this project benefit families in poverty?

Within one square mile radius of this intersection, 20% of families are in poverty. Low income families tend to have lower rates of car ownership, and depend on non-motorized modes of transportation. This project will make walking and bicycling safer for everyone along the route to and from Thompson Ranch Elementary School or the surrounding neighborhoods.

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9. How will this project benefit minority residents?

The project area has approximately 40% minority residents. Statistically, minority residents have a lower rate of vehicle ownership, therefore they rely heavily on non-motorized transportation such as walking and biking. This project will significantly improve the safety of all pedestrians and bicyclists.

10. How will this project benefit elderly residents?

Approximately 12% of the population in the surrounding area are 65 years or older. There are Elderly residents who no longer drive would depend more on walking for transportation. The proposed pedestrian enhancements would significantly improve the safety of all pedestrians.

11. How will this project benefit school children?

Thompson Ranch Elementary School is located just over one half mile away from the intersection and includes a high rate of K-8 students that walk and bike to and from school. The proposed crossing would significantly improve the safety of the young children who live in the Original Town Site of Surprise and attend this school.

12. Please list any schools within 1/4 mile of the project:

Jumpstart Childcare and Learning Center

13. How does the project benefit persons with disabilities?

Ramps that adhere to the latest ADA requirements would be provided at the crossing.

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14. The project is: (Check one)

- Identified in General Plan, council adopted policy, or Capital Improvements Program (provide source)
List:
- Consistent with general policy/practices, but not formally identified (provide source)
Explain:
- Not addressed by jurisdiction's plans, policies, or practices
Explain:

15. List the community partners that will be supporting the development and promotion of this project. Include city departments that will also be supporting the project.

City of Surprise: Community Development Department, Community Vitality and Human Service Department, City Council.
City of El Mirage: Development & Community Service, Planning and Zoning, Engineering Department, Public Works Department and City Council.
Dysart Unified School District, Thompson Ranch Elementary School.

16. Does the jurisdiction have a dedicated staff person to manage the project? Which city department will be responsible to provide information to the consultant?

A dedicated staff person from the City of Surprise project management team will be the project manager and will work with staff from the City of El Mirage and the consultant. The City of El Mirage Engineering Department would review the project and provide any available information to the City of Surprise and the consultant.

17. Does the jurisdiction have base information available (topo survey, aerial photography, ALTA survey in electronic/digital format, easement information, utility placement information)?

Aerial photos, utility locations, and the original design plans are available from the City of El Mirage.

Part C - Attachments

Listed below are the required attachments for this project application. These attachments are intended to demonstrate the need of the project. They should clearly show the segment alignment and features that connect to other bicycle, pedestrian, and/or shared-use facilities, as well as washes, canals, railroad crossings, and other crossing features that may affect the project.

PLEASE INCLUDE EACH ATTACHMENT AS A SEPARATE .JPEG OR .PDF FILE IN YOUR ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL.

1. Please attach a map with street names clearly showing the project area boundaries and surrounding land uses, including a north arrow.

2. Please attach up to 2 aerial photos, if available (two 4x6 photos per page).

3. Please attach up to 4 photographs with captions of the study area showing the problems/issue (two 4x6 photos per page).

4. If the applicant is not the owner(s) of the project area, a letter of support and cooperation from the property owner(s) is required. This letter shall state that the property owner(s) agree to participate in the development of preliminary plans, and to permit improvements that may be identified as a result of this program.

5. (OPTIONAL) Up to 3 letters of support for the project.

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PART D - PROJECT COSTS

1. What is the approximate cost for 15% preliminary plans* for this project? Estimate cost for each task below:

\$1,100	Scope of Work
\$3,200	Stakeholder and Core Team Meetings
\$8,300	Data Collection
\$7,300	Data Analysis
\$5,800	Project Assessment Report (Draft)
\$7,500	Project Assessment Report (Final)
\$1,800	Executive Summary and Regional Significance Report
\$35,000	TOTAL COST ESTIMATE FOR 15% PRELIMINARY PLANS (SHOULD MATCH PART A, #7)

*15% Preliminary Plans generally include:

- Project Information (location, description, map)
- Background data including the need for the project
- Project Scope (length, type of work, how it is to be constructed)
- Project Development
- Environmental overview
- Geotechnical and drainage requirements
- Critical outside agency involvement
- Preliminary Right-of-Way requirements
- Preliminary Utility relocation requirements
- Preliminary Traffic requirements
- Seasonal consideration
- Design Criteria
- Itemized Cost Estimate
- Schedule
- Preliminary Plans
- Preliminary Pathway Horizontal Layout
- Typical Sections
- Preliminary Aesthetic Concept
- Information on potential funding sources
- Executive Summary

2. What is the anticipated cost for the whole project (please break down costs by design, environmental, ROW, utilities, construction, etc.)?

The final costs will depend on the type of crossing that is chosen for this site. The estimated cost is \$350,000 which includes right-of-way acquisition of \$30,000, final design fees of \$55,000 and construction costs of \$265,000. The project takes place on an existing roadway so environmental requirements should be minimal.

3. Are there designated funds for construction of this project? If yes, what funding sources have been identified?

No funds have been designated for the construction of this project.

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4. If funding has NOT been identified for construction of the project, what efforts have been made to identify funds that could be used for this project?

If this application is funded by the Design Assistance Program, the Cities of Surprise and El Mirage will formulate a funding strategy for the construction of this pedestrian improvement project.

5. Are there funds for maintenance? Who has the responsibility for maintenance?

Maintenance will be performed by the Streets Division through the use of local funds.

6. Is an easement required for this project? If YES, please attach a Property Owner Letter of Support.

An easement is not required.

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PART E - SIGNATURE AND CHECKLIST

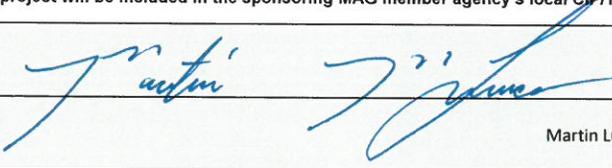
Checklist

This check list is included to facilitate applicant review and verification that all required fields in the form have been completed. **Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

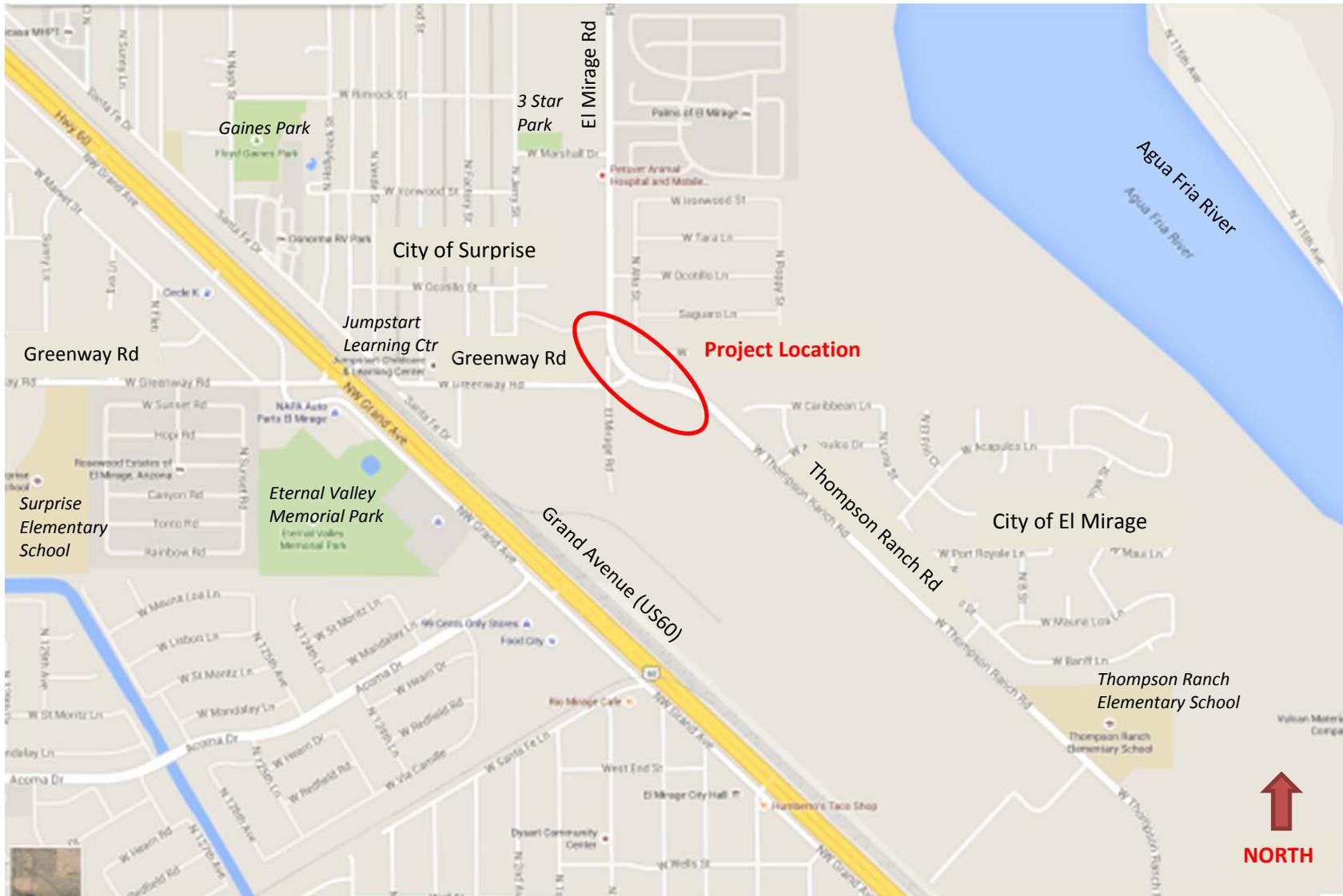
COVER SHEET	Complete?
Cover Sheet is completely filled out	Yes
PART A - Contacts and Project Description Fields	Complete?
Contact Information, fields 1 – 5 are complete	Yes
Project Description, fields 6 - 9 are complete	Yes
PART B - Project Description	Complete?
Fields 1 - 17 are complete	Yes
PART C - Attachments	Complete?
Attachment 1 - Map with street names	Yes
Attachment 2 - Aerial photos (if available)	Yes
Attachment 3 - Photographs with captions of the study area showing the problems/issues	Yes
Attachment 4 - Letter of Support and Cooperation from Property Owner (if required)	Yes
Attachment 5 - Up to 3 Letters of Support (OPTIONAL)	Yes
PART D - Project Costs	Complete?
Fields 1-6 are complete	Yes
PART E - Signature and Checklist	Complete?
Entire checklist is completed.	Yes
Form is signed by MAG member agency's manager or administrator.	Yes
Name, title and date fields under the signature are completed.	Yes

SIGNATURE:

As the MAG member agency's manager or administrator, I certify that this application is accurate and complete, that local agency staff time and data will be required for this project, and that the project will be included in the sponsoring MAG member agency's local CIP/TIP if the project is selected for federal construction funding.

Signature:	
Name:	Martin Lucero
Title:	Transportation Planning Manager
Date:	6/29/2015

Attachment 1



Attachment 2





This intersection is dangerous for pedestrians, especially school children, because traffic on El Mirage Road/Thompson Ranch Road is uncontrolled, and visibility is limited due to a curve in the roadway.



Visibility of the Greenway Road intersection is limited due to a curve in the roadway. Picture taken facing South on El Mirage Road.



Children who live in Surprise Original Town Site and attend Thompson Ranch Elementary School must cross this intersection everyday. This intersection lacks any improvements to protect pedestrians. Picture taken facing northwest of Thompson Ranch Road.



Greenway Road is stop controlled, while El Mirage Road/Thompson Ranch Road is uncontrolled. Speed limit on El Mirage Road is 35 mph; and 40 mph on Thompson Ranch Road.



Development & Community Services

12145 NW Grand Avenue, El Mirage 85335
623-972-8116; Fax 623-933-8418; TDD 623-933-3258
www.cityofelmirage.org

June 25, 2015

Alex Oreschak
Transportation Planner II
Maricopa Association of Governments
302 North First Avenue, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85003

RE: Greenway Rd and El Mirage Rd/Thompson Ranch Rd School Crossing

Dear Mr. Oreschak:

The City of El Mirage fully supports the Design Assistance Application to be submitted by the City of Surprise. We believe the proposed project will greatly benefit the community by providing safe pedestrian crossing at the Greenway and El Mirage/Thompson Ranch roads intersection.

Both cities will work together to ensure walking and bicycling is safe along the route to and from the Thompson Ranch Elementary school. I eagerly anticipate collaborating on this project.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, you can contact me or Jose Macias at 623-876-2996.

Sincerely,

Jorge Gastelum, P.E.
Director of Development and Community Services/City Engineer
City of El Mirage

cc: Jose Macias, Development Services Coordinator / GIS



Office of the Mayor and Council
City of Surprise
16000 North Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, Arizona 85374
623.222.1300

June 15, 2015

Alex Oreschak
Transportation Planner II
Maricopa Association of Governments
302 North First Avenue, Suite 300
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

RE: Greenway Road and El Mirage Road/Thompson Ranch Road

Dear Mr. Oreschak,

As an elected City Councilmember for the City of Surprise and the District 4 Original Town Site representative, I would like to formally express my support for the joint City of Surprise and City of El Mirage Pedestrian Design grant application. I have lived in the Original Town Site for more than 30 years and believe that this grant funding will have a tremendous impact on the safety of residents that use this intersection to reach life sustaining activities such as work, school, lifelong learning college, senior center socialization activities, congregate meals, physical activities, public pool amenities, library services, doctor appointments, grocery shopping and more.

The cities of El Mirage and Surprise are eager to work on a design that will allow minorities, youth, and older adults to reach their destination in a safe manner. The Original Town Site is the oldest developed areas for both cities and is also home to the most vulnerable populations. The Original Town Site is approximately one square mile and is home to more than 52% of the area's minority population; which is 10% more than Maricopa County. The poverty rate is 16% making it four percent more than the entire county (MAG Interactive Mapping Tool Census 2010 and ACS 2009-2013). HUD has labeled the area as a Zero Vehicle location; thereby confirming that walking and biking are the primary means of transportation.

The City of El Mirage and the City of Surprise are looking forward to working together on a way to provide safe pedestrian and biking options for residents with limited means of transportation. Please consider this letter of support as my earnest request for grant funding to start making a difference.

Sincerely,

Rachel Villanueva
City of Surprise
Council Member, District 4

Jack Eaton
Executive Director
Business Services

June 25, 2015

15802 North Parkview Place
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Phone: 623-876-7008
Fax: 623-876-7046
jack.eaton@dysart.org

Alex Oreschak
Transportation Planner II
Maricopa Association of Governments
302 North First Avenue, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85003

www.dysart.org

Re: Pedestrian Design Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Oreschak,

Dysart Unified School District is pleased to support the joint application between the City of Surprise and the City of El Mirage for the Pedestrian Design Assistance application. Thompson Ranch Elementary, in the City of El Mirage, is being considered for this study. Thompson Ranch Elementary is a Title 1 school with over 900 students enrolled, and with 52% of the students walking or riding bikes to school.

The Pedestrian Design Assistance study would provide the preliminary design for a school crossing at the Greenway and El Mirage/Thompson Ranch intersection, and would be located in the City of El Mirage.

Thank you for considering Thompson Ranch Elementary for the Pedestrian Design Assistance study. We look forward to working closely with our community and Parent Support Groups in ensuring our students get to and from school safely.

I would be happy to provide any additional information or supports as needed.

Sincerely,



Jack Eaton
Executive Director
Business Services

Superintendent
Gail Pletnick, Ed.D.

Governing Board
Spencer Bailey
Suzanne Kellis
Bonnie Schroader
Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil
Jennifer Tanner

cc: Jim Dean