

October 15, 2021

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Dear Bellemont Area Residents,

We would first like to thank everyone for their patience during the Bellemont Access and Safety Improvements Project. Construction is never easy but managing a project of this size and finishing on schedule could not have been accomplished without the support of Bellemont residents. With work now wrapping up, we wanted to provide you with important information regarding continuing traffic management improvements we are pursuing.

First and foremost, it is critical to understand that the new Bellemont roundabout and the rest of this project are functioning as designed to help address traffic flow and safety issues for trucks, businesses, travelers, and residents. The free-flow right turn from Hughes Avenue on Shadow Mountain Drive has reduced delays and improved operations by keeping the large volume of semitruck traffic moving. While issues with congestion have been significantly reduced, the large number of semitrucks on any given day can still create concerns and potential issues so we are continuing to look at opportunities to improve the functionality of the system.

Second and equally important is to understand that there is not one but several factors that are contributing to any traffic issues that do surface. These factors, which range from the steep learning curve for truck drivers associated with utilizing the new entry to the Pilot to a blatant disregard for safety and traffic laws on the part of some motorists are all point sources for occasional congestion and issues in the Bellemont area.

The County is continuing to work with Pilot and our consulting engineers to identify and mitigate the causes of isolated traffic issues for the roundabout and surrounding roads. This requires a comprehensive approach with measures that will include instructional signage that diagram roundabout destinations; striping and instruments to discourage illegal left turns into the Pilot and McDonald's and installing stop bars to increase motorist compliance with the westbound stop sign at Hughes Avenue. Furthermore, our team is continuing to update our traffic modeling for the Bellemont area, so it accurately reflects the impacts of new developments in the area. This then provides us with the information to require developers to make the necessary improvements to address additional traffic created by their development.

The Bellemont Access and Safety Improvements Project was built to help address safety and traffic flow issues at the intersection of Hughes Avenue, Shadow Mountain Drive and Brannigan Park Road in Bellemont. Like the Bellemont Cluster Box Unit Mail Delivery Project before it, safety was the County's primary impetus for moving forward with this project. With construction now over, our goal is to continue enhancing safety and traffic flow in Bellemont by doing whatever is feasible to mitigate these traffic issues and help flatten the roundabout learning curve for both commercial and residential drivers.

We appreciate your interest in these issues. If you have any questions or concerns, then please call Community Relations Manager Marc Della Rocca at (928) 679-8307 or visit www.coconino.az.gov/BellemontAccessSafetyProject.

We also will continue to provide email updates as necessary regarding our traffic operations mitigation work. If you or anyone you know might like to receive these updates, then please email us at countyroadsinfo@coconino.az.gov with "Add Me to Bellemont Project E-mail List" in the subject line and Marc will add you to our list.

Thanks again and I hope that you, your families, and your friends are doing well.

Sincerely,



Lucinda Andreani
Deputy County Manager
Director, Coconino County Public Works

Cc: Supervisor Matt Ryan