

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE • JANUARY 2019

At the October 2018 Public Open House Meeting about the planned intersection improvements at Tanque Verde Road and Tanque Verde Loop Road many residents expressed their concerns with various aspects of the proposed project. The Pima County Department of Transportation would like to address those concerns so community members have a better understanding of the project and the benefits to public safety it provides.

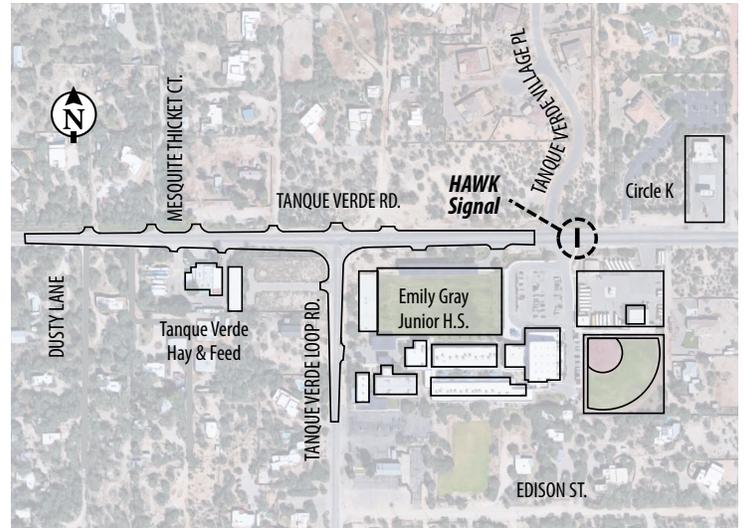
Project plans include installation of a traffic signal at Tanque Verde Road and Tanque Verde Loop Road, separate right and left-turn lanes, crosswalks, ADA accessible curb ramps, bicycle lanes/roadway shoulders, lighting and driveways for private property access. A HAWK (High-Intensity Activated crossWalk) crosswalk signal was previously installed east of the intersection to serve students at Emily Gray Junior High School.

The main concerns residents expressed were the timing sequences of HAWK signals, equestrian accessibility and the overall viability of a signalized intersection at the location.

- **HAWK Signal:** Tanque Verde School District officials maintain a policy of having a crossing guard present at the HAWK crosswalk in mornings and afternoons when school is in session to assist students. School officials have observed nearly 80 children per day crossing at the HAWK. This signal remains inactive until a pedestrian activates the HAWK. During the morning and afternoons, when the HAWK crosswalk has a crossing guard present, the HAWK cycle will be coordinated with the light sequences at the Tanque Verde/Tanque Verde Loop intersection to minimize traffic impacts and assure that students will cross at the appropriate time. While some residents requested an overhead pedestrian bridge as an alternative, Pima County Transportation does not install pedestrian bridges due to funding constraints.

- **Equestrian accessibility:** Some residents had questions about whether paths for horses would be installed and if they could walk horses once bicycle lanes and new roadway shoulders are installed.

The design will reduce the available space for people to walk/ride horses near the intersection due to the roadway widening. Space will remain along the unpaved shoulder and behind the curb to access Tanque Verde Wash along Tanque Verde Loop Road. At the intersection itself, a person may choose to walk/ride on the sidewalk to get through the intersection.



Project area view

- **Viability of signalized intersection:** Recent traffic counts reflect the need to install a signal to ease access to Tanque Verde Road for motorists on Tanque Verde Loop Road. The signal will be programmed green for the Tanque Verde Road traffic and would only service Tanque Verde Loop Road traffic when it is activated by traffic demand on Tanque Verde Loop Road.
- **Schedule:** The project design is nearing completion, with an anticipated construction advertisement date sometime late spring 2019. Once a contractor has been selected and the contract awarded, an additional public meeting will be held to review the project’s construction timeline and phasing.

Project updates will be posted on the department website as they become available. For additional project questions, contact Carol Brichta, Community Relations (Carol.Brichta@pima.gov) at **724-6410**.

Visit www.pima.gov/transportation and click on **Current and Future Roadway Projects** where you will find the Tanque Verde Road at Tanque Verde Loop Intersection Improvement Project.

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