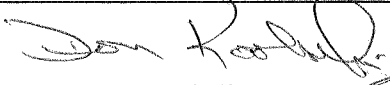



COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: June 29, 2010	AGENDA NO. VII, C, 1, b	SUBJECT: Designating a portion of El Rio Drive as one way west-bound.
Department Head: 		
Public Works Don Koskelin		
City Manager:  Nathan M. Cherpeski		
PRESENTED BY: Don Koskelin		

Recommendation: That Council approve the recommendation that El Rio Drive from Sierra Avenue to Monterey Avenue be designated as one way west bound effective July 30, 2010 per Planning Commission's recommendation..

Background: As part of the vacation of Stadium Drive and Richardson Avenue, Monterey Avenue from 1st Street to Stadium Drive was approved to be re-constructed and re-designated for two way traffic. The purpose of this was to provide an alternate route to those who formerly used Stadium Drive for both college and through traffic. With this change El Rio Drive no longer is necessary for these purposes. We have had significant accident history on El Rio and on-going speeding issues, especially on the south part of the street which is very narrow and which has restricted lines of site. Designating the one block of El Rio as one way as proposed will reduce the amount of college and through traffic on El Rio which is not suited for these levels of traffic. The move would increase safety while not significantly impacting users in the area.

Issue Before the Council: Does council wish to approve the requested street re-designation?

Alternatives: Approve the designation, approve the designation with conditions, disapprove the request..

Fiscal Impact: None

Legal Opinion: City Attorney will be present for comment.

Conclusion: This change will enhance traffic safety in this area while having a minimum impact on local traffic.

RESOLUTION No. 10-2010

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING EL RIO DRIVE FROM SIERRA AVENUE TO MONTEERY AVENUE ONE WAY WEST BOUND

WHEREAS, *El Rio Drive has poor sight lines and is very narrow as it approaches First Street, and*

WHEREAS, *1st Street bends just east of the intersection of El Rio and 1st Street making it difficult to safely enter 1st Street from this intersection, and*

WHEREAS, *these two factors make El Rio Drive unsuitable anything other than local traffic*

WHEREAS, *Monterrey Avenue is under re-construction which will be complete in late July or early August and it will be re-opened as a two way street offering an alternative route for those who formerly used El Rio for through travel, and*

WHEREAS, *designating the one block of El Rio Drive from Sierra Avenue to Monterrey Avenue one-way west bound will limit the amount of through traffic while having minimal impact on the local traffic making travel safer in this area,*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALAMOSA, COLORADO *that El Rio Drive from Sierra Avenue to Monterrey Avenue is hereby designated one-way west bound effective July 30, 2010.*

ADOPTED *this 7th day of July, 2010.*

CITY OF ALAMOSA

By: _____
Kathleen J. Rogers, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Judy A. Egbert, City Clerk

MEMO

To: Planning Commission Members
From: Don Koskelin
Subject: Recommend One-Way West Bound on 1600 Block, El Rio Drive
Date: June 15, 2010

With the reconfiguration of Monterey Drive as a two-way street we have the opportunity to limit the cut-through traffic on El Rio Drive. The south portion of El Rio is very narrow with poor site lines, especially at the intersection with 1st Street which has a curve just east of the intersection and is suitable only for local traffic. The new configuration of Monterey Drive will provide an alternative route better suited to through traffic. By restricting traffic to one-way on El Rio Drive between Sierra Avenue and Monterey Drive drivers will be encouraged to use Monterey and limit the amount of non-local traffic using El Rio. I recommend that the Planning Commission make a formal recommendation to City Council that that portion of El Rio Drive between Sierra and Monterey be designated one-way west bound.

City of Alamosa
Planning Commission
June 23, 2010
6:00 p.m.
Minutes of the Meeting

The regular meeting of Planning Commission was called to order on the above date at 6:01 p.m. by Vice Chair Shirley White. Present were the following members: Debbie Clark, Don Martinez. Excused: Mark Manzanares and Don Thompson. Absent: Robert McWhirter. A quorum was declared. Staff present: Don Koskelin, Jeff Rilling and Julie Scott.

Agenda Approval: M/S/C., White. Motion was made to approve agenda with the following addition. Introduction of Mr. John Eland, as first item under regular business. (Unanimous)

Approval of the Minutes: M/S/C. Martinez, Clark. Motion was made to approve the minutes of May 26, 2010 as submitted. (Unanimous)

*** * * Excerpt* * ***

Other Business:

Discussion of traffic reconfiguration – 1600 Block of El Rio Drive.

Koskelin gave the Commission information and a map was distributed on the reconfiguration. The intent is to limit the cut through traffic on El Rio Drive and still maintain a circulatory pattern. The area of El Rio to become one way is right in front of the church between Sierra and Monterrey. The only property to be directly affected is the church, who owns the property on both sides of the street. They are one of the parties that requested that we do this. El Rio was never designed to be a collector street, it is a residential area. El Rio will end at Monterrey.

Carol Hermanson from Trinity Lutheran Church was present and supported the request. She also inquired to the possibility of speed bumps being installed. Speed bumps are problematic with certain types of service vehicles, i.e. emergency vehicles, trash trucks, snow plows and they are a maintenance problem. It is anticipated that Monterrey will be open by the end of July and the one way will take affect at the same time. Another possible solution is to block off one lane at Sierra for a type of visual calming of traffic.

M/S/C. Martinez, Clark. Motion made to recommend that the portion of El Rio Drive between Sierra and Monterrey be designated one way westbound. (Unanimous)

After no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.