



◆ OLD NORTH END ◆
NEIGHBORHOOD

July 30, 2024

Karen Aspelin
Chair
Colorado Springs Citizen Transportation Advisory Board
30 S. Nevada Ave., Suite 401
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

Dear Ms. Aspelin:

At its last meeting on May 7, the Citizens Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB) heard a presentation regarding significant traffic safety problems on the segment of North Nevada Ave. between Uintah and Lilac. The presentation, by the Old North End Neighborhood (ONEN) Street Safety Committee, provided data clearly demonstrating that 1.2 mile segment of roadway is the deadliest street in Colorado Springs as measured by fatalities per million miles driven. Drivers are 15 times more likely to be killed on N. Nevada than on typical minor arterials in El Paso County. In a study that considered nine of the worst COS road segments, Nevada has had more fatalities than all the others combined. The latest fatality, occurring on June 17, was the fifth since 2020.

With excessive speed being a major contributor to traffic accidents in general and N. Nevada crashes in particular, serious traffic calming on N. Nevada between Uintah and Lilac is sorely needed to help stave off more fatalities and serious injuries. The presentation included, for the CTAB's consideration, a proposed resolution of support for traffic calming on this particularly dangerous segment of N. Nevada.

At the conclusion of the May 7 presentation, you polled the CTAB members in attendance as to whether they supporting the recommended traffic calming measures being proposed by the ONEN Street Safety Committee. Support for the recommended traffic calming measures appeared to be unanimous among the CTAB members. You will recall I asked at the May 7 session if the CTAB would formally adopt, at that session, the proposed resolution in support of the traffic calming measures. I was told that formal consideration of the proposed resolution would occur at the next meeting of the CTAB. Subsequently, the next meeting of the CTAB has been delayed until August 6.

However, just today (July 30), City Public Works staff let us know that there would be no formal consideration of the resolution at the August 6 CTAB meeting. But that there would only be a discussion of whether CTAB would support a resolution and second the process for this to happen. That does not appear to be consistent with the direction provided by CTAB at its May 7 meeting. Also, as you know, this is an urgent matter and cannot be delayed any more.

So, please consider this letter a formal request that the attached "CTAB Recommendation to City Council regarding N. Nevada Traffic Calming" be placed on the August 6 agenda for formal consideration by the CTAB.

Please note that the attached is formatted and presented as a CTAB recommendation to the City Council and not in formal resolution format. This change in format was made in response to City Public Works staff letting us know that a formal resolution would require City Attorney review and approval before it could be placed on a CTAB agenda. It is our intent that this statement of support should be reformatted if necessary to comply with typical periodic communications between CTAB and City Council.

Given the increased frequency with which fatalities are occurring on Nevada through our neighborhood, we do not believe formal consideration of this matter by CTAB and the implementation of serious and tangible traffic calming measures can be postponed or delayed any more. Thus, the attached item for CTAB's formal consideration is formatted as a simple recommendation statement that can be adopted by the CTAB as a regular agenda item. Thus, the need for City Attorney review should not be necessary.

Time is of the essence with the August 6 CTAB meeting rapidly approaching. So, please let me know at the earliest convenience if the attached will be on the August 6 CTAB agenda for formal consideration.

Thank you.

Peter Frantz, PhD
Chair, ONEN Street Safety Committee

c. Jerry White, Vice Chair, CTAB
Councilperson Nancy Henjum
Anne Hatch
Ralph Everett
Michael Parris
Kathy Anderson
Vickie Parris
Jaime Socotch
Paul Dusseault
Joe Thomas
Mike Anderson
William Mutch
Amir Safayan
Jay McCurdy
Dutch Schulz

Attachment

**CTAB Recommendation to City Council Regarding
N. Nevada Ave. Traffic Calming**

Publicly available data demonstrate that North Nevada Avenue between Uintah and Fillmore currently constitutes the deadliest street segment known in Colorado Springs as measured by fatalities per million miles driven. Drivers are 15 times more likely to be killed on N. Nevada than on average streets in El Paso County, and even more than typical arterials. In a study described in the Nevada Safety Working Group Memo that considered nine of the worst COS road segments, Nevada has had more fatalities than all the others combined.

Excessive speed is a documented major contributor to all N. Nevada fatal crashes. Lane reductions on Cascade, Weber, and other Colorado Springs streets have been shown to reduce speed and crashes while accommodating traffic demand. At least four professional traffic studies over the last decade have recommended lane reduction on N. Nevada as a means of reducing speeds while accommodating demand. Alternative systemic means of traffic calming such as roundabouts, though effective and desirable, may be prohibitively expensive and time consuming.

Initial plans for lane reduction on N. Nevada already exist, and lane reduction could be accomplished on N. Nevada for less than the price of yet another traffic study or lost life.

The safety of Colorado Springs citizens is as important to city officials as any other consideration. The recently adopted City of Colorado Springs 2024-2028 Citywide Strategic Plan includes a Public Safety Goal area. A key objective of that Goal area (objective #4) states that the City administration and staff should: *“Implement effective strategies to reduce injury and damage caused by traffic crashes.”* Furthermore, safety was the #1 ConnectCOS goal selected by public survey.

Therefore, the Colorado Springs Citizen Transportation Advisory Board views lane reduction as the most effective and expeditious traffic calming measure on North Nevada Ave between Uintah and Fillmore that conforms with results of previous studies and orthodox traffic engineering practices. Further, the Colorado Springs Citizen Transportation Advisory Board hereby advises the Colorado Springs City Council to declare their support for expeditious lane reduction on N. Nevada Ave in ONEN.

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