



City of La Quinta

CITY / SA / HA / FA MEETING DATE: March 17, 2015

ITEM TITLE: DISCUSS STRIPING OPTIONS FOR AVENIDA BERMUDAS AND BLACKHAWK WAY

AGENDA CATEGORY:

BUSINESS SESSION:

CONSENT CALENDAR:

STUDY SESSION: 1

PUBLIC HEARING:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss striping options for Avenida Bermudas and Blackhawk Way.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- On November 18, 2014, in response to increased speed limits from the latest speed survey for certain City streets, the City Council directed staff to bring back options for Avenida Bermudas, Blackhawk Way and Calle Tampico to help slow drivers and increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety.
- As in the past, the City's Traffic Engineer recommends narrowing travel lanes to encourage lower vehicle speeds and at the same time allowing room for bicycle and parking lanes to accommodate other modes of travel. Additionally, properly designed mid-block pedestrian crosswalks can be included to improve pedestrian access to City facilities.
- Options for Calle Tampico will be presented as part of the circulation analysis of The Village.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated cost, including soft costs, for slurry sealing and restriping Avenida Bermudas and Blackhawk Way is \$225,000 and \$215,000, respectively. Additionally, vehicle-activated driver feedback signs could be added on any street segments at an additional cost of approximately \$15,000 per sign. If supported by City Council, these improvements would be included as projects in the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Capital Improvement Program.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

"Road diets" (i.e., narrowing of vehicular travel lanes) have been proven to reduce both vehicle speeds and collisions primarily by altering the driver's perception of the road width, which studies show leads to drivers slowing down voluntarily for streets where the average daily volume is less than 15,000 vehicles per day. This could be accomplished on Avenida Bermudas by removing the existing striping (Attachment 1) and restriping it with narrower travel lanes (as narrow as 10 feet) thereby allowing room for a 6-foot bike lane between the travel lane and the parking lane (Attachments 2 and 3). The City's Traffic Engineer recommends keeping existing striping in the block from Avenue 52 to Calle Durango as is in order to provide sufficient room for turning lanes during peak traffic. The new striping would be merged back to existing striping south of Calle Arroba.

Staff received one email opposing such improvements on Avenida Bermudas, which is included as Attachment 4.

Similarly, narrowing the vehicle travel lanes on Blackhawk Way could help slow vehicles and allow the bicycle lane on the north side of the street to be separate from the parking lane (Attachment 5). This is much preferred over a shared lane for parking and bicycles as currently exists (Attachment 6). Additionally, a second mid-block pedestrian crosswalk could be installed to improve access to La Quinta High School (Attachment 7).

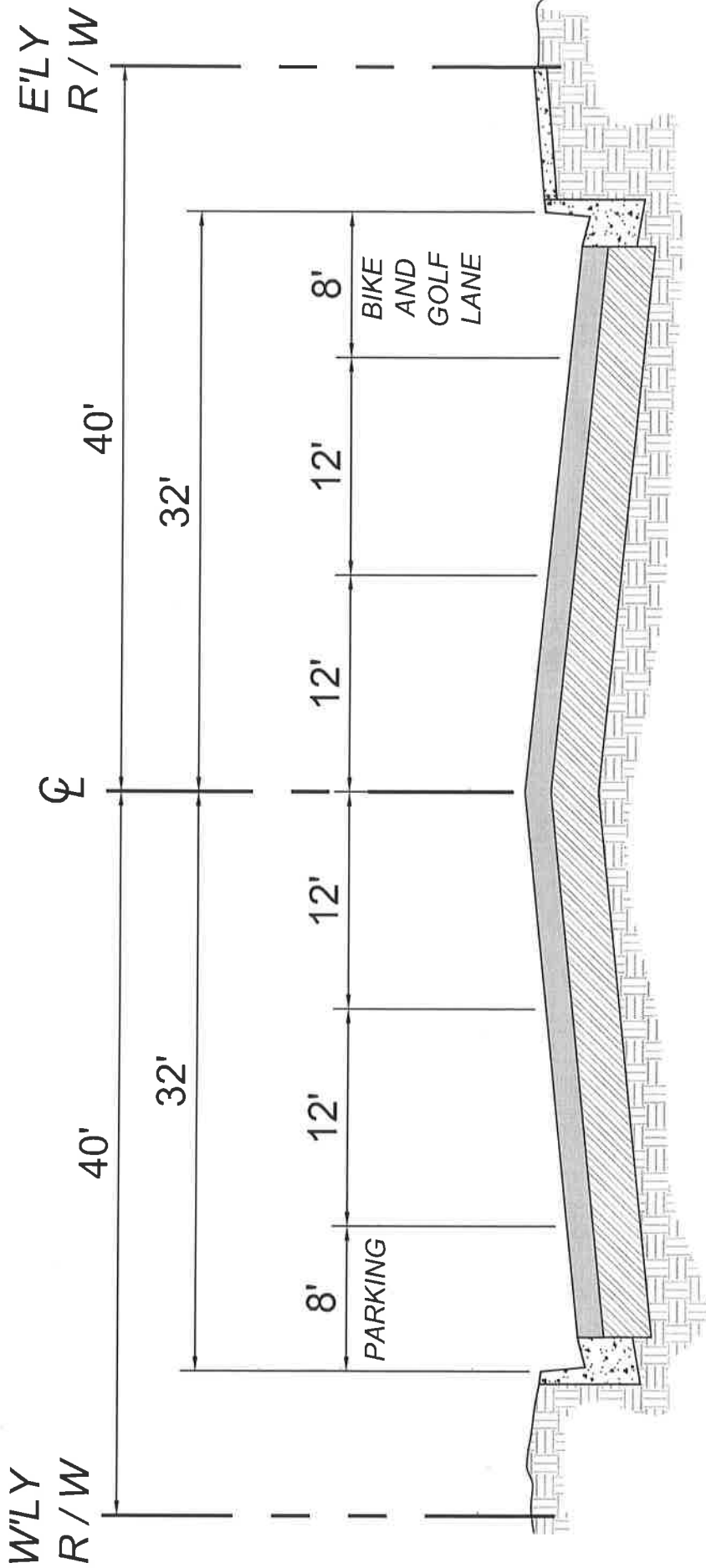
Report prepared by: Edward J. Wimmer, P.E., Principal Engineer

Report approved for submission by: Timothy R. Jonasson, P.E.

Public Works Director/City Engineer

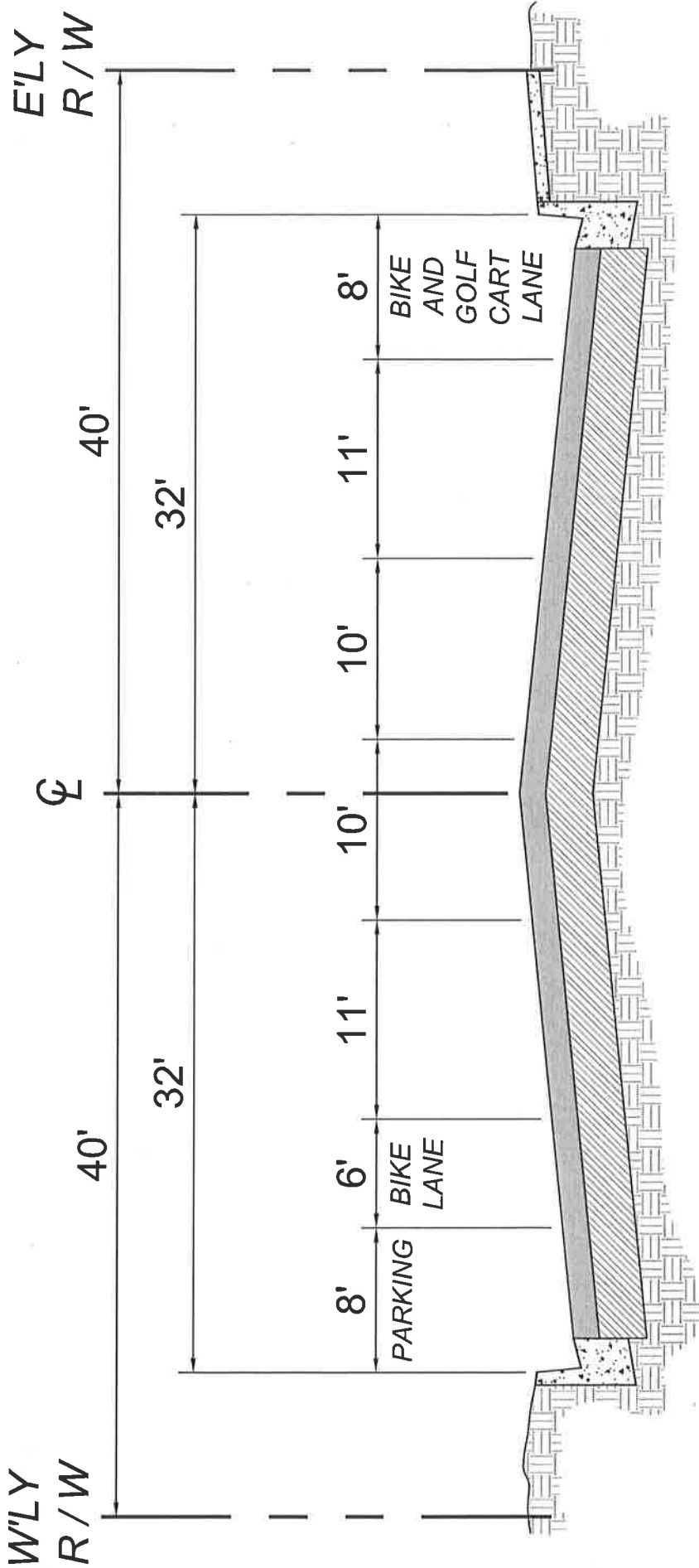
Attachments:

1. Avenida Bermudas – Existing Street Section
2. Avenida Bermudas – Proposed Street Section
3. Avenida Bermudas - Aerial
4. Email from Cove resident David Heckman
5. Blackhawk Way – Existing Street Section
6. Blackhawk Way – Proposed Street Section
7. Blackhawk Way – Pedestrian Crosswalk



AVENIDA BERMUDAS

**EXISTING STREET SECTION
POSTED SPEED LIMIT 40 MPH**
From Calle Colima to Calle Sinaloa (52nd Ave.)
Not to Scale



AVENIDA BERMUDAS

**PROPOSED STREET SECTION
POSTED SPEED LIMIT 40 MPH**

From Calle Colima to Calle Sinaloa (52nd Ave.)

Not to Scale

AVENIDA BERMUDAS



Not to Scale

8' PARKING

6' BIKE LANE

11'

10'

10'

11'

8' BIKE & GOLF CART LANE

8' PARKING

6' BIKE LANE

11'

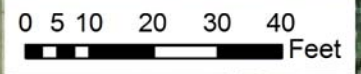
10'

10'

11'

8' BIKE & GOLF CART LANE

AVENIDA BERMUDAS



5

10

From: Wanda Wise-Latta
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2014 11:09 AM
To: Frank Spevacek (Fspevacek@la-quinta.org); Tim Jonasson
Subject: FW: Speed limit on Avenida Bermudas

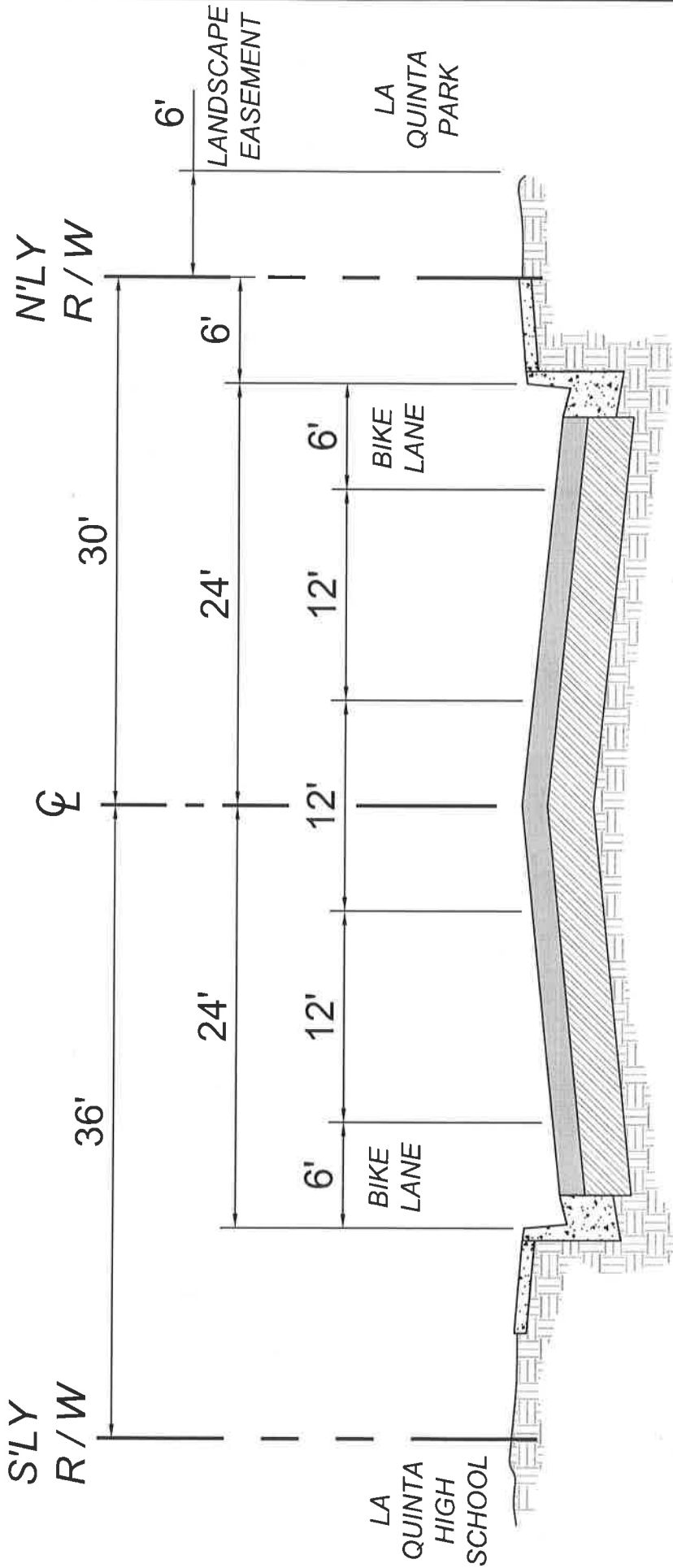
I am forwarding the email below from David Heckman to you and will also be forwarding to Council. Thank you.

Wanda Wise-Latta | Executive Assistant
City of La Quinta
78495 Calle Tampico ° La Quinta, CA 92253
760.777.7030
wlatta@la-quinta.org

From: Dave H [<mailto:daveanddebb@msn.com>]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2014 5:40 PM
To: Council
Subject: Speed limit on Avenida Bermudas

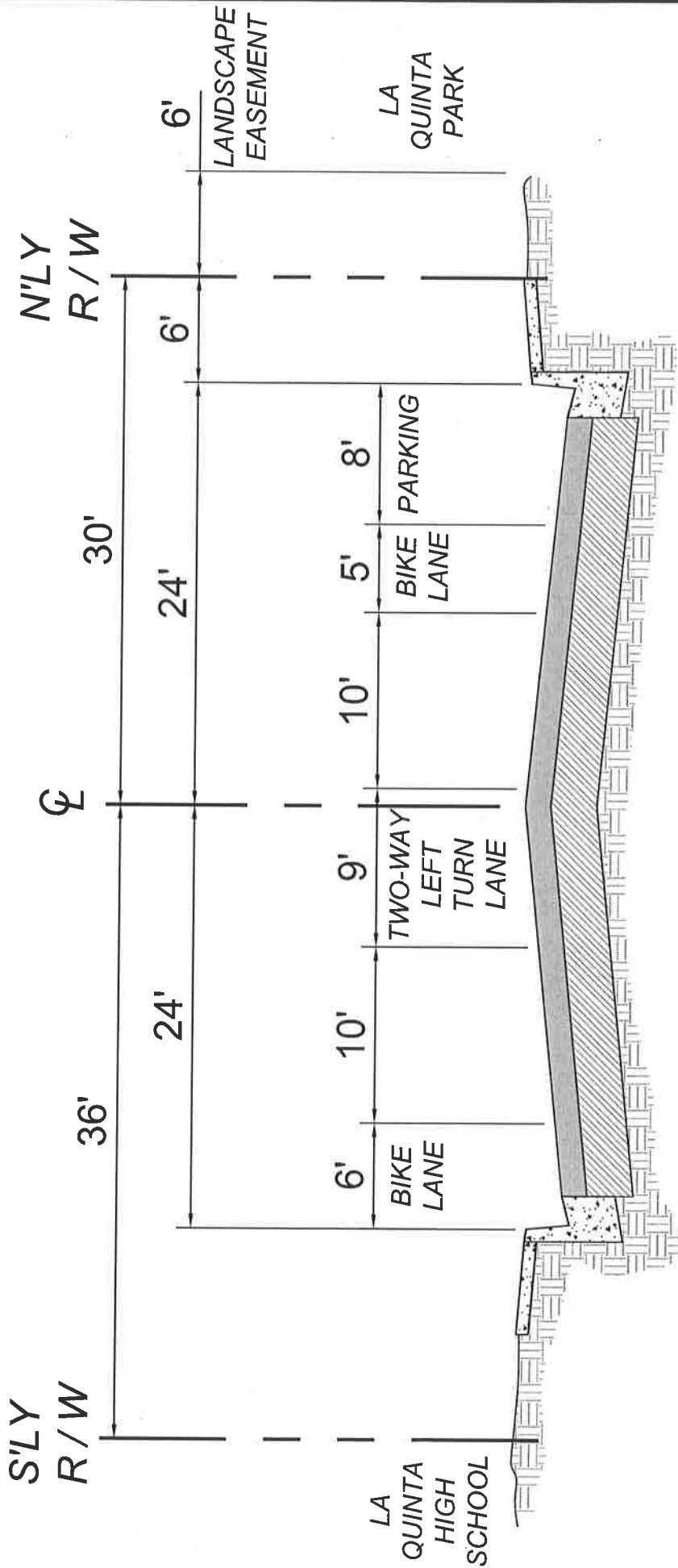
*To all council members, and Mayor Linda Evans,
The reason I'm writing this is to express myself in regards to the subject of the speed limit on Avenida Bermudas. I'm aware that at a prior council meeting two women had made emotional pleas about how dangerous it was to live on Avenida Bermudas because of some cars traveling in excess of 70 MPH, and even the Desert Sands School District buses were exceeding the 40 MPH speed limit. The latest traffic engineering survey has been completed and it doesn't recommend making any speed limit changes to that roadway. At this point the former mayor questioned why the State of California should have any say over what speed limits that we post. (the State does have the right) He also said that the people who live there would be a better judge of the speed limit posted. He then asked Tim if he could some how circumvent the State of California's law about using the 85th percentile to set the speed limit. Tim went on to say how he had done this before on Avenida Bermudas, by re-striping the roadway and downsizing the width of the traffic lanes. He also said that they then lowered the speed limit from 45 MPH to 40 MPH. Isn't public safety best served by posting reasonable speed limits as dictated by scientifically based traffic engineering studies, and not by public opinion? I believe that for Tim to do another cost analyst to do a re-striping on the roadway to again narrow each lane down to 10ft.(which he calls "road diet") and then call for another traffic engineering survey.....is a misuse of taxpayers funds. The city council doesn't have a clue as to what qualifications those two women have when it comes to judging the speeds of the vehicles. Do you think that they have been trained to make visual estimations of the vehicles speeds? These are probably "guesstimations". Often times if a car, or truck, or motorcycle has a modified exhaust system that makes a lot of noise, it probably makes them think that it is going faster then it actually is. The Cove has 4804 households, and I'm sure that by lowering the speed limit, and intentionally narrowing the traffic lanes to slow the vehicles down will impact the daily lives of thousands of people who have to use this roadway to get to and from work, school, and all of their daily activities. Do you really think this is fair, to penalize thousands of people, just because two ladies complained about the speed limit. There is another element here that wasn't even mentioned in the meeting. This is not a issue that the City Engineer should have to be involved in.....this is a policing action, pure and simple. The city should park their little mobile radar trailer on the roadway and the La Quinta Police should do a better or more frequent job of ticketing those who are speeding or have a excessively noisy vehicle. Nothing slows down the traffic faster then a "black and white" car parked along the roadway. I respectfully ask for your consideration to do the greater good when this subject comes before you at a upcoming council meeting.*

Sincerely, David Heckman 51555 Avenida Navarro La Quinta, CA. 760 777 1353



BLACKHAWK WAY

EXISTING STREET SECTION
POSTED SPEED LIMIT 35 MPH
From Adams St. to Dune Palms Road
Not to Scale



BLACKHAWK WAY

**PROPOSED STREET SECTION
POSTED SPEED LIMIT 35 MPH**

From Adams St. to Dune Palms Road
Not to Scale

ALISO II
TR 29563



Not to Scale

R1-5



W11-2



RRFB

W16-7p



8'

5' BIKE LANE

ADAMS ST
←

10'

9'

10' DIRECTION OF TRAVEL →

6' BIKE LANE

→ DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

BLACKHAWK WAY

DUNE PALMS RD
→

W11-2



RRFB

W16-7p



R1-5



LA QUINTA HIGH
SCHOOL

BUS DROP OFF
ZONE

