TRAFFIC INFORMATION

Why the Proposed Configuration is a Good Fit

The proposed roadway configuration has been evaluated using historical traffic volumes, peak-hour traffic patterns, and nationally recognized roadway safety and traffic engineering guidance.



Based on the available traffic data, downtown Tonopah's traffic volumes fall within a range generally considered favorable for converting a four-lane undivided roadway into a three-lane configuration with one through lane in each direction and a center two-way left-turn lane.

Historical Traffic Volumes

Traffic records from 2014 through 2024 show that the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)* along U.S. 95 through downtown Tonopah has generally ranged between:

6,200 - 7,800
vehicles per day

In 2024:
6,650
vehicles per day

2025 Traffic Counts:

U.S. 6 south of Bryan Avenue
6,850
vehicles per day

U.S. 95 south of U.S. 6 intersection
5,400
vehicles per day

Peak-Hour Traffic Conditions

Hourly traffic data collected on May 19, 2022, identified the following typical weekday peak-hour volumes:

Morning
~ 278 SB | ~272 NB
vehicles per hour

Afternoon
~ 354 SB | ~300 NB
vehicles per hour

These volumes are below the approximately 750 vehicles per hour direction referenced in national research for evaluating roadway configurations.

Commercial Truck Traffic and Potential Congestion

U.S. 6 / U.S. 95 serves as an important regional transportation corridor, and commercial truck traffic is a significant consideration for the Tonopah community.

Approximately 8.5% of Tonopah's traffic consists of trucks.

The project team recognizes concerns that reducing the number of through lanes could result in vehicles traveling behind slower-moving trucks, potentially causing congestion.

Key Considerations:

- The proposed two-way center turn lane will give drivers a dedicated space to make left turns.
- The center turn lane is not intended to function as a passing lane.
- The relatively low overall traffic volumes and existing 25 MPH speed limit are important factors.

We will continue evaluating traffic data as the design progresses.

*https://gis.dot.nv.gov/trina/