

AGENDA



Thursday, November 8, 2007

**Public Works
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 49**

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending Section 12-4-64 (D) of the City Code to add a portion of South Congress Avenue to the list of streets having a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour in a pedestrian zone during certain times of the day as indicated by flashing light, in accordance with Texas Transportation Code Section 545.356.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$27,600 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Public Works Department for the installation of necessary signs.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Richard Kroger, 974-7219; Ronnie Bell, 974-7015; Laura Bohl, 974-7064.

Amendment to Code Section 12-4-64 (D) (MAXIMUM SPEED OF 20 MILES PER HOUR IN A PEDESTRIAN ZONE DURING CERTAIN TIMES OF DAY AS INDICATED BY FLASHING LIGHT):

Add: South Congress Avenue from 135 feet South of Nellie Street to 255 feet north of Annie Street.

South Congress Avenue between Nellie Street and Annie Street has a high level of pedestrian activity both adjacent to and crossing the roadway. Much of the pedestrian activity occurs after dark due to the hours of operation of many of the businesses along South Congress. In addition to daily business and pedestrian activity in this area, the monthly "First Thursday" event and other periodic special events attract increased concentrations of pedestrians to the area.

Traffic signals equipped with pedestrian signals exist at Nellie Street, Monroe Street, and Annie Street and a signal is under construction at Elizabeth Street. However, many pedestrians cross at points other than the signalized locations. The areas of on-street angle parking on this portion of South Congress both increase crossing distances and limit approaching drivers' ability to observe pedestrians waiting on the curb to cross the street or crossing from between parked vehicles.

The large volume of pedestrian activity, much of it occurring after sundown, and the long crossing distances increase potential conflicts between pedestrians and drivers. In order to reduce the potential conflicts during times of highest pedestrian activity, it is recommended that a 20 miles per hour pedestrian zone be installed along South Congress Avenue between 135 feet south of Nellie Street and 255 feet north of Annie Street. Overhead flashing beacons with signs will be installed at the beginnings of this zone. This will be similar to the existing reduced speed zone on Barton Springs Road through Zilker Park. The hours of operation will be determined by the Austin Police Department.