

AGENDA



Thursday, February 14, 2008

Public Works

Item No. 37

RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending Section 12-4-64(D) of the City Code to establish a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour on certain streets within the area bounded by I.H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to the west, Airport Boulevard to the south, Rowood Road to the east and Norwood Road to the north, and the area bounded by Decker Lane to the east, Loyola Lane to the south, Valleyfield Drive to the west, and Mayview Drive to the north.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$1,800 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: Alan Hughes 974-7202, Kristi Weston 974-7264, Robin Field 974-7064.

Texas Transportation Code Section 545.356 allows a city to set a speed limit lower than 30 miles per hour, but not less than 25 miles per hour, on a highway if:

- the highway is not an officially designated or marked highway or road in the state highway system;
- the highway is 35 feet or less in width;
- vehicular parking is not prohibited on one or both sides of the street;
- the highway has less than four lanes used for vehicular travel; and
- the Council finds that the previous prima facie speed limit is unreasonable or unsafe.

The City of Austin Public Works Department recommends the 25 mile per hour speed limit for certain streets in the area bounded by I.H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to the west, Airport Boulevard to the south, Rowood Road to the east and Norwood Road to the north, and the area bounded by Decker Lane to the east, Loyola Lane to the south, Valleyfield Drive to the west, and Mayview Drive to the north. The lower speed limit will reduce the potential for vehicle-pedestrian accidents. Most of the streets within the area are eligible for a 25 mile per hour speed limit. The exceptions are Colony Loop Drive from Decker Lane to the end of Colony Loop Drive, Garcreek Circle from Riverstone Drive to Riverstone Drive, Riverstone Drive from Colony Loop Drive to Wentworth Drive, Valleyfield Drive from Colony Loop Drive to the north end of Valleyfield Drive, Valleyfield Drive from Decker Lane to the west end of Valleyfield Drive, Wentworth Drive from Loyola Lane to Colony Loop Drive, and Wilmington Drive from Colony Loop Drive to the end of Wilmington Drive, because these streets are wider than 35 feet. They are not included in the recommended Code changes. The ordinance includes a finding that the previous prima facie speed limit is unreasonable or unsafe, in accordance with the statute.

Staff recommends that Section 12-4-64(D) be amended to add the following streets to the list of streets with a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour.

Area 16:

Bentwood Road from I.H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to Rowood Road.

Elwood Road from Fernwood Road to Norwood Road.

Fairwood Road from Elwood Road to Rowood Road.

Fernwood Road from I.H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to Parkwood Road.
Norwood Road from Elwood Road to Parkwood Road.
Parkwood Road from Airport Boulevard to Norwood Road.
Rowood Road from Airport Boulevard to Bentwood Road.

Area 12:

Cambray Drive from Valleyfield Drive to the end of Cambray Drive.
Mayview Drive from Valleyfield Drive to Decker Lane.
Meadow Bend Drive (East) from Colony Loop Drive to Valleyfield Drive.
Smallwood Drive from Valleyfield Drive to the end of Smallwood Drive.
View Ridge Drive from Valleyfield Drive to Meadow Bend Drive (East).