

AGENDA



Thursday, February 14, 2008

Public Works

Item No. 40

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 Hancock Drive to the north, Shoal Creek proper to the east, Loop 1 (MoPac Expressway) (North) East Frontage Road to the west, and West 45th Street to the south; and to correct an error in Ordinance No. 20080117-010 by changing the speed limit in the school zone to 25 mph.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$4200 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 Hancock Drive to the north, Shoal Creek proper to the east, Loop 1 (MoPac Expressway) (North) East Frontage Road to the west, and West 45th Street to the south. 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 Bull Creek Road from West 45th Street to Hancock Drive and West Park Drive from Perry Lane to Village 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 12-4-24(D) be amended to add the following streets to the list of streets with a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour.

48th Street (West) from Chiappero Trail to Finley Drive.
 49th Street (West) from Bull Creek Road to Strass Drive.
 49th ½ Street (West) from Strass Drive to Bull Creek Road.
 50th Street (West) from Bull Creek Road to Westfield Drive.
 Chiappero Trail from 45th Street (West) to 48th Street (West).
 Finley Drive from 45th Street (West) to Hancock Drive.
 Fiset Drive from Strass Drive to Finley Drive.
 Fresco Drive (North) from Hancock Drive to Fresco Drive (West).
 Fresco Drive (West) from Fresco Drive (North) to Bull Creek Road.

Highland Terrace from Perry Lane to 45th Street (West) Ramp.
La Ronde Street from Chiappero Trail to the end of La Ronde Street.
Oakmont Boulevard from 45th Street (West) to 48th Street (West).
Pembroke Trail from Rue Street to Strass Drive.
Perry Lane from Loop 1 (MoPac Expressway) (North) East Frontage Road to Bull Creek Road.
Placid Place from 45th Street (West) to Hancock Drive.
Rue Street from Pembroke Trail to 49th Street (West).
Strass Drive from Pembroke Trail to Hancock Drive.
Terrain Lane from Placid Place to Highland Terrace.
Village Drive from Placid Place to Westfield Drive.
Westfield Drive from Village Drive to the end of Westfield Drive.
West Frances Place from Village Drive to Hancock Drive.
West Market Drive from Placid Place to Fresco Drive (West).
West Park Drive from Village Drive to Hancock Drive.
Winston Court from Bull Creek Road to the end of Winston Court.

This ordinance also corrects a clerical error in Ordinance No. 20080117-010 where the speed limit incorrectly appears as 20 mph. This ordinance will correct that error, so that the speed limit for the school zone on Huntland Drive is 25 mph, which conforms with speed zone requirements for school zones on streets with a 40 mph speed limit.