Thursday, February 28, 2008

Public Works RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 37

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 bounded by East 11th Street/Rosewood Avenue to the south, East Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the north, Miriam Avenue to the east and I. H. 35 Frontage Road Northbound to the west.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$7800 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 E. 11th Street/Rosewood Avenue to the south, E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the north, Miriam Avenue to the east, and I. H. 35 Frontage Road Northbound to the west. 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 Angelina Street from Rosewood Avenue to 1202 Angelina Street, Angelina Street from 12th Street (East) to 13th Street (East), Bob Harrison from Navasota Street to Comal Street, Chestnut Avenue from Rosewood Avenue to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East), Chicon Street from Rosewood Avenue to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East), Comal Street from Hackberry Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East), 11th Street (East) from I. H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to Navasota Street, 12th Street (East) from I. H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to New York Drive, 13th Street (East) from I. H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to Comal Street, 16th Street (East) from I. H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to Navasota Street, 16th Street (East) from Leona Street to Chicon Street, Hackberry Street from Navasota Street to Angelina Street, New York Drive from Pleasant Valley Road (North) to 12th Street (East), Pennsylvania Avenue from Cotton Street to Leona Street, Pleasant Valley Road (North) from New York Drive to New York Avenue, Salina Street from Rosewood Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue, and San Bernard from Rosewood Avenue to 14th Street (East) due to street widths greater than 35 feet; Curve Street from Catalpa Street to 12th Street (East), 14th Street (East) from I. H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to Olander Street, Leona Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to New York Avenue, Navasota Street from 11th Street (East) to Juniper Street, and Olander Street from 14th Street (East) to I. H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road due to parking restrictions. 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.

Alamo Street from Rosewood Avenue to 185 feet north of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Alamo Street from 12th Street (East) to 17th Street (East).

Amber Street from Navasota Street to Waller Street.

Angelina Street from 13th Street (East) to 14th Street (East).

Branch Street from 11th Street (East) to 12th Street (East).

Catalpa Street from Branch Street to Navasota Street.

Cedar Avenue from 12th Street (East) to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East).

Coleto Street from Rosewood Avenue to 16th Street (East).

Concho Street from 13th Street (East) to 14th Street (East).

Cotton Street from Navasota Street to Comal Street.

Curve Street from 11th Street (East) to Catalpa Street.

13th Street (East) from Comal Street to the east end of 13th Street (East).

14th Street (East) from Olander Street to Navasota Street.

15th Street (East) from Olander Street to Navasota Street.

16th Street (East) from Chicon Street to Miriam Avenue.

17th Street (East) from Leona Street to Salina Street.

17th Street (East) from Chicon Street to Miriam Avenue.

18th Street (East) from Leona Street to Poquito Street.

18th Street (East) from Miriam Avenue to west end of 18th Street (East).

Ferdinand Street from 18th Street (East) to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East).

Juniper Street from Branch Street to Navasota Street.

Leona Street from New York Avenue to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East).

Lydia Street from 11th Street (East) to Juniper Street.

Maple Avenue from 12th Street (East) to 13th Street (East).

Maple Avenue from 16th Street (East) to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East).

Miriam Avenue from 16th Street (East) to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East).

Myrtle Street from Waller Street to Navasota Street.

Navasota Street from Juniper Street to 16th Street (East).

New York Avenue from Comal Street to Chestnut Avenue.

Olander Street from 12th Street (East) to 14th Street (East).

Olive Street from Branch Street to Navasota Street.

Pennsylvania Avenue from Leona Street to Chestnut Avenue.

Poquito Street from Rosewood Avenue to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East).

S L Davis Avenue from Chestnut Avenue to Chicon Street.

Salina Street from 12th Street (East) to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East).

Short Hackberry from Navasota Street to east end of Short Hackberry.

Singleton Avenue from 12th Street (East) to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East).

Ulit Avenue from 14th Street (East) to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East).

Waller Street from 11th Street (East) to 16th Street (East).

Walnut Avenue from 12th Street (East) to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East).