

AGENDA



Thursday, September 25, 2008

Public Works

Item No. 48

RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending City Code Section 12-4-64(D) to establish a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour on certain streets within the area bounded by Koenig Lane, North Lamar Boulevard, Airport Boulevard, and 51st Street.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$4,700 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 Koenig Lane, North Lamar Boulevard, Airport Boulevard, and 51st Street. The lower speed limit will reduce the potential for vehicle-pedestrian accidents. The ordinance includes a finding that the previous prima facie speed limit is unreasonable or unsafe, in accordance with the statute. Most of the streets within the area are eligible under state law for a 25 mile per hour speed limit. The exceptions are Duval Street from E. 51st Street to E. 56th Street, Middle Fiskville Road from Bruning Avenue to Airport Boulevard, W. North Loop Boulevard from N. Lamar Boulevard to E. North Loop Boulevard, E. North Loop Boulevard from W. North Loop Boulevard to Avenue F, E. 53rd Street from E. North Loop Boulevard to Bruning Avenue, Bruning Avenue from Clarkson Avenue to Airport Boulevard, Martin Avenue from E. 55th Street to E. 56th Street, E. 55th Street from Martin Avenue to Airport Boulevard, and E. 56th Street from Middle Fiskville Road to the west end of E. 56th Street because these streets are wider than 35 feet, and E. 56th Street from Avenue F to Duval Street, and Guadalupe Street from W. 51st Street to Zennia Street due to parking restrictions. They are not included in the recommended Code changes.

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.

52nd Street (East) from Clarkson Avenue to the end of 52nd Street (East).
 54th Street (East) from Link Avenue to Middle Fiskville Road.
 55th Street (East) from Link Avenue to Evans Avenue.
 56th Street (East) from Link Avenue to Avenue F.
 55th Street (West) from Link Avenue to Guadalupe Street.

55th ½ Street (West) from Link Avenue to Guadalupe Street.
56th Street (West) from Link Avenue to Chesterfield Avenue.
Avenue F from 51st Street (East) to Koenig Lane (East)
Avenue G from 51st Street (East) to 56th Street (East).
Avenue H from 51st Street (East) to 56th Street (East).
Bruning Avenue from Duval Street to Clarkson Avenue.
Caswell Avenue from 51st Street (East) to Clarkson Avenue.
Chesterfield Avenue from North Loop Boulevard (West) to Koenig Lane (West).
Clarkson Avenue from 51st Street (East) to Bruning Avenue.
Eilers Avenue from 51st Street (East) to Bruning Avenue.
Evans Avenue from 51st Street (East) to the north end of Evans Avenue.
Franklin Boulevard from Lamar Boulevard (North) to Link Avenue.
Genard Street from Huisache Street to Leralynn Street.
Guadalupe Street from Zennia Street to Koenig Lane (West).
Huisache Street from Zennia Street to North Loop Boulevard (West).
Leralynn Street from 51st Street (West) to North Loop Boulevard (West).
Link Avenue from Franklin Boulevard to 56th Street (West).
Martin Avenue from 51st Street (East) to the north end of Martin Avenue.
Nelray Boulevard from Lamar Boulevard (North) to Link Avenue.
Zennia Street from Lamar Boulevard (North) to Leralynn Street.
Also correcting an entry in Section 12-4-64(D):
Caswell Avenue from (DELETE: 42nd Street (East)) Park Boulevard to 51st Street (East).