

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Public Works RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 47

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 Enfield Road, Exposition Boulevard, Lake Austin Boulevard, and Atlanta Street/Winsted Lane; and correcting entries in Section 12-4-64(D).

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$4,600 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: 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 Enfield Road, Exposition Boulevard, Lake Austin Boulevard, and Atlanta Street/Winsted Lane. 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 W. 7th Street from Atlanta Street to Lake Austin Boulevard and W. 10th from Wayside Drive to Exposition Boulevard because these streets are wider than 35 feet and Hearn Street from Lake Austin Boulevard to Johnson Street, and Kent Lane from Quarry Road to Enfield Road because of 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.

8th Street (West) from Meriden Lane to Exposition Boulevard. 9th Street (West) from Meriden Lane to Norwalk Lane. 10th Street (West) from Winsted Lane to Wayside Drive. 11th Street (West) from Winsted Lane to Possum Trot. 12th Street (West) from Winsted Lane to Exposition Boulevard. Dailey Street from 12th Street (West) to Quarry Road. Deep Eddy Avenue from Lake Austin Boulevard to 7th Street (West). Elton Lane from Quarry Road to Enfield Road. Hearn Street from 8th Street (West) to Johnson Street. Heritage Way from 12th Street (West) to the end of Heritage Way.
Highgrove Terrace from Winsted Lane to the end of Highgrove Terrace.
Inwood Place from Possum Trot to the end of Inwood Place.
Johnson Street from Hearn Street to Upson Street.
Marlton Drive from Possum Trot to Norwalk Lane.
Meriden Lane from 7th Street (West) to 12th Street (West).
Meriden Lane from Quarry Road to Enfield Road.
Newman Drive from 7th Street (West) to 10th Street (West).
Norwalk Lane from 7th Street (West) to 10th Street (West).
Norwalk Lane from Marlton Drive to Enfield Road.
Possum Trot from Enfield Road to 8th Street (West).
Pruett Street from Hearn Street to Wayside Drive.
Quarry Road from Winsted Lane to Norwalk Lane.
Upson Street from Lake Austin Boulevard to the north end of Upson Street.
Wayside Drive from 7th Street (West) to 12th Street (West).