

AGENDA



Thursday, December 18, 2008

Transportation
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 63

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 Airport Boulevard, East Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, East 38th ½ Street/Anchor Lane, Manor Road, and E. M. Franklin Avenue; and to correct entries in section 12-4-64(D).

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$1,400 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of the Public Works Department for 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 Airport Boulevard, East Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, East 38th ½ Street/Anchor Lane, Manor Road, and E M Franklin Avenue. 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 for a 25 mile per hour speed limit. The exceptions are Grande Court from Pershing Drive to the end of Grande Court, Greenwood Avenue from East Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard to Manor Road, Manor Road from Airport Boulevard to Pershing Drive, and Theo Drive from Manor Road to Airport Boulevard because these streets are wider than 35 feet; and Tillery Street from Denver Avenue to Manor Road because vehicular parking is prohibited on one or both sides of the street. 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.

38th Street (East) from Tower View Court to Airport Boulevard.
 Cambridge Court from Pershing Drive to the end of Cambridge Court.
 Denver Avenue from Pershing Drive to Tillery Street.
 Encino Circle from Tillery Street (north intersection) to Tillery Street (south intersection).
 Manorwood Road from Manor Road to 38th ½ Street (East).
 Palo Pinto Drive from Pershing Drive to Manor Road.
 Pershing Drive from Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard (East) to Manor Road.

Tillery Street from Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard (East) to Denver Avenue.
Tower View Court from Manorwood Road to end of Tower View Court.

Correction to entries in City Code Section 12-4-64(D):

Ptarmigan Drive from Kramer Lane to Braker Lane [remove Kramer Lane].

Philco Drive from Vinson Drive to 1st Street (South) [remove the end of Philco Drive].