

Thursday, January 29, 2009

Transportation RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 22

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 Allandale Road, Burnet Road, Shoal Creek Boulevard, Hancock Drive, and West North Loop Boulevard; and correcting entries in Section 12-4-64(D).

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$1,200 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 Allandale Road, Burnet Road, Shoal Creek Boulevard, Hancock Drive, and West North Loop Boulevard. 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 Bull Creek Road from Shoal Creek Boulevard to Allandale Road and Northland Drive from Burnet Road to Shoal Creek Boulevard because these streets are wider than 35 feet. 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.

Lawnmont Avenue from Burnet Road to Shoal Creek Boulevard. Montview Street from Lawnmont Avenue to Northland Drive. Nasco Drive from Northland Drive to Allandale Road. New Haven Court from Shoal Creek Boulevard to the end of New Haven Court. Shady Oak Court from Shoal Creek Boulevard to the end of Shady Oak Court. Shoal Edge Court from Shoal Creek Boulevard to the end of Shoal Edge Court. Shoalmont Drive from Burnet Road to Shoal Creek Boulevard. Shoalwood Avenue from Lawnmont Avenue to Allandale Road. Sonora Court from Shoal Creek Boulevard to the end of Sonora Court. Woodview Avenue from North Loop Boulevard to Allandale Road. Wynona Avenue from Northland Drive to Allandale Road.