

ORDINANCE NO. 20130523-064

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 12-4-64(D) TO MODIFY THE SPEED LIMITS ON CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF AIRPORT BOULEVARD, TO ADD A 20 MILES PER HOUR SCHOOL ZONE ON A SEGMENT OF AIRPORT BOULEVARD FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING RIDGETOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY PASSAGE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. Section 12-4-64(D) (*Table of Speed Limits*) is amended to read:

Airport Boulevard from Lamar Boulevard (North) to 162 feet south of 53rd Street (East) [I.H. 35 (North) West Frontage Road]. (40 mph)

PART 2. Section 12-4-64(D) (*Table of Speed Limits*) is amended to add:

Airport Boulevard from 162 feet south of 53rd Street (East) to 55 feet south of 52nd Street (East) (35 mph)

Airport Boulevard from 258 feet south of 51st Street (East) to 185 feet south of 50th Street (35 mph)

Airport Boulevard from 55 feet south of 52nd Street (East) to 258 feet south of 51st Street (East) (20 mph school zone for students attending Ridgetop Elementary School)

Airport Boulevard from 185 feet south of 50th Street (East) to I.H.35 (North) West Frontage Road (40 mph)

PART 3. The amendments made in this ordinance are based on the results of a traffic engineering investigation, or "speed study," attached as Exhibit "A".

PART 4. The amendments made in this ordinance shall be incorporated in alphabetical order and the existing entries reordered accordingly.

PART 5. Council finds that school is in session, and the need for a school zone at this site constitutes an emergency. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect

immediately on its passage for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, May 23, 2013 §
 §
 § _____ Lee Leffingwell
 Mayor

APPROVED: _____
 Karen M. Kennard
 City Attorney

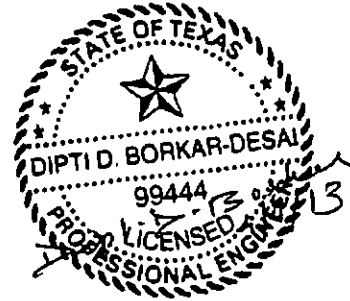
ATTEST: _____
 Jannette S. Goodall
 City Clerk

EXHIBIT A



MEMORANDUM

To: Traffic Study Files
From: Austin Transportation Department
Date: April 9, 2013
Subject: Reduced Speed School Zone Investigation
Location: Airport Boulevard



Date(s) of Previous Investigation: None

A traffic engineering investigation has been conducted to determine if reduced speed school zones are appropriate on Airport Boulevard near the Ridgemont Elementary School for its students.

The following information was collected and analyzed for this determination.

Proximity of the School Crossing to the School

The school is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Clarkson Avenue and East 51st Street. The intersection of Airport Boulevard and East 51st Street is located approximately 90 feet east of this intersection and is signalized.

Pedestrian Count

Pedestrians were counted in December 2012.

Location	Elementary Child	Bicyclist (child)	Adult	TOTAL
Crossing Airport Boulevard at E. 51 st Street	18	1	8	27
Crossing E. 51 st Street at Airport Boulevard	14	1	6	21
TOTAL	32	2	14	48

Existing Roadway Conditions

Location	Number of Lanes	ADT: Two-Way	Posted Speed Limit	Street Width
Airport Boulevard	5	21,230	40 MPH	55 feet
E. 51 st Street	4	8,270	30 MPH	40 feet

Presence of Adult Crossing Guard or Student Safety Patrol

An adult crossing guard is stationed at this intersection to assist students with crossing Airport Boulevard.

Crash History

Austin Police Department's crash database was reviewed for crashes occurring between January 2012 and March 2013 within the proposed school zone. Six crashes were documented during this period.

Airport Boulevard

Date / Time	Direction		Weather	Light	Road	Injury	Comments
	At Fault	Other					
1/3/12 8:04 AM	SB	NB	Clear	Day	Dry	Minor	Unit 1 struck Unit 2 while turning left from the center turn lane.
1/24/12 4:36 PM	SB	SB	Rain	Day	Wet	None	Unit 1 rear ended Unit 2 .
8/2/12 8:39 AM	NB	SB	Clear	Day	Dry	None	Unit 1 ran a red light and struck Unit 2 which was turning left on a protected turn signal.
11/12/12 8:49 AM	SB	EB	Clear	Day	Dry	None	Unit 1 ran a red light and struck Unit 2 which was travelling EB on a green signal.
1/21/13 8:03 AM	SB	NB	Clear	Day	Dry	None	Unit 1 failed to yield right-of-way to Unit 2 while turning left.
2/12/13 8:24 AM	NB	WB	Rain	Day	Wet	Minor	Unit 1 failed to yield right-of-way to Unit 2 while turning from a private driveway.

Sight Distance

Sight distance exceeds the lengths of the proposed school zones on Airport Boulevard.

Sidewalks and Ramps

There is a marked pedestrian crosswalk across Airport Boulevard on the south side of the intersection of Airport Boulevard and East 51st Street which connects to a sidewalk on East 51st Street.

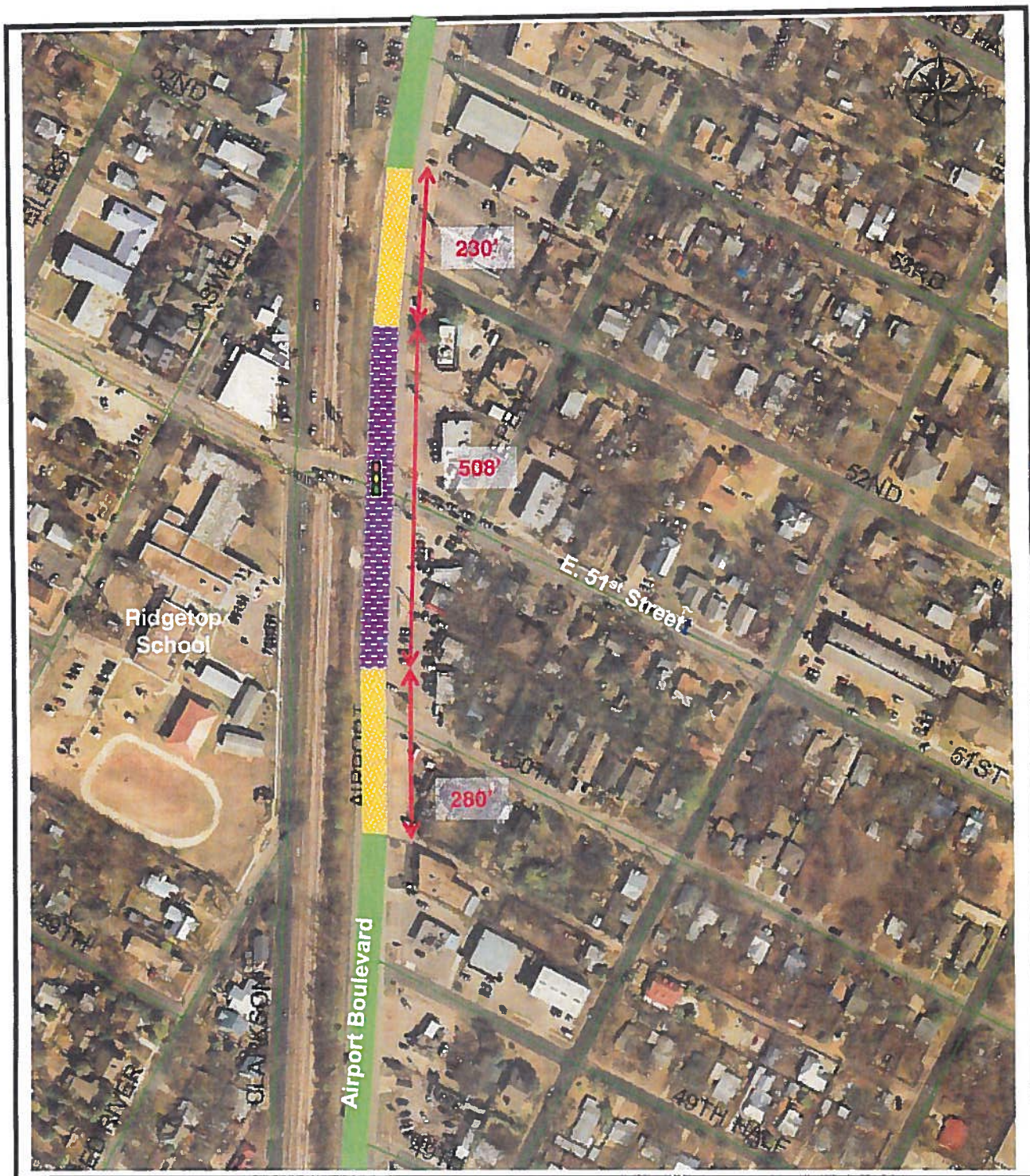
Recommendation

The intersection of Airport Boulevard and East 51st Street is signalized. While traffic signals provide a higher degree of pedestrian crossing protection, there is an expectation of drivers to make a reasonable decision of stopping on red and children to not cross against the signal. Unfortunately, there is a possibility that this might not happen at all times.

Based on the analysis of the information provided in the above sections, reduced speed school zones of 20 miles per hour (mph) should be installed on Airport Boulevard from 55 feet south of East 52nd Street to 258 feet south of East 51st Street.

Recommended engineering practice for changes in speed limits is not to exceed 15 mph differentials. Therefore, to accommodate the 20 mph reduced speed school zone on Airport Boulevard, the posted speed limit should be reduced to 35 mph in advance of the school zone. The 35 mph zone should extend from 162 feet south of East 53rd Street to 185 feet south of East 50th Street.

Figure 1 presents the study area and limits of proposed speed zones.



- Existing 40 MPH
- Proposed 35 MPH (during non-peak times)
- Proposed 20 MPH School Zone (during peak school times)

Figure 1: Study Area