ORDINANCE NO. 20160609-039

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 12-4-64(D) TO MODIFY AN EXISTING SPEED ZONE ON A SEGMENT OF GROVE BOULEVARD.

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

PART 1. City Code Section 12-4-64(D) (Table of Speed Limits) is amended as follows:

Grove Boulevard from East Riverside Drive to Hogan Avenue. (35 [40] MPH).

PART 2. The amendments made in this ordinance are based on the results of a traffic engineering investigation, or “speed study,” attached as Exhibit “A”.

PART 3. This ordinance takes effect on June 20, 2016.

PASSED AND APPROVED

June 9, 2016

Steve Adler
Mayor

Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk
MEMORANDUM

To: Traffic Study Files

From: Upal Barua, P.Eng., PE
Traffic Engineering Division
Austin Transportation Department

Date: May 03, 2016

Subject: Speed Zone Investigation

Location: Grove Boulevard – East Riverside Drive to Hogan Avenue

Date(s) of Previous Investigation: None

A Traffic Engineering Investigation has been conducted by the Austin Transportation Department to determine the appropriate speed limit on Grove Boulevard between East Riverside Drive and Hogan Avenue.

Location Conditions

Grove Boulevard is a two-lane divided major arterial street with bike lanes and parking on both sides of the street that runs generally in a north-south direction between East Riverside Drive and Hogan Avenue. Left turn bays are provided at each intersection and a 15 foot median divides the northbound and southbound lanes. Apartments, townhouses, and Safe Place Austin have been developed on the east side of this section of Grove Boulevard. Austin Community College and Ruiz Branch Austin Public Library are located on the west side of Grove Boulevard.

The attached Figure 1 presents a map of the study area, the existing speed limit, and the proposed speed limit based on the following data and analysis.

Speed and Volume Data

A speed study was conducted in accordance with the Texas Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones. Speed and volume data were collected in April 2016 to determine the appropriate posted speed limit for Grove Boulevard. In 2016 an average of over 6,000 vehicles per day were recorded on Grove Boulevard between East Riverside Drive and Hogan Avenue.
The 85th percentile speed on the northbound and southbound lanes was recorded in the range of 33 miles per hour to 44 miles per hour. The average of 85th percentile speeds on Grove Boulevard was recorded at 37.5 miles per hour for the northbound and southbound lanes of traffic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block Number</th>
<th>Street Segment</th>
<th>Existing Speed Limit</th>
<th>85% Speed MPH</th>
<th>Traffic Volume (veh/day)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>From E. Riverside Dr. to Fairway Street</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>South of Safe Place driveway</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100</td>
<td>North of ACC driveway.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Crash Data**

Austin Police Department's crash database was reviewed to analyze all documented crashes on the study segment within the previous two years. Five crashes were documented during this period; no discernible pattern from excessive speed is present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Direction</th>
<th>Weather</th>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Road</th>
<th>Injury</th>
<th>Type of Crash</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/28/14</td>
<td>SB SB</td>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>Dark-lighted</td>
<td>Dry</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Rear-end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/30/15</td>
<td>WB NB</td>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Dry</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Right-angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/14/15</td>
<td>SB SB</td>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Dry</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Side-swipe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/09/16</td>
<td>EB NB</td>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Dry</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Right-angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/07/16</td>
<td>WB NB</td>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Dry</td>
<td>Fatality</td>
<td>Right-angle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Comments

In 2003, Austin City Council passed Ordinance No. 030508-16 that set speed limits to 40 mph for Grove Boulevard from South East Riverside Drive to Hogan Avenue based on a speed study conducted in that time period. The area has changed significantly since 2003 with the development of apartments, town homes, a library and Austin Community College. In August of 2013, Grove Boulevard was changed from a four-lane divided major arterial to a two-lane divided arterial with bike lanes and parking on both sides of the roadway.

Recommendation

Based on an analysis of the location information and traffic data, the speed limit on Grove Boulevard from East Riverside Drive to Hogan Avenue should be established at 35 miles per hour.
EXHIBIT A

Austin Transportation Department

Figure 1: Grove Boulevard

Existing 40 MPH:
Proposed 35 MPH: