



## MEMORANDUM



**To:** Traffic Study Files  
**From:** Austin Transportation Department  
**Date:** August 1, 2016  
**Subject:** Reduced Speed School Zone Investigation  
**Location:** Neenah Avenue

**Date(s) of Previous Investigation:** None

A traffic engineering investigation has been conducted to determine if reduced speed school zones are appropriate on Neenah Avenue near the Holy Family Catholic and St. Dominic Savio schools for its students.

Although these schools have been in session for some years, a reduced speed school zone was not installed on Neenah Avenue because it was a dead end near St. Dominic Savio school. As a result, the majority of the users driving to the end of Neenah Avenue were solely accessing the schools, were aware of the increased pedestrian activity in the area, and assumed to be driving appropriately for roadway conditions.

However, Neenah Avenue was extended through Pearson Ranch Road in June 2016. Also, there are plans to widen the existing 40'-0" wide section of Neenah Avenue between Olive Hill Drive and east end of Neenah Avenue in the vicinity of the schools to match existing divided section and the recently opened divided section.

The following information was collected and analyzed for this determination.

### Proximity of the School Crossing to the School

The Holy Family Catholic and St. Dominic Savio schools are located at 9400 and 9300 Neenah Avenue, respectively. There is a marked pedestrian crosswalk across Neenah Avenue approximately 500 feet east of the intersection of Neenah Avenue and Solera Drive. This crosswalk is used by students living in the residential area along the south side of Neenah Avenue.

### **Presence of Adult Crossing Guard or Student Safety Patrol**

The City of Austin's Safe Routes to School Program does not have an adult crossing guard stationed at this crosswalk to assist students with crossing Neenah Avenue.

### **Sight Distance**

There are no sight distance problems within the limits of the proposed school zone on Neenah Avenue.

### **Sidewalks and Ramps**

There is a marked pedestrian crosswalk across Neenah Avenue approximately 500 feet east of the intersection of Neenah Avenue and Solera Drive which connects to sidewalks which are present on both sides of Neenah Avenue.

### **Recommendation**

Although the students are crossing in the marked crosswalk across Neenah Avenue, it is an uncontrolled crosswalk. While marked crosswalks provide a better degree of pedestrian crossing protection, there is an expectation of drivers to make a reasonable decision of yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk. Unfortunately, there is a possibility that this might not happen at all times.

Until recently, Neenah Avenue was a dead end near St. Dominic Savio school. As a result, the majority of the users driving to the end of Neenah Avenue were solely accessing the schools, were aware of the increased pedestrian activity in the area, and assumed to be driving appropriately for roadway conditions. Neenah Avenue has now been extended through Pearson Ranch Road which will increase the traffic in the vicinity of the schools.

Based on the analysis of the information provided in the above sections, a reduced speed school zones of 20 miles per hour (mph) should be installed on Neenah Avenue from 260 feet east of Solera Drive to 770 feet east of Solera Drive.

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