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**ORDINANCE NO.**

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**AN ORDINANCE MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS RELATING TO SPEED AND SPEEDING IN AUSTIN; AND AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 12-4 (*SPEED LIMITS*) TO DEFINE NEIGHBORHOOD, DOWNTOWN, AND URBAN CORE ARTERIAL STREETS TO SET STANDARD SPEED LIMITS ON THOSE STREETS; AMENDING THE TABLE OF SPEED LIMITS ON CERTAIN ENUMERATED STREETS; AND MODIFYING SPEED LIMITS ACCORDINGLY.**

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**PART 1. FINDINGS.**

- A. In November 2014, City Council created a [Vision Zero Task Force](#) to develop an Action Plan to achieve zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries.
- B. In May 2016, City Council adopted the [2016-2018 Action Plan](#) (Action Plan) and incorporated it into the “Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.” The Action Plan mentions “speed” or “speeding” over 100 times throughout the document, and states that since risk of injury and fatalities increase as speeds increase, it is imperative to regulate traffic speeds in a way to lower that risk.
- C. The City Council adopted the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) in April 2019, reaffirming its commitment to the Vision Zero policy to “prioritize the protection of human life over all else in the planning, design, and operation of Austin’s transportation network.” The ASMP also includes an implementation plan to “develop a comprehensive data-driven approach to speed management to evaluate systemwide speeds and make recommendations for reforming speed setting methodology,” among other actions.
- D. In May 2019, the State of Texas Transportation Commission (TTC), whose members are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Texas Senate, [adopted a goal](#) of zero traffic deaths by 2050 and a goal to reduce the number of deaths in half by 2035. To this end, the TTC ordered the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to develop and implement strategies required to reduce the number of deaths on Texas roadways.
- E. TxDOT’s [Strategic Highway Safety Plan](#) includes “Speeding” and “Pedestrian Safety” as two emphasis areas with a number of specific strategies, and includes one strategy that overlaps both: “[e]ncourage use of target speeds for arterial, collector, and local roadways; encourage use of target speeds with pedestrian,

39 land use and roadway context, including options for target speeds of 35 mph or  
40 less on arterials and the evaluation of existing speed limits to appropriate target  
41 speeds” with increased safety for all road users and reduction of injury and  
42 fatalities as the ultimate goal.

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- 44 F. Engineering studies conducted by the City Traffic Engineer support the  
45 conclusion that the current posted speeds throughout the City are unreasonable  
46 and unsafe given the number of incidents of traffic-related injuries and deaths the  
47 community experiences, and the speed limits contained herein reflect the safe and  
48 prudent speeds as demonstrated by engineering studies.
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- 50 G. Council’s current action, related to speed limit modifications, represents the  
51 implementation of strategies specifically endorsed by the State’s plans that  
52 encourage local jurisdictions to take action toward our collective transportation  
53 safety goals in Texas, and also reflect the direct alignment of State and City goals  
54 towards zero deaths on Texas roadways.
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56 **PART 2.** City Code Chapter 12-4 (*Speed Limits*) is amended to add a new Section 12-  
57 4-1 adding definitions of “Downtown Street,” “Neighborhood Street,” and “Urban Core  
58 Arterial Street,” to renumber the remaining Sections accordingly, and to read as follows:

59 **§12-4-1 DEFINITIONS.**

60 In this Chapter:

61 (1) DOWNTOWN STREET means a street within the area bounded by Lamar  
62 Boulevard (North), East and West Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, the West  
63 Frontage Road of Interstate Highway 35 North, and Lady Bird Lake regardless  
64 of commercial, governmental, or residential orientation.

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66 (2) NEIGHBORHOOD STREET means a street approximately 40 feet or less  
67 in width between faces of curbs, or, in the absence of curbs, between edges of  
68 pavement, and having primarily front-facing residential land uses.

69 (3) URBAN CORE ARTERIAL STREET means a street in the area bounded  
70 by US 183, SH 71, and Loop 1.

71 **PART 3.** City Code Section 12-4-64(D) (*Table of Speed Limits*) is amended to delete the  
72 following street sections from the list of streets with the corresponding maximum speeds:

- 73 (A) [~~7th Street (East) from 71 feet west of the center line of Brushy Street to 175~~  
74 ~~feet east of the center line of Calles Street. (35 MPH)]~~

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- (B) [~~7th Street (East) from 175 feet east of the center line of Calles Street to Shady Lane. (40 MPH)~~]
- (C) [~~7th Street (East) (Loop 343) (eastbound) from Shady Lane to Airport Boulevard. (45 MPH)~~]
- (D) [~~15th Street (East) from I.H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to Congress Avenue (South). (35 MPH)~~]
- (E) [~~15th Street (West) from Congress Avenue (South) to Enfield Road. (35 MPH)~~]
- (F) [~~51st Street (East) from 250 feet west of Waterbrook Drive to U.S. 183. (35 MPH)~~]
- (G) [~~51st Street (East) from I.H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to 250 feet west of Waterbrook Drive. (40 MPH)~~]
- (H) [~~Airport Boulevard from 162 feet south of 53rd Street (East) to 55 feet south of 52nd Street (East). (35 MPH)~~]
- (I) [~~Airport Boulevard from 185 feet south of 50th Street (East) to 2,700 feet south of Glissman Road (mile point 12,846). (40 MPH)~~]
- (J) [~~Airport Boulevard from 258 feet south of 51st Street (East) to 185 feet south of 50th Street. (35 MPH)~~]
- (K) [~~Airport Boulevard from Lamar Boulevard (North) to 162 feet south of 53rd Street (East). (35 MPH)~~]
- (L) [~~Airport Commerce Drive from Bastrop Highway Southbound Ben White Boulevard Westbound Ramp to East Riverside Drive. (40 MPH)~~]
- (M) [~~Beckett Road from Kiva Drive to Slaughter Lane (West). (40 MPH)~~]
- (N) [~~Berkman Drive from 51st Street (East) to Coronado Hills Drive. (35 MPH)~~]
- (O) [~~Billbrook Place from Slaughter Lane (West) to Sweetwater River Drive. (35 MPH)~~]

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116 (P) [~~Bull Creek Road from Jefferson Street to Hancock Drive. (35 MPH)~~]  
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118 (Q) [~~Burnet Road from 45th Street (West) to White Horse Trail. (35 MPH)~~]  
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120 (R) [~~Burnet Road from Steck Avenue to U.S. 183. (45 MPH)~~]  
121  
122 (S) [~~Burnet Road from White Horse Trail to Steck Avenue. (40 MPH)~~]  
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124 (T) [~~Cesar Chavez Street (East) (eastbound) from 45 feet east of Shady Lane to~~  
125 [~~1838 feet east of Shady Lane. (45 MPH)~~]  
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127 (U) [~~Cesar Chavez Street (East) (westbound) from 45 feet east of Shady Lane to~~  
128 [~~1628 feet east of Shady Lane. (45 MPH)~~]  
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130 (V) [~~Cesar Chavez Street (West) from San Antonio Street to 300 feet west of~~  
131 [~~Lamar Boulevard. (35 MPH)~~]  
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133 (W) [~~Congress Avenue (South) from Live Oak Street to 354 feet south of center~~  
134 [~~line of Oltorf Street (Station 142 + 43). (35 MPH)~~]  
135  
136 (X) [~~Congress Avenue (South) from 354 feet south of the center line of Oltorf~~  
137 [~~Street to 820 feet south of Sheraton Avenue. (40 MPH)~~]  
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139 (Y) [~~Deer Lane from Brodie Lane to Corran Ferry Drive. (40 MPH)~~]  
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141 (Z) [~~Duval Street from 30th Street (East) to 51st Street (East). (35 MPH)~~]  
142  
143 (AA) [~~Exchange Drive from Forbes Drive to Tuscany Way. (40 MPH)~~]  
144  
145 (BB) [~~Exposition Boulevard from 35th Street (West) to Lake Austin Boulevard.~~  
146 [~~(35 MPH)~~]  
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148 (CC) [~~Guadalupe Street (West) from 45th Street (West) to Lamar Boulevard~~  
149 [~~(North). (40 MPH)~~]  
150  
151 (DD) [~~Hancock Drive from Burnet Road to Balcones Drive. (35 MPH)~~]  
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153 (EE) [~~Huntland Drive (East/West) from I.H. 35 (North) West Frontage Road to~~  
154 [~~Airport Boulevard. (40 MPH)~~]

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- (FF) [~~Jones Road from West Gate Boulevard to Manchaca Road. (35 MPH)~~]
- (GG) [~~La Crosse Avenue from Escarpment Boulevard to Spruce Canyon Drive. (40 MPH)~~]
- (HH) [~~Lakeshore Boulevard (South) from Riverside Drive (East) to Pleasant Valley Road (South). (35 MPH)~~]
- (II) [~~Lamar Boulevard (North) from 30th Street (West) to 832 feet north of Riverside Drive (West). (35 MPH)~~]
- (JJ) [~~Lamar Boulevard (North) from 30th Street (West) to Airport Boulevard. (40 MPH)~~]
- (KK) [~~Lamar Boulevard (North) from Airport Boulevard to Morrow Street. (40 MPH)~~]
- (LL) [~~Lamar Boulevard (South) from 450 feet south of Barton Skyway to 66 feet south of Gibson Street (West). (40 MPH)~~]
- (MM) [~~Lamar Boulevard (South) from 450 feet south of Barton Skyway to Ben White Boulevard (West). (40 MPH)~~]
- (NN) [~~Lamar Boulevard (South) from 832 feet north of Riverside Drive (West) to 66 feet south of Gibson Street (West). (35 MPH)~~]
- (OO) [~~Latta Drive from Davis Lane to Convict Hill Road. (40 MPH)~~]
- (PP) [~~Manor Road from 300 feet south of Creekwood Drive to the Austin City Limits. (35 MPH)~~]
- (QQ) [~~Manor Road from Airport Boulevard to 300 feet south of Creekwood Road. (40 MPH)~~]
- (RR) [~~Manor Road from I.H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to Airport Boulevard. (35 MPH)~~]
- (SS) [~~McCarty Lane from Beckett Lane to U.S. 290 (West) (S.H. 71). (35 MPH)~~]

- 195 (TT) [~~Oak Springs Drive from Webberville Road/Ridgeway Drive to Springdale~~  
 196 ~~Road. (35 MPH)~~]
- 197
- 198 (UU) [~~Oltorf Street (East) from Alvin DeVane Boulevard to Montopolis Drive.~~  
 199 ~~(45 MPH)~~]
- 200
- 201 (VV) [~~Oltorf Street (East) from Wickersham Lane to Alvin DeVane Boulevard.~~  
 202 ~~(40 MPH)~~]
- 203
- 204 (WW) [~~Parker Lane from Woodward Street to Riverside Drive (East). (35 MPH)~~]
- 205
- 206 (XX) [~~Pleasant Valley Road (North) from 100 feet south of the center line of~~  
 207 ~~Canterbury Street to Webberville Road. (35 MPH)~~]
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- 209 (YY) [~~Pleasant Valley Road (North) from Webberville Road to Chestnut Avenue.~~  
 210 ~~(40 MPH)~~]
- 211
- 212 (ZZ) [~~St. Johns Avenue (East and West) from Lamar Boulevard (North) to~~  
 213 ~~Berkman Drive. (35 MPH)~~]
- 214
- 215 (AAA) [~~Springdale Road from Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East) to Manor~~  
 216 ~~Road. (40 MPH)~~]
- 217
- 218 (BBB) [~~Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East) from J. J. Seabrook Drive to U.S.~~  
 219 ~~183. (50 MPH)~~]
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221 **PART 4.** City Code Section 12-4-64(D) (*Table of Speed Limits*) is amended to add the  
 222 following street sections to the list of streets with the corresponding maximum speeds:

- 223 (A) 7th Street (East) from Pleasant Valley Street (North) to Airport Boulevard.  
 224 (40 MPH)
- 225
- 226 (B) 51st Street (East) from Berkman Drive to U.S. 183. (35 MPH)
- 227
- 228 (C) Airport Boulevard from Lamar Boulevard (North) to I.H. 35 (North) East  
 229 Frontage Road. (35 MPH)
- 230
- 231 (D) Airport Boulevard from I.H. 35 (North) East Frontage Road to 2,700 feet  
 232 south of Glissman Road (mile point 12,846). (40 MPH)
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- 234 (E) Airport Commerce Drive from S.H. 71 (East) to East Riverside Drive. (35  
235 MPH)
- 236
- 237 (F) Beckett Road from Kiva Drive to Slaughter Lane (West). (35 MPH)
- 238
- 239 (G) Bilbrook Place from Slaughter Lane (West) to Samson Drive. (35 MPH)
- 240
- 241 (H) Burnet Road from 45th Street (West) to U.S. 183. (35 MPH)
- 242
- 243 (I) Cesar Chavez Street (East) (eastbound) from 45 feet east of Shady Lane to  
244 1838 feet east of Shady Lane. (40 MPH)
- 245
- 246 (J) Cesar Chavez Street (East) (westbound) from 45 feet east of Shady Lane to  
247 1628 feet east of Shady Lane. (40 MPH)
- 248
- 249 (K) Cesar Chavez Street (West) from Lamar Boulevard to 300 feet west of  
250 Lamar Boulevard. (35 MPH)
- 251
- 252 (L) Congress Avenue (South) from Live Oak Street to S.H. 71 (East). (35 MPH)
- 253
- 254 (M) Congress Avenue (South) from S.H. 71 to 820 feet south of Sheraton  
255 Avenue. (40 MPH)
- 256
- 257 (N) Exchange Drive from Forbes Drive to Tuscany Way. (35 MPH)
- 258
- 259 (O) Guadalupe Street (West) from 45th Street (West) to Lamar Boulevard  
260 (North). (35 MPH)
- 261
- 262 (P) Huntland Drive (East/West) from I.H. 35 (North) West Frontage Road to  
263 Airport Boulevard. (35 MPH)
- 264
- 265 (Q) La Crosse Avenue from Escarpment Boulevard to Spruce Canyon Drive. (35  
266 MPH)
- 267
- 268 (R) Lamar Boulevard (North) from Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (West) to  
269 Morrow Street. (35 MPH)
- 270
- 271 (S) Lamar Boulevard (South) from 832 feet north of Riverside Drive (West) to  
272 Ben White Boulevard (West). (35 MPH)

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274 (T) Latta Drive from Davis Lane to Convict Hill Road. (35 MPH)  
275  
276 (U) Manor Road from Berkman Drive to U.S. 183. (35 MPH)  
277  
278 (V) Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East) from J. J. Seabrook Drive to U.S.  
279 183. (45 MPH)  
280  
281 (W) Oltorf Street (East) from Wickersham Lane to Montopolis Drive. (40 MPH)  
282  
283 (X) Pleasant Valley Road (North) from 100 feet south of the center line of  
284 Canterbury Street to Chestnut Avenue. (35 MPH)  
285  
286 (Y) Springdale Road from Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (East) to Manor  
287 Road. (35 MPH)  
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289 **PART 5.** City Code Chapter 12-4 (*Speed Limits*) is amended to add Sections 12-4-65  
290 (*Speed Limits on Downtown Streets*), 12-4-66 (*Speed Limits on Neighborhood Streets*),  
291 and 12-4-67 (*Speed Limits on Urban Core Arterial Streets*) to establish speed limits on  
292 downtown streets, neighborhood streets, and urban core arterial streets and to read as  
293 follows:

294 §12-4-65 – SPEED LIMITS ON DOWNTOWN STREETS.

295 A person may not operate a vehicle on downtown streets at a speed greater than  
296 a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour unless an increased or reduced  
297 speed is necessary for safe vehicle operation, an increased or reduced speed is  
298 necessary as determined by the City Traffic Engineer, or compliance with law.

299 §12-4-66 – SPEED LIMITS ON NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS.

300 A person may not operate a vehicle on a neighborhood street at a speed greater  
301 than a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour unless an increased or  
302 reduced speed is necessary for safe vehicle operation, an increased or reduced  
303 speed is necessary as determined by the City Traffic Engineer, or in compliance  
304 with law.

305 §12-4-67 – SPEED LIMITS ON URBAN CORE ARTERIAL STREETS.

306 A person may not operate a vehicle on an urban core arterial street at speeds  
307 greater than a 30, 35, or 45 miles per hour maximum speed, as more specifically  
308 described in City Code Section 12-4-64(D) (*Table of Speed Limits*), at speeds



