



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-2011, **Agenda Item #:** 53.

6/9/2022

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Section 12-4-64 (D) to establish a maximum speed limit of 45 MPH for Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (East) (F.M. 969) from U.S. 183 to Austin City Limits, and to establish the maximum speed limit of 30 MPH on two sections of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (East) (F.M. 969), during certain times, for students attending Austin Discovery School.

Lead Department

Austin Transportation Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

In order to establish, modify, or alter the existing speed limit of a street, Texas traffic laws require that a traffic engineering investigation be performed. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) conducted an investigation of FM 969 in accordance with the procedures specified in the "Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones" and the Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 545, Subchapter H "Speed Restrictions." This investigation recommended reduction of the normal posted speed limit from 50 MPH to 45 MPH and the school zone speed limits from 35 MPH to 30 MPH. The Texas Transportation Commission passed these changes per Minute Order 115236 on May 24, 2018, and TxDOT has already posted speed limit signs to reflect these changes.

TxDOT conducted this investigation as they own and operate FM 969. However, TxDOT relies on the City of Austin to establish speed limit ordinances on state-controlled roadways within the Austin City Limits for speed enforcement.

FM 969 is a four-lane undivided road with a continuous center left-turn lane from U.S. 183 to Austin City Limits. Existing reduced speed school zones for the Austin Discovery School within this segment of FM 969 are to be modified accordingly to maintain a 15 MPH differential between the normal posted speed limit and the reduced school zone speed.

Existing speed limits listed in City Code Section 12-4-64 (D) Table of Speed Limits for FM 969 extend into the City of Austin's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) where the City's regulations and ordinances are not enforced. Therefore, this ordinance is also proposed to modify the extents of the existing speed limits to end at the Austin City Limits and Full Purpose jurisdiction where the City enforces speed limits.

Based on TxDOT's recommendations, Austin Transportation Department staff recommends modifying the following to the City Code Section 12-4-64 (D) Table of Speed Limits:

Delete:

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (East) from U.S. 183 to 81 feet west of Imperial Drive (50 MPH)

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (East) from 81 feet west of Imperial Drive to 600 feet west of Hunters Bend (55 MPH)

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (East) from 145 feet west of Park at Woodlands Drive to 725 feet west of Park at Woodlands Drive (Austin Discovery School) (35 MPH)

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (East) from 80 feet west of Bantom Woods Drive to 470 feet east of Bantom Woods Drive (Austin Discovery School) (35 MPH)

Add:

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (East) from U.S. 183 to Austin City Limits (45 MPH)

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (East) from 145 feet west of Park at Woodlands Drive to 725 feet west of Park at Woodlands Drive (Austin Discovery School) (30 MPH)

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (East) from 80 feet west of Bantom Woods Drive to 470 feet east of Bantom Woods Drive (Austin Discovery School) (30 MPH)

Strategic Outcome(s):

Mobility, Safety