

Agenda Information Sheet

DEPARTMENT: Capital Projects

CM/ ACM: Mario Canizares

Date: October 17, 2017

SUBJECT

Consider adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances to implement a school safety speed zone for Pecan Creek Elementary School along Lakeview Boulevard between Black Walnut and Burr Oak Lane; providing a penalty of a fine not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00); providing a severability clause, providing for publication; and declaring an effective date. The Traffic Safety Commission recommends approval (6-0).

BACKGROUND

A considerable number of schools within the City of Denton have school zones along adjacent streets that provide access to the schools. School zones are sections of a roadway where the legally enforceable speed limit has been reduced for a specific time period to allow pedestrian crossings in a low vehicle speed environment. In August, City staff received a request from Denton Independent School District (DISD), residents Pecan Creek Elementary School staff to establish a new School Speed Zone along Lakeview Boulevard from Black Walnut to approximately 300 feet south of Burr Oak Lane.

Lakeview Boulevard is a four lane divided north-south collector along the frontage of Pecan Creek Elementary School. It reduces to a two lane undivided facility just north of the school that provides access to a residential neighborhood. As part of the overall growth in the region, a new residential development is currently being developed on the east side of Lakeview Boulevard between the elementary school (on the south) and Juniper Drive (on the north). As part of this development, a sidewalk was constructed on the east side of Lakeview Boulevard between Juniper Drive and the north entrance of the school.

Construction of the new sidewalk on the east side of Lakeview Boulevard has provided a direct path for students living on the northeast side of the elementary school and students in the new development to get to the school. This will result in pedestrian traffic walking along Lakeview Boulevard and crossing near the north entrance driveway (existing crossing) to the elementary school.

Based on a recent review of speed data along this segment of Lakeview Boulevard, the 85th percentile speed is 33 mile per hour (mph). As this speed is higher than the posted speed limit, establishment of a school speed zone along this segment of Lakeview Boulevard is required. Also, given the construction of a new sidewalk along the east side of Lakeview Boulevard, the increased use of sidewalks and the pedestrian crossing on Lakeview Boulevard, it is prudent to improve pedestrian safety along this segment of Lakeview Boulevard. As such, staff recommends establishing a new School Speed Zone along Lakeview Boulevard between Black Walnut and just south of Burr Oak Lane.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve establishing a School Speed Zone along Lakeview Boulevard between Black Walnut and 300 feet south of Burr Oak Lane.

2. Provide staff with additional direction on proposed new school zone.
3. Reject the proposed establishment of School Speed Zone along Lakeview Boulevard.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of Option 1.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

Project completion is two (2) months of start date after Council approval.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

The Traffic Safety Commission considered this item at the September 14, 2017 meeting and recommended Council consideration 6-0.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Funds for installing and maintaining these zones will be derived from the Traffic Operations annual budget.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELATIONSHIP

The City of Denton's Strategic Plan is an action-oriented road map that will help the City achieve its vision. The foundation for the plan is the five long-term Key Focus Areas (KFA): Organizational Excellence; Public Infrastructure; Economic Development; Safe, Livable, and Family-Friendly Community; and Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. While individual items may support multiple KFAs, this specific City Council agenda item contributes most directly to the following KFA and goal:

Related Key Focus Area: **Safe, Liveable & Family-Friendly Community**

Related Goal: **4.1 Enhance public safety in the community**

EXHIBITS

1. AIS
2. Map of Lakeview Boulevard
3. Ordinance

Respectfully submitted:
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Director of Capital Projects

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Exhibit 1: Map of Lakeview Boulevard

