



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Capital Projects

CM/ DCM/ ACM: Mario Canizares

DATE: November 6, 2017

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide direction on the changing the existing posted speed limit on Hickory Street between Avenue A and Welch Street.

BACKGROUND

Recently, City staff received a request from the previous Traffic Safety Commissioner Michael Hennen for lowering the posted speed limit along Hickory Street between Avenue A and Welch Street. The existing speed limit along this segment of Hickory Street is 30 miles per hour (mph).

Hickory Street is a one-way (eastbound) street that borders the University of North Texas (UNT) campus. Consistent with section 18-72 of the City's municipal code (maximum speed limit within the same block of any school, church or hospital shall be 20 mph,...), the posted speed limit along Hickory Street between Avenue C and Avenue A is 20 mph. The segment of Hickory Street between Avenue A and Welch Street does not border the school (UNT) property and hence, has a posted speed limit of 30 mph.

The primary criterion used in establishing a speed limit is called the 85th percentile speed which is determined by performing a speed study for calculating the speed at which 85 percent of the vehicles are traveling long a given stretch of roadway. The 85th percentile speed has been determined as being the speed at which a prudent driver, given the type of street, will drive that roadway under normal driving conditions.

As part of the review of existing conditions, the City collected speed data (attached) in August 2017 along the segment of Hickory Street between Avenue A to Welch Street. Based on the data, the 85th percentile speed along this segment of Hickory Street is 26 mph which is lower that the posted speed limit of 30 mph.

This finding was presented at the Traffic Safety Commission meeting on September 14th 2017 for review and consideration. After discussion the Commission requested staff to conduct another round of speed surveys to confirm if there was any considerable changes in speed due to the start of fall semester at UNT. Staff collected second round of speed surveys along Hickory Street between Avenue A and Welch Street in October (first week). Based on the data, the 85th percentile speed along this segment of Hickory Street is 24 mph which is lower that the posted speed limit of 30 mph.

The segment of Hickory Street between Avenue A and Welch Street does not border a school and currently has an 85th percentile speed of 26 mph. Additionally, there have been no reported

accidents along this segment that can be attributed to speeding. Also, the speed surveys conducted in August as well as October confirm that the speed along Hickory Street between Avenue A and Welch Street is much lower than the posted speed limit. As such, the City staff does not recommend any changes to the posted speed limit along this segment of Hickory Street at this time.

OPTIONS

1. Recommend no changes to posted speed limit along Hickory Street between Avenue A and Welch Street.
2. Provide staff with additional direction.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Option 1.

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: **Public Infrastructure**
Related Goal: **4.1 Enhance public safety**

EXHIBITS

1. AIS
2. Site Map
3. Speed Survey August 2017
4. Speed Survey October 2017

Respectfully submitted:
Pritam Deshmukh
Traffic Engineer