



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: December 5, 2017

SUBJECT

Consider adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances to revise the speed limits along on W. University Drive (US 380) from Bonnie Brae Street to Locust Street or US 77 at the expedited request of Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT); 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.

BACKGROUND

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.

TxDOT recently conducted a speed study (attached) to determine the 85th percentile speed along the segment of W. University Drive (US 380) between Bonnie Brae Street to Locust Street or US 77. This study was conducted as part of the widening project (two lane facility to a six lane facility) that was recently completed by TxDOT. The segment of US 380 between Bonnie Brae Street and Locust Street or US 77 had a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour and based on the results of the recent speed study, TxDOT recommends a posted speed limit of 40 mph. The proposed speed limit (40 mph) along the subject segment of US 380 is consistent with the remaining portion of US 380 between US 77 and Bell Avenue that has a posted speed limit of 40 mph.

It should be noted that the City received the request from TxDOT in late October after the agenda for the Traffic Safety Commission meeting was finalized. As such, this item was not included in the November committee meeting. The construction along this segment of US 380 has already been completed and TxDOT wants to implement the new speed limit as soon as possible. TxDOT has requested City staff to expedite the approval process for the new speed limit as they want to wrap this project up before the end of this year. Hence, staff is requesting council to consider this item without the recommendation of Traffic Safety Commission. This item will be presented to the Traffic Safety Commission in their scheduled meeting next month.

City staff has reviewed the TxDOT speed study and finds the overall results and recommendations acceptable and consistent with state and federal guidelines. US 380 is a state facility and TxDOT plans to implement the proposed speed limit based on the study, approving the implementation of the new speed limit will authorize City staff (Police Department) to enforce this speed limit. As such, staff requests the

City Council to approve the updated speed limits on W. University Drive (US 380) from Bonnie Brae Street to Locust Street or US 77.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the updated speed limits on W. University Drive (US 380) from Bonnie Brae Street to Locust Street or US 77.
2. Reject the proposed speed limits on W. University Drive (US 380).

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Option 1.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

As this segment of W. University Drive (US 380) is under TxDOT jurisdiction and was recently opened to traffic as a six lane facility, the speed limits will be updated by TxDOT.

FISCAL INFORMATION

The project will be funded by TxDOT.

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. TxDOT Speed Study
2. Map of W. University Drive (US 380)
3. Ordinance

Respectfully submitted:
Galen Gillum
Director of Capital Projects

Prepared by:
Pritam Deshmukh
Senior Engineer – Traffic