



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Traffic Study Files

**From:** Eric Bollich, P.E., PTOE  
South Austin Area Engineer  
Austin Transportation Department

**Date:** April 8, 2013

**Subject:** Speed Zone Investigation

**Location:** Burleson Road – US 183 to FM 973



**Date(s) of Previous Investigation:** None.

A speed zone investigation has been conducted by the Austin Transportation Department to determine appropriate speed limits on Burleson Road between US 183 and FM 973.

Figure 1 presents a map of the study area with existing and proposed speed limits along Burleson Road.

### Location Conditions

Burleson Road is a four-lane major arterial that runs in a general west-east direction between US 183 and FM 973 for a length of approximately two miles within the study area. East of FM 973, Burleson Road transitions to Elroy Road under jurisdiction of Travis County. Along the study segment, pertinent roadway features are consistent. Burleson Road has a generally rural cross section: 50 feet of travel way, open ditches, and clear zones from the edges of pavement. Most of the adjacent land is undeveloped with Richard Moya Park on the south side and Austin-Bergstrom International Airport facilities on the north side. A reverse curve is located approximately one-half mile east of US 183; a ball bank study conducted for this curve justifies a posted warning speed of 40 mph.

Speed and volume data were collected in January 2013 to determine the appropriate posted speed limit for Burleson Road. There is a single 50 MPH sign posted for westbound traffic only without a regulation or study to determine that speed. No other existing speed limit signs are posted. Prima facie speed for this type of roadway is 60 MPH per Texas Traffic Laws.

## Speed and Volume Data

Block Number	Street Segment	Existing Speed Limit	85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed		Daily Traffic Volumes
			EB	WB	
8400	US 183 to Emma Browning Ave.	None	56	56	11,214
10000	Emma Browning Ave. to FM 973	None	59	59	10,033

## Crash Data

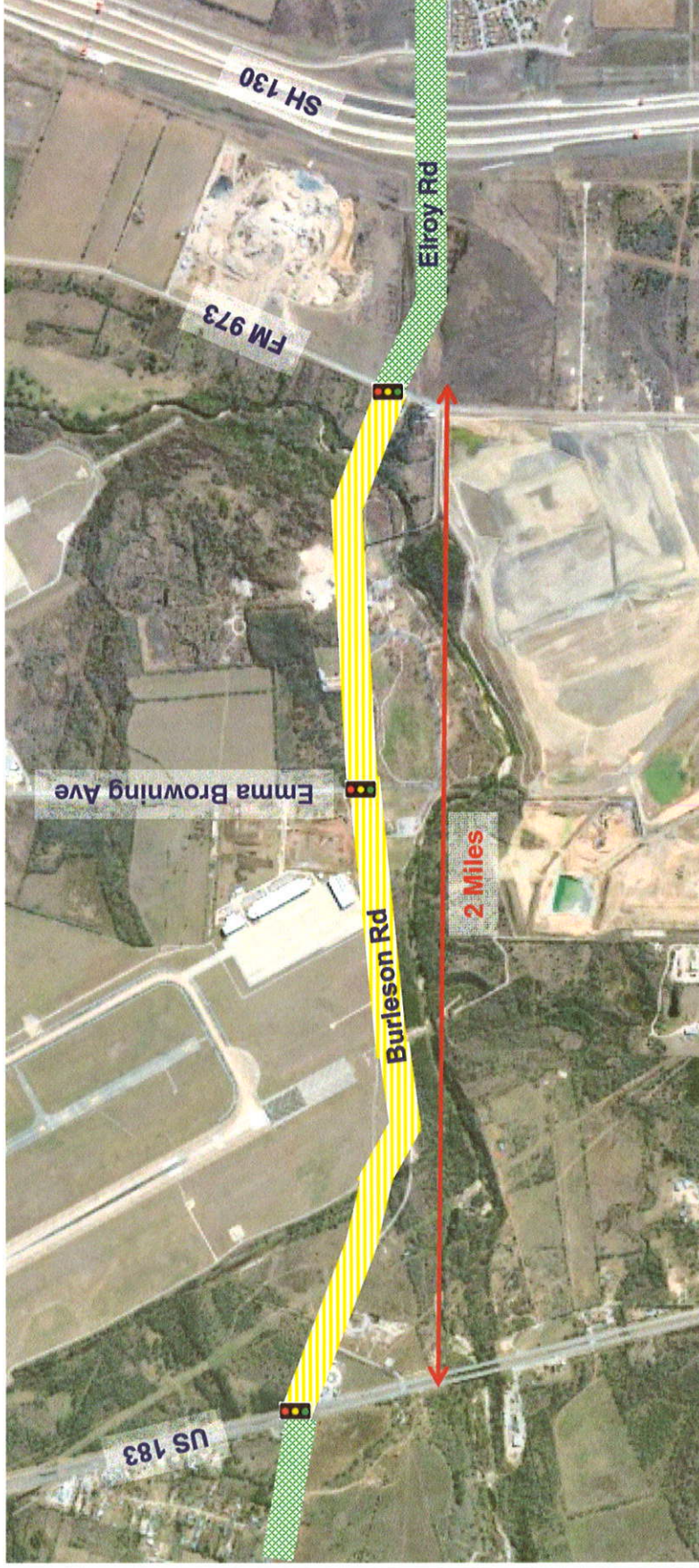
Austin Police Department's crash database was reviewed to analyze all documented crashes on the study segment within the past year. Six crashes were documented during this period; no discernible pattern from excessive speed is present.

Date/Time	Direction		Weather	Light	Road	Injury	Comments
	EB	WB					
04/03/12 6:06 PM	EB	N/A	Rain	Day	Wet	Minor	Texting while driving in a curve and hit a fence. Driver inattention.
04/23/12 11:44 PM	EB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	None	Lost control and crashed onto side of the road. DWI
05/04/12 6:32 AM	EB	WB	Clear	Dark Not-lighted	Dry	Minor	FTYROW while turning left.
06/29/12 3:02 AM	EB	EB	Clear	Dark Not-lighted	Dry	None	Vehicle rear-ended a police car with lights activated. DWI.
07/26/12 7:47 AM	WB	WB	Clear	Day	Dry	Minor	Failure to maintain an assured clear distance.
11/10/12 11:55 PM	WB	WB	Clear	Day	Dry	Serious	Driving eastbound in the westbound lanes. Intoxication assault.

## Recommendation

Based on an analysis of the location information and traffic data, the speed limit on Burleson Road from US 183 to FM 973 should be established at 55 miles per hour.





**Figure 1: Study Area**

Existing 45 MPH

Proposed 55 MPH (Prima Facie 60 mph)

