



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Traffic Study Files

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

**Date:** April 8, 2013

**Subject:** Reduced Speed School Zone Investigation

**Location:** Ross Road

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



A traffic engineering investigation has been conducted to determine if modifications to the existing reduced speed school zone are appropriate on Ross Road near the Dell Valle Elementary and Middle Schools (the “schools”).

### Proximity of the School Crossing to the School

The schools are located on the west side of Ross Road with primary access at the intersection with Thome Valley Drive. A crossing guard works assists pedestrian crossings at the signalized intersection of Ross Road and Thome Valley Drive.

### Existing Roadway Conditions

Ross Road has a posted speed limit of 40 mph with a reduced school speed zone of 25 mph from 310 feet south of Thome Valley Drive to 250 feet north of Thome Valley Drive.

### Recommendation

Based on the analysis of this information, the existing reduced school speed zone should be modified from 25 mph to 20 mph and retain its existing extents. Recommended engineering practice for changes in speed limits is not to exceed 15 mph differentials. Therefore, to accommodate the 20 mph reduced speed school zone on Ross Road, the posted speed limit should be reduced from 40 mph to 35 mph in advance of the reduced school speed zone. The 35 mph zone should extend from 560 feet south of Thome Valley Drive to 500 feet north of Thome Valley Drive. Figure 1 presents the study area and limits of proposed speed zones.



