

ORDINANCE NO. 20130523-063

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 12-4-64(D) TO MODIFY SPEED LIMITS ON CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF ST. ELMO ROAD, TO ADD 20 MILES PER HOUR SCHOOL ZONES ON ST. ELMO ROAD AND WOODWARD STREET FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING HARMONY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE, AND TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY PASSAGE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. Section 12-4-64(D) (*Table of Speed Limits*) is amended to read:

St. Elmo Road (East) from South Industrial Drive [~~I.H. 35 (South) East Frontage Road~~] to Nuckols Crossing Road (40 mph)

PART 2. Section 12-4-64(D) (*Table of Speed Limits*) is amended to add:

St. Elmo Road (East) from Freidrich Lane to South Industrial Drive (35 mph)

St. Elmo Road (East) from I.H. 35 (South) East Frontage Road to Freidrich Lane (40 mph)

St. Elmo Road (East) from 210 feet west of Woodward Street to 640 feet east of Woodward Drive (20 mph school zone for students attending Harmony School of Excellence)

Woodward Street from 630 feet north of St. Elmo Road (East) to St. Elmo Road (East) (20 mph school zone for students attending Harmony School of Excellence)

PART 3. The amendments made in this ordinance are based on the results of a traffic engineering investigation, or “speed study,” attached as Exhibit “A”.

PART 4. The amendments made in this ordinance shall be incorporated in alphabetical order and the existing entries reordered accordingly.

PART 5. Council finds that school is in session, and the need for a school zone at this site constitutes an emergency. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect

EXHIBIT A



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: East St. Elmo Road and Woodward Street



Date(s) of Previous Investigation: None

A traffic engineering investigation has been conducted to determine if reduced speed school zones are appropriate on East St. Elmo Road and Woodward Street near the Harmony School of Excellence (the "school") for its students. The following information was collected and analyzed for this determination.

Proximity of the School Crossing to the School

The school is located on the northeast corner of East St. Elmo Road and Woodward Street; a traffic signal controls this intersection. The proposed school zones are along these two streets adjacent to the school.

Pedestrian Count

Pedestrians were counted during the afternoon dismissal period on April 1, 2013. The school recently assigned walkers to stage near its front entrance on the northeast corner of East St. Elmo Road and Woodward Street, which has increased crossings near this intersection.

| Location | Elementary Child | Middle School Child | Adult | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Crossing St Elmo at Woodward | 5 | 1 | 5 | 11 |
| Crossing Woodward at St Elmo | 10 | 15 | 10 | 35 |
| Crossing Woodward midblock | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| TOTAL | 17 | 17 | 18 | 52 |

Existing Roadway Conditions

| Location | Number of Lanes | ADT: Two-Way | Posted Speed Limit | Street Width |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| E St. Elmo Road | 4 | 9,329 | 40 MPH | 51 feet |
| Woodward Street | 4 | 10,470 | 35 MPH | 60 feet |

Presence of Adult Crossing Guard or Student Safety Patrol

No guard or patrol currently works the signalized intersection. Pedestrians are expected to use the signalized intersection to cross East St. Elmo Road and Woodward Street. The City's Child Safety Program scheduled a visit at the school on March 28, 2013 to educate students on safe crossing practices.

Crash History

Austin Police Department's crash database was reviewed for crashes occurring between March 2010 and March 2013 within the proposed school zones. Five crashes were documented during this period.

East St. Elmo Drive

| Date / Time | Direction | | Weather | Light | Road | Injury | Comments |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|------|--------|--|
| | At Fault | Other | | | | | |
| 11/15/12 7:45 AM | SB | WB | Clear | Day | Dry | None | Driver failed to yield right-of-way exiting while Harmony School driveway. |
| 1/31/13 8:35 AM | | | Clear | Day | Dry | None | Pedestrian entered crosswalk on flashing indication and was struck after eastbound driver started from stop. Sun impaired driver's view. |
| 3/6/13 3:40 PM | EB | WB | Clear | Day | Dry | Minor | Driver turned eastbound to northbound, striking westbound pedestrian in crosswalk. |

Woodward Street

| Date / Time | Direction | | Weather | Light | Road | Injury | Comments |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|------|--------|---|
| | At Fault | Other | | | | | |
| 2/2/11 7:50 AM | EB | SB | Clear | Day | Dry | None | Driver failed to yield right-of-way while exiting private driveway. |
| 10/16/11 2:00 PM | NB | NB | Clear | Day | Dry | None | Driver rear-ended vehicle upstream due to lack of attention. |

Sight Distance

Sight distance exceeds the lengths of the proposed school zones on East St. Elmo Road and Woodward Street.

Sidewalks and Ramps

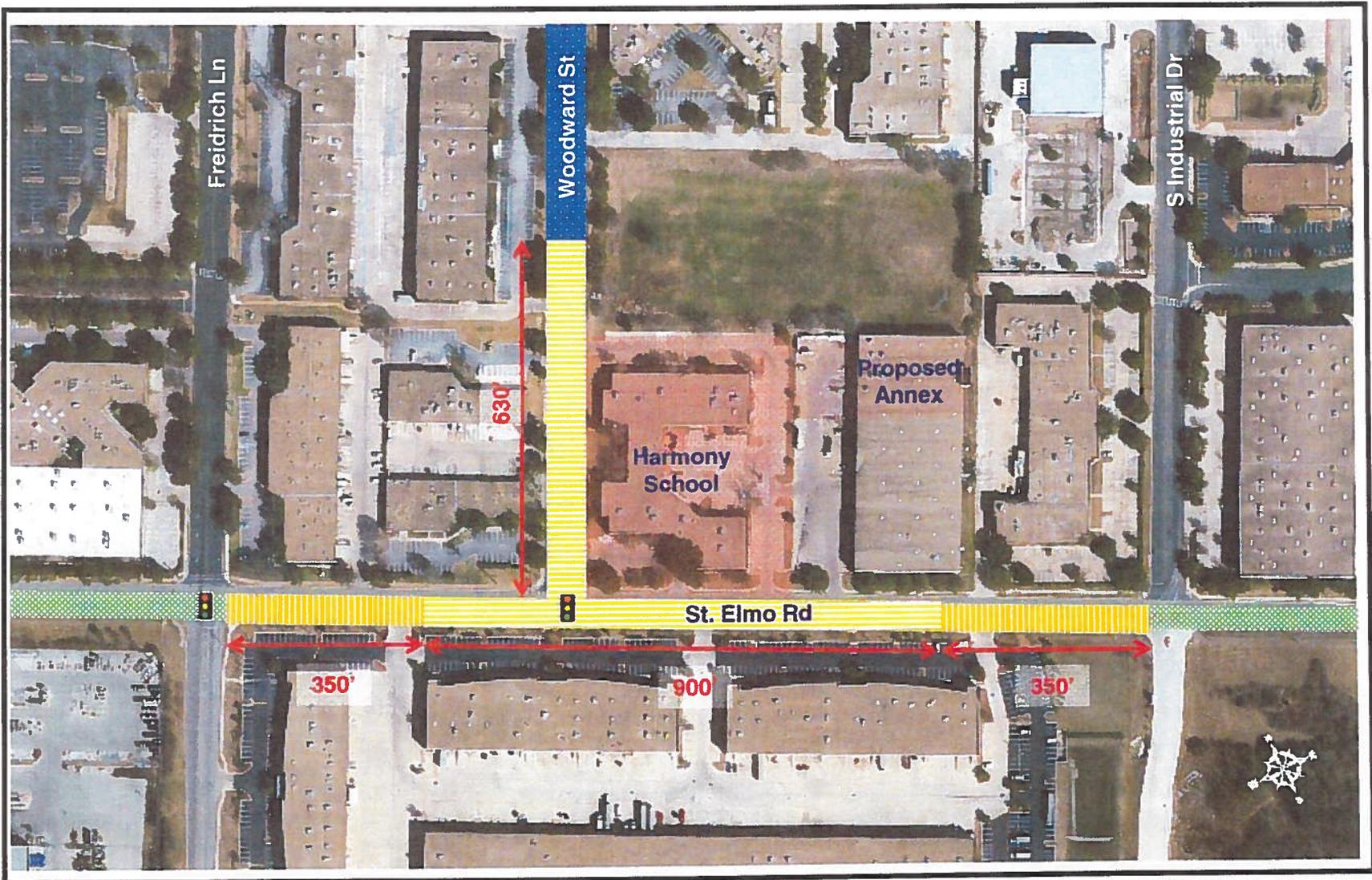
Sidewalks are located along both sides of both streets within the proposed school zones. Sidewalks along a segment of the north side of East St. Elmo Road and the entirety of the east side of Woodward Street are decomposed granite. Ramps are located on all corners of the intersection of East St. Elmo Road and Woodward Street.

Recommendation

Based on the analysis of this information, reduced speed school zones of 20 miles per hour (mph) should be installed on East St. Elmo Road from 350 feet east of Freidrich Lane to 350 feet west of South Industrial Drive and Woodward Street from East St. Elmo Road to 630 feet north of East St. Elmo Road. The school is anticipating increasing its enrollment for the 2013-2014 school year and expanding into the adjacent building; these extents account for the proposed annex.

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 East St. Elmo Road, the posted speed limit should be reduced to 35 mph in advance of the school zone. The 35 mph zone should extend from the east curb of Freidrich Lane to 350 feet east of Freidrich Lane and from the west curb of South Industrial Drive to 350 feet west of South Industrial Drive.

Figure 1 presents the study area and limits of proposed speed zones.



- Existing 35 MPH
- Existing 40 MPH
- Proposed 35 MPH (during non-peak times)
- Proposed 20 MPH School Zone (during peak school times)

Figure 1: Study Area