



MEMORANDUM

To: Traffic Study Files

From: Anna Martin, P.E., PTOE
South Austin Area Engineer
Traffic Engineering Division
Austin Transportation Department

Date: May 11, 2015

Subject: Speed Zone Investigation

Location: Slaughter Lane – South Mopac Expressway to Escarpment Boulevard

Date(s) of Previous Investigation: None



Anna Martin
5-11-15

A Traffic Engineering Investigation has been conducted by the Austin Transportation Department to determine the appropriate speed limit on Slaughter Lane between South Mopac Expressway and Escarpment Boulevard.

Location Conditions

Slaughter Lane is a four-lane divided major arterial street that runs in a general west-east direction between South Mopac Expressway and Escarpment Boulevard. Turn bays are provided at each intersection and a 35 foot median divides the eastbound and westbound lanes. Commercial properties have been developed on both the north and south sides of this section of Slaughter Lane. There is also an HEB grocery store on the northeast corner of Slaughter Lane and Escarpment Boulevard.

The attached Figure 1 presents a map of the study area, the existing speed limit, and the proposed speed limit based on the following data and analysis.

Speed and Volume Data

A speed study was conducted in accordance with the Texas Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones. Speed and volume data were collected in April 2012 to determine the appropriate posted speed limit for Slaughter Lane. In 2012 over 23,000 vehicles per day were recorded on Slaughter Lane between Mopac Expressway and Beckett Road. Speeds were recorded at 48 and 49 miles per hour for the eastbound and westbound sections, respectively.

Block Number	Street Segment	Existing Speed Limit	85% Speed MPH		Traffic Volume (veh/day)
			EB	WB	
5800	From South Mopac Expy. to Beckett Road	50	48	49	23,279

Crash Data

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

Date / Time	Direction		Weather	Light	Road	Injury	Comments
	At Fault	Other					
10/25/13 8:43 AM	EB	EB	Clear	Day	Dry	None	Followed too closely, merging
11/13/13 3:26 PM	WB	WB	Clear	Day	Dry	None	Driver inattention, side swipe
12/16/13 5:29 PM	EB	EB	Clear	Dusk	Dry	Minor	Follow too closely, Cell phone use
12/20/13 12:39 PM	EB	EB	Cloudy	Day	Dry	Minor	Followed too closely
01/03/14 4:39 PM	EB	EB	Clear	Day	Dry	None	Driver inattention
05/09/14 08:02 PM	EB	EB	Cloudy	Day	Dry	None	Follow too closely
5/25/14 1:45 PM	SB	WB	Cloudy	Day	Dry	Major	FTYROW from private drive
06/30/14 3:56 PM	SB	WB	Clear	Day	Dry	Minor	FTYROW from private drive

General Comments

In 2001, Austin City Council passed Ordinance No 010614-82 that set speed limits to 50 mph for Slaughter Lane from South Mopac Expressway to F.M. 1826 based on a speed study conducted in that time period. The area has changed significantly since 2001 with the development of commercial properties and daily traffic volumes have almost doubled. It is within the purview of Texas Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones to raise or lower the speed limit from the 85th percentile speed by 5 mph.

Recommendation

Based on an analysis of the location information and traffic data, the speed limit on Slaughter Lane from South Mopac Expressway to Escarpment Boulevard should be established at 45 miles per hour. The existing speed limit on Slaughter Lane between Escarpment Boulevard and F.M. 1826 should be maintained at 50 mph. This section should be monitored in the future as the area continues to develop.

