



MEMORANDUM

To: Traffic Study Files

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

Date: May 21, 2015

Subject: Reduced Speed School Zone Investigation

Location: Vargas Road

Date(s) of Previous Investigation: None



Anna T. Martin
5-21-15

Proximity of the School Crossing to the School

The proposed school crossing on Vargas Road is located approximately 1100 feet north of East Riverside Drive and 325 feet south of Santos Street in front of the new Allan Idea Public School. School property abuts the east side of Vargas Road between East Riverside Drive and Santos Street. There are approximately 370 students enrolled for the 2014-2015 school year and the school anticipates an enrollment of over 1000 students for the 2015-2016 school year.

Pedestrian Count

Location	Date	Time	Volume	Approx. Age
Crossing Vargas Road	5/20/15	7:00 AM – 7:45 AM	40	Misc.
Crossing Vargas Road	5/20/15	3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	60	Misc.

Existing Roadway Conditions

Location	Type of Controls	ADT Two Way	Posted Speed Limit	Street Width
Vargas Road	Uncontrolled	4012	30 MPH	44 feet

Presence of Adult Crossing Guard or Student Safety Patrol

The City's Child Safety Program has committed an adult crossing guard at this crossing if a school zone is established. A teacher currently works this crossing during the school peaks.

Crash History

Austin Police Department's crash database was culled for crashes near the study intersection between August 2013 and May 2015. Four crashes were found at the intersection of Vargas Road and Santos Street.

Type	Number at Intersection	Number Mid-Block
Pedestrian-Vehicle Crashes	0	0
Vehicle-Vehicle Crashes	4	0

Sight Distance

Approximately 800 feet of unobstructed views are provided looking north and south on Vargas Road from the location of the proposed crosswalk.

Sidewalks

Sidewalks exist along both sides of Vargas Road for the entirety of the street from Riverside Drive to Santos Street with the exception of an approximate 320 segment just north of Riverside Drive on the west side of Vargas Road.

Other

The Allan Idea Public School is a new school location on Vargas Road. The proposed school zone would allow all pedestrians north and south of East Riverside Drive to cross at a single location in front of the school with the assistance of an adult crossing guard. ATD is working with the Safe Routes to School Program to install ADA-compliant pedestrian ramps and a crosswalk on Vargas Road. School officials have committed to educating the students and parents on the best routes to school and safe crossing locations.

Recommendation

Based on the analysis of this information, it is my engineering judgment that a Reduced Speed School Zone of 20 mph when flashing on Vargas Road should be installed from Cruz Street to 300 feet south of Santos Street.