



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-1756, **Agenda Item #:** 26.

5/23/2019

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Section 12-4-64 (D) (Speed Limits) to delete from the table of speed limits Ralph Ablanado Drive from South 1st Street to South Congress Avenue, which will revert the segment to a 30 mph speed limit, and to reduce the maximum speed limit to 20 mph in a school zone on Ralph Ablanado Drive at Peaceful Hill Lane.

Lead Department

Austin Transportation Department

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Operating Budget of the Austin Transportation Department for installation of necessary signs.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

To modify or alter the existing speed limit of a street, Texas laws require that a traffic engineering investigation be performed. An investigation of Ralph Ablanado Drive was conducted by the Transportation Engineering Division of the Austin Transportation Department in accordance with the procedures specified in the Texas Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones, 2006.

City Code 12-4-1 (A) establishes the prima facie speed limit of 30 mph for streets unless an increased or reduced speed is necessary for safe traffic operation. Additionally, City Code 12-4-2, in accordance with Texas Transportation Code Section 545.356, requires an engineering study to establish a speed limit other than the prima facie speed limit. City Code Section 12-4-64 (D) Table of Speed Limits includes only City roads where the speed limit has been established as something other than the prima facie speed limit.

The Transportation Engineering Division recommends removing Ralph Ablanado Drive, between South 1st Street and Congress Avenue, from City Code Section 12-4-64 (D) Table of Speed Limits, effectively establishing the speed limit as the prima facie speed limit (30 mph). The existing school zone for Williams Elementary School will remain, but the speed limit observed within the active school zone will be reduced to 20 mph.

Delete: Ralph Ablanado Drive from 1st Street (South) to Congress Avenue (South). (40 MPH)

Modify: Ralph Ablanado Drive from 200 feet west of Peaceful Hill Lane to 210 feet east of Peaceful Hill Lane (Williams Elementary School). (20 MPH School Zone)

BRIEF HISTORY OF PROJECT

In January 2019, residents of the Park Ridge and Parkridge Gardens neighborhoods met with the Austin Transportation Department to discuss their safety concerns about Ralph Ablanado Drive. The Austin Transportation Department stated they would perform an engineering study along Ralph Ablanado Drive to review current traffic conditions and determine whether a modification to the existing speed limit was

appropriate. Data collection and analysis for the traffic study was completed in April 2019.

This project is located within zip code 78748 - District 2.