



MEMORANDUM



To: Traffic Study Files
From: Austin Transportation Department
Date: July 9, 2020
Subject: Reduced Speed School Zone Investigation
Location: Neenah Avenue

Date(s) of Previous Investigation: August 18, 2016

A traffic engineering investigation has been conducted to determine if existing reduced speed school zones are appropriate on Neenah Avenue near the Holy Family Catholic and St. Dominic Savio schools for its students.

Although these schools have been in session for some years, a reduced speed school zone was not installed on Neenah Avenue because it was a dead end near St. Dominic Savio school. As a result, the majority of the users driving to the end of Neenah Avenue were solely accessing the schools, were aware of the increased pedestrian activity in the area, and assumed to be driving appropriately for roadway conditions. However, Neenah Avenue was extended through Pearson Ranch Road in June 2016 resulting, in an increase of traffic in the vicinity of the existing crosswalk on Neenah Avenue. As a result, a reduced speed school zone of 20 miles per hour (mph) was installed on Neenah Avenue from 260 feet east of Solera Drive to 770 feet east of Solera Drive in August 2016 (see Figure 1).

Neenah Avenue was subsequently widened in February 2019 between Olive Hill Drive and west of Iveans Way from a two-lane, undivided street to four-lane street, with a two-way center turn lane. With Neenah Avenue functioning as a Level 3 street (minor arterial), the posted speed limit on Neenah Avenue was changed from 30 miles per hour (mph) to 35 mph in October 2019. This also includes the section of Neenah Avenue with the crosswalk.

The following information was collected and analyzed for this determination.

Proximity of the School Crossing to the School

The Holy Family Catholic and St. Dominic Savio schools are located at 9400 and 9300 Neenah Avenue, respectively. There is a marked pedestrian crosswalk across Neenah Avenue approximately 500 feet east of the intersection of Neenah Avenue and Solera Drive. This crosswalk is used by students living in the residential area along the south side of Neenah Avenue. Based on field observations and input from the school and parents, some students also cross at the intersection of Neenah Avenue and Solera Drive.

Presence of Adult Crossing Guard or Student Safety Patrol

The City of Austin's Safe Routes to School Program does not have an adult crossing guard stationed at this crosswalk to assist students with crossing Neenah Avenue.

Sight Distance

There are no sight distance problems within the limits of the proposed school zone on Neenah Avenue.

Sidewalks and Ramps

There is a marked pedestrian crosswalk across Neenah Avenue approximately 500 feet east of the intersection of Neenah Avenue and Solera Drive which connects to sidewalks which are present on both sides of Neenah Avenue.

Recommendation

Since the installation of a reduced speed school zone of 20 mph on Neenah Avenue from 260 feet east of Solera Drive to 770 feet east of Solera Drive in August 2016, Neenah Avenue was widened in February 2019 between Olive Hill Drive and west of Iveans Way from a two-lane, undivided street to four-lane street, with a two-way center turn lane. Also, the posted speed limit on Neenah Avenue was changed from 30 miles per hour (mph) to 35 mph in October 2019 because Neenah Avenue functions as a Level 3 street (minor arterial).

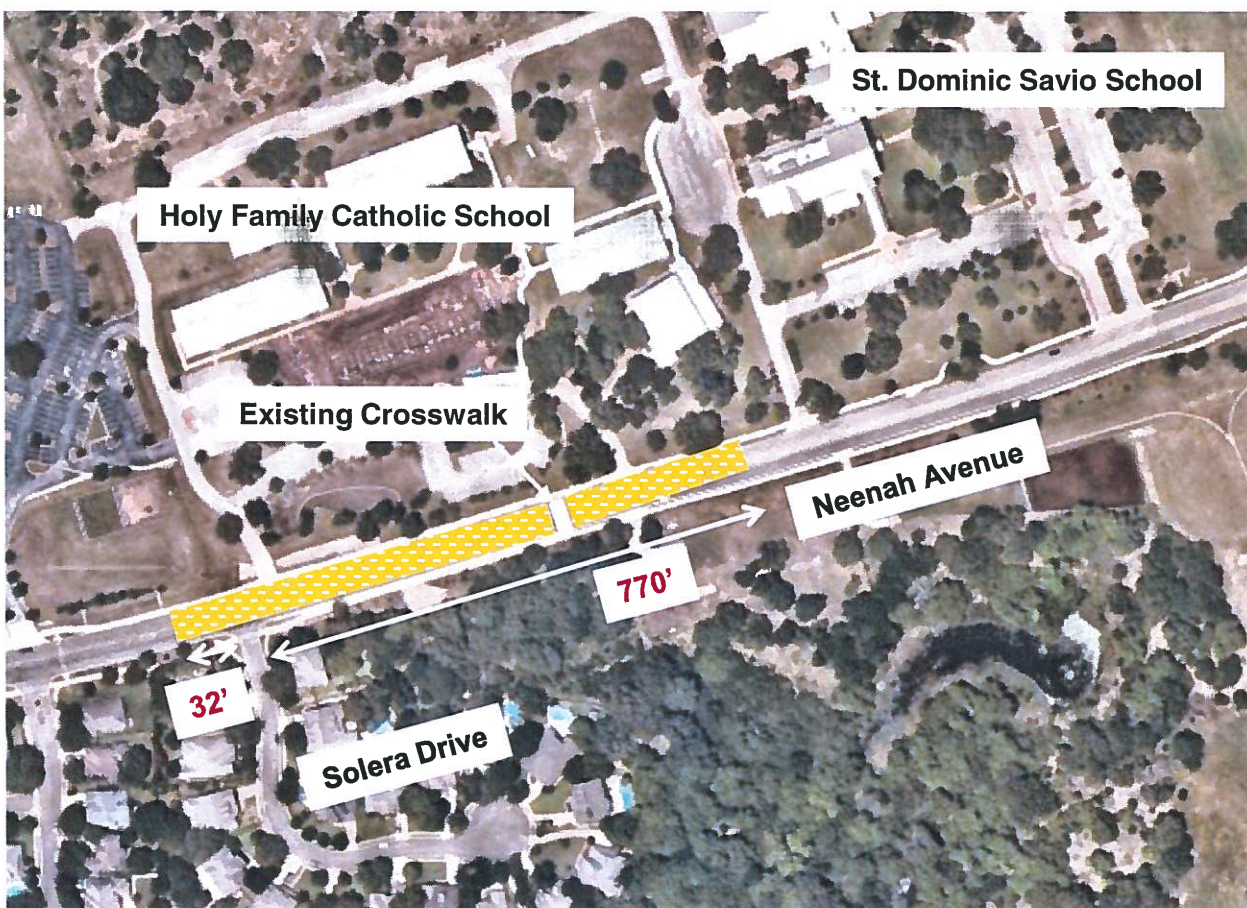
Based on the analysis of the information provided in the above sections, it is recommended that the limits of existing reduced speed school zones be revised to a length more appropriate for the operating speed of Neenah Avenue. As a result, a reduced speed school zones of 20 miles per hour (mph) should be installed on Neenah Avenue from 32 feet west of Solera Drive to 770 feet east of Solera Drive (see Figure 2)



Existing 20 MPH School Zone (during peak school times)

260' east of Solera Drive to 770' east of Solera Drive

Figure 1: Study Area (Existing)



Proposed 20 MPH School Zone (during peak school times)

32' west of Solera Drive to 770' east of Solera Drive

Figure 2: Study Area (Proposed)