



MEMORANDUM

To: Traffic Study Files
From: Austin Transportation Department
Date: October 28, 2021
Subject: Reduced Speed School Zone Investigation
Location: Colony Loop Drive



Date(s) of Previous Investigation: December 13, 2007

A traffic engineering investigation has been conducted to determine if increasing the length of the existing reduced speed school zone is appropriate on Colony Loop Drive for Overton Elementary School and its students. Overton Elementary School opened in the fall of 2007, and a reduced speed school zone was approved by City Council on December 13, 2007.

The following information was collected and analyzed for this determination.

Proximity of New Crossing to the School

Although a reduced speed school zone currently exists on Colony Loop Drive, a pedestrian crossing island was recently constructed as part of a Safe Routes to School project. The pedestrian crossing island was constructed at the intersection of Colony Loop Drive and Siepel Drive which is south of the limits of the existing reduced speed school zone. This pedestrian crossing island provides a safe crossing along Colony Loop Drive and is used by students living in the residential area along the west side of Colony Loop Drive.

Presence of Adult Crossing Guard or Student Safety Patrol

The City of Austin's Safe Routes to School Program does have an adult crossing guard stationed at this crossing to assist students with crossing Colony Loop Drive.

Sight Distance

There are no sight distance problems within the limits of the proposed school zone on Colony Loop Drive.

Sidewalks and Ramps

A marked pedestrian crosswalk was installed as part of the construction of the pedestrian crossing island approximately 200 feet south of the intersection of Colony Loop Drive and Ritchie Drive which connects to sidewalks that are present on both sides of Colony Loop Drive. The crossing connects to a recently constructed trail as part of a Neighborhood Partnering Program project that leads to a more direct walking route to Overton Elementary School.

Recommendation

Since the installation of a reduced speed school zone of 20 mph on Colony Loop Drive from Ritchie Drive to 550 feet north of Ritchie Drive, a pedestrian crossing island was recently constructed at the intersection of Colony Loop Drive and Siepel Drive which is south of the limits of the existing reduced speed school zone.

Based on the analysis of the information provided in the above sections, it is recommended that the limits of the existing reduced speed school zone be revised to a length that includes the new pedestrian crossing island. As a result, a reduced speed school zone of 20 miles per hour (mph) should be installed on Colony Loop Drive from 440 feet south of Ritchie Drive to 550 feet north of Ritchie Drive (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Map of Proposed Reduced Speed School Zone

