



AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Spillar, P.E., Director,
Austin Transportation Department

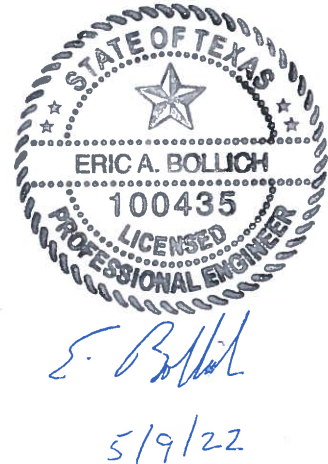
FROM: Eric Bollich, P.E., PTOE, Managing Engineer,
Austin Transportation Department

CC: Anna Martin, P.E. PTOE, Assistant Director,
Austin Transportation Department

Lewis Leff, Transportation Safety Officer,
Austin Transportation Department

DATE: May 9, 2022

SUBJECT: School Zone Speed Modification Report – City of Austin Streets



Based on a comprehensive engineering evaluation of streets in the City of Austin, the Office of the City Traffic Engineer has determined six school zone speed limit modifications should be entered into the City's Code of Ordinances based on ATD's evaluation of safe and prudent speeds. These modifications lower existing speed limits of the school zones and not the beginning and ending extents on the streets.

Summary of Recommendations

Based on this engineering evaluation, the Office of the City Traffic Engineer has determined the following school zone speed limit modifications should be entered into the City's Code of Ordinances based on ATD's evaluation of safe and prudent speeds. ATD, under the authority of the Office of the City Traffic Engineer, intends to bring an item for Council action to set new school zone speed limits on the identified streets based on the following recommendation:

- **Recommendation 1:** Modify school zone speed limits on six streets, resulting in lowered speed limits by 5 miles per hour (mph) on these segments. Street segments impacted by Recommendation 1 are detailed in Recommendation Table 1.

Background

In order to establish, modify, or alter the existing speed limit of a street, Texas traffic laws require that a traffic engineering investigation be performed. Based on engineering investigations completed by the Austin Transportation Department (ATD), City Council passed Ordinance NO. 20220203-031, -032, and -

033 on February 3, 2022, to reduce the normal posted speed limits on sections of Salt Springs Road, West Slaughter Lane, and Nuckols Crossing Road, respectively.

To adhere to Texas Administrative Code of establishing school zone speed limits no greater than 15 mph under the accompanying normal posted speed limit, and to follow ATD's standard practice of not establishing school zone speed limits not less than 20 mph, existing school zones on these streets should be reduced by 5 mph:

1. Salt Springs Drive (Palm Elementary School)
2. West Slaughter Lane (Gorzycki Middle School)
3. Nuckols Crossing Road (Widen Elementary School/Mendez Middle School)

On the Request for Council Action dated February 3, 2022, ATD did not include recommended modifications to existing school zones listed above. Therefore, ATD intends to bring an item for Council action to amend City Code Section 12-4-64 (D) to reduce speed limits, during certain times, for students attending the above schools following these standard practices.

Additionally, ATD has developed 'Speed Modification Report – City of Austin Streets Outside of the Urban Core,' which recommends lowering the normal posted speed limits on Level 3 and 4 streets as classified in the *Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP)*. Outside of the Urban Core is defined as outside of the area bounded by US 183, SH 71/US 290, and Loop 1 (MoPac).

The following three streets outside of the Urban Core have existing school zones which should be lowered by 5 mph to reduce speed limits, during certain times, for students attending the below schools based on the resulting difference between the school zone and posted speed limits:

1. Kramer Lane (McBee Elementary School)
2. Metric Boulevard (Parmer Lane Elementary School/Westview Middle School)
3. Slaughter Lane (Casey Elementary School)

Methodology

Texas Transportation Code, Section 545.356, and City of Austin Code, Chapter 12, give authority to municipalities to alter speed limits based on an engineering and traffic investigation by a professional engineer. Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, Part 1, Chapter 25, Subchapter B, Rule § 25.23 states the reduced school speed limit should not be more than 15 mph below the posted speed limit. This speed modification report fulfills this engineering study requirement under authority of the Office of the City Traffic Engineer. Maps presenting the existing and proposed school zone speed limits are included at the end of this report.

Findings and Recommendations

Recommendation 1: School zone speed limits should be modified in the City's Code of Ordinances per the following Recommendation Table 1.

Table 1: Recommended School Zone Speed Limits

Street (School)	Extents		Exist. Speed Limit (mph)	Prop. Speed Limit (mph)
	From	To		
Kramer Lane (McBee Elementary School)	Selma Drive	720 feet east of Plains Trail	25	20
Metric Boulevard (Parmer Lane Elementary School/ Westview Middle School)	250 feet south of Scofield Lane	250 feet north of Scofield Lane	30	25
Slaughter Lane (Casey Elementary School)	295 feet west of Texas Oaks Drive	365 feet east of Texas Oaks Drive	30	25
Nuckols Crossing Road (Widen Elementary School/ Mendez Middle School)	200 feet north of Palo Blanco Lane	200 feet south of Village Square Drive	25	20
W Slaughter Lane (Gorzycki Middle School)	1,100 feet north of Barstow Avenue	900 feet south of R.M. 1826	35	30
Salt Springs Drive (Palm Elementary School)	206 feet north of Asa Drive/Colton Bluff Springs Road	206 feet south of Tara Drive	25	20

Conclusion

The school zone speed limit modifications recommended in this engineering study are the result of a comprehensive traffic investigation of streets in the City of Austin. Based on Texas Administrative Code and ATD's standard practice, school zone speed limits are established to be no greater than 15 mph under normal posted speed limits. These school zone speed limit modifications will help increase the safety of all users of the street network and the consistency of school zones throughout the City of Austin.



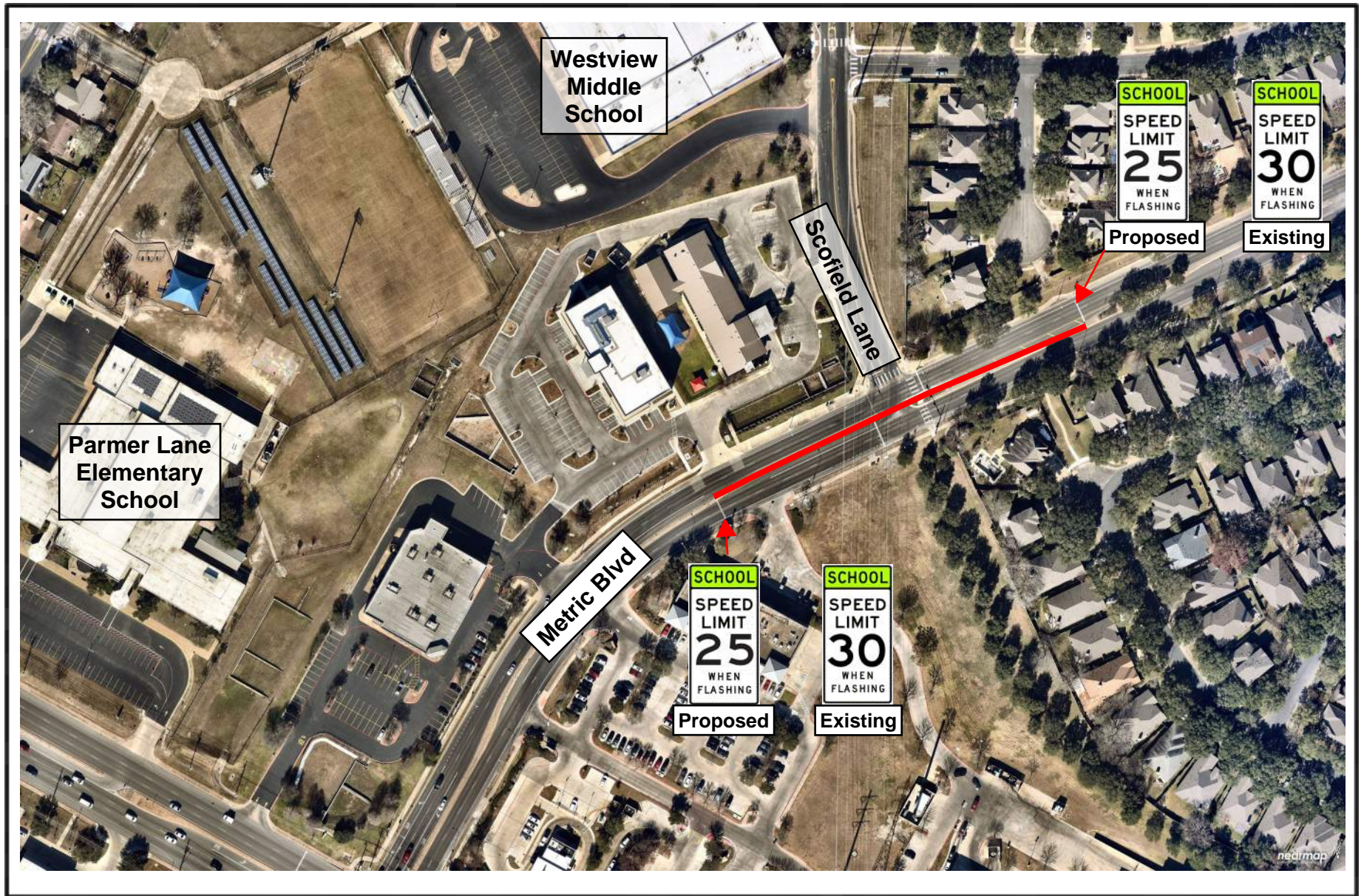
Kramer Lane (McBee Elementary School)
Selma Drive to 720 ft east of Plains Trail

Austin Transportation Department Location Map



Existing SL: 25 MPH
Proposed SL: 20 MPH



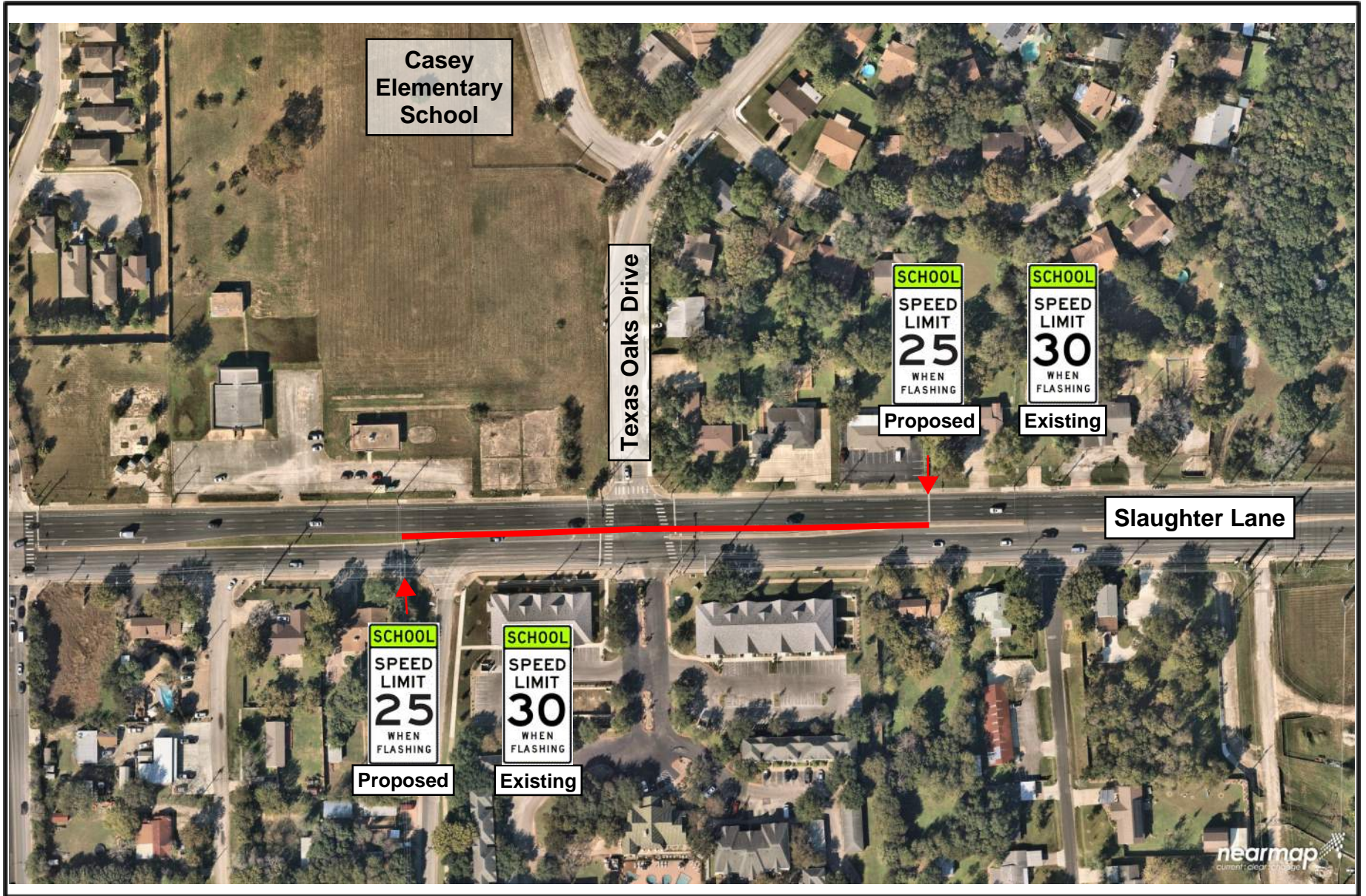


Metric Boulevard (Parmer Lane Elementary School/ Westview Middle School)
250 ft south of Scofield Lane to 250 ft north of Scofield Lane

Austin Transportation Department Location Map

Existing SL: 30 MPH
Proposed SL: 25 MPH





Slaughter Lane (Casey Elementary School)
295 ft west of Texas Oaks Drive to 365 ft east of Texas Oaks Drive

Austin Transportation Department Location Map



Existing SL: 30 MPH
Proposed SL: 25 MPH





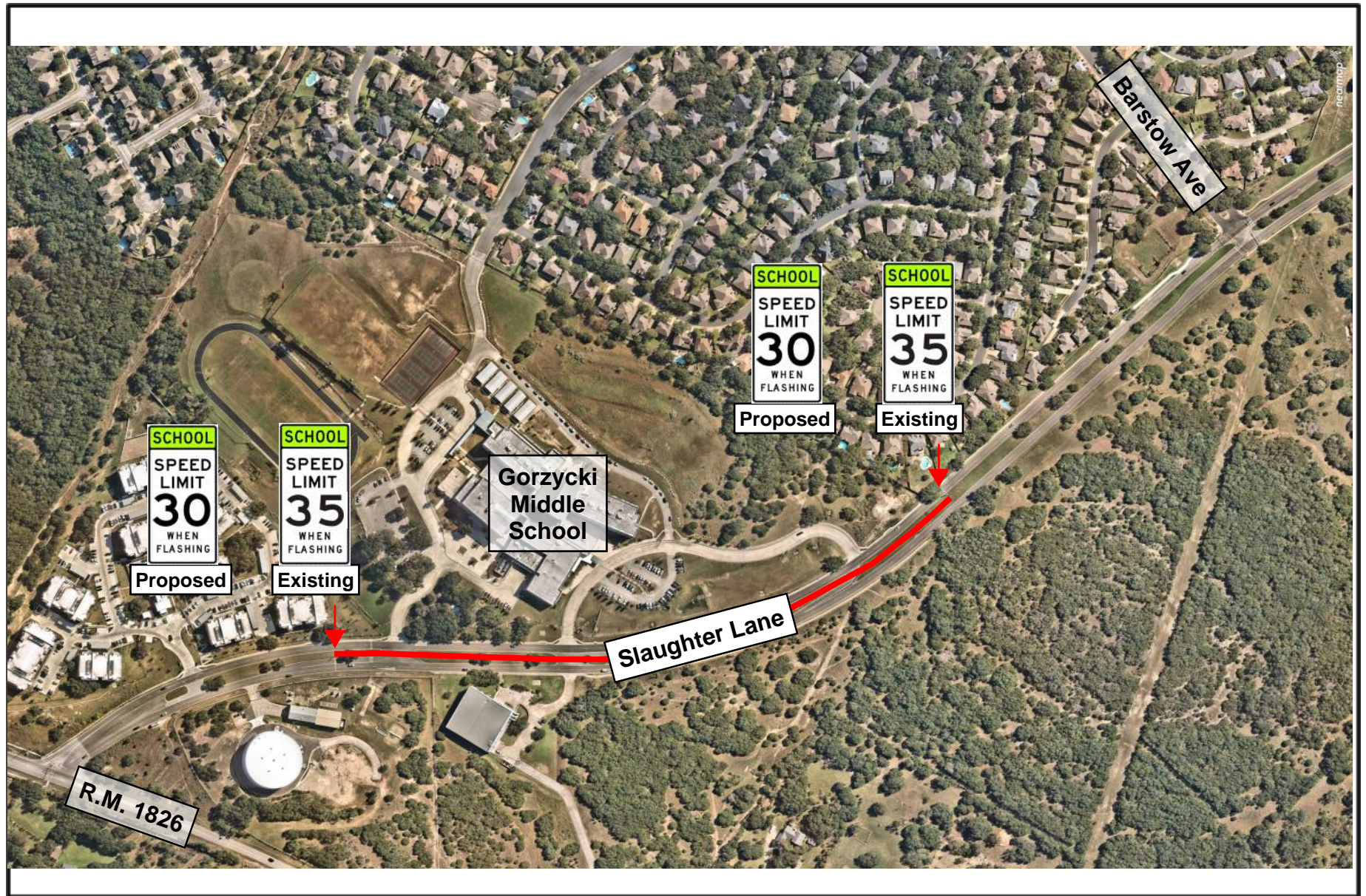
Nuckols Crossing Road (Widen Elementary School/ Mendez Middle School)
200 ft north of Palo Blanco Lane to 200 ft south of Village Square Drive

Austin Transportation Department Location Map



Existing SL: 25 MPH
Proposed SL: 20 MPH





Slaughter Lane (Gorzycki Middle School)
1100 ft north of Barstow Avenue to 900 ft south of R.M. 1826

Austin Transportation Department Location Map

— Existing SL: 35 MPH
— Proposed SL: 30 MPH





Salt Springs Drive (Palm Elementary School)
206 ft north of Asa Drive/Colton Bluff Springs Road to
206 ft south of Tara Drive

Austin Transportation Department Location Map

Existing SL: 25 MPH
Proposed SL: 20 MPH

