



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-3558, **Agenda Item #:** 53.

12/8/2022

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Section 12-4-64(D) (*Table of Speed Limits*) to establish a prima facie speed limit of 30 miles per hour for a portion of Barton Springs Road.

Lead Department:

Austin Transportation Department.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Barton Springs Road is a four-lane, arterial roadway approximately 2 miles long between Loop 1 and Congress Avenue with an existing speed limit of 35 miles per hour (MPH). The roadway from Zilker Metropolitan Park to Lamar Boulevard is median divided with unprotected bike lanes in the street. The roadway from Lamar Boulevard to Congress Avenue is undivided with protected bike lanes. The segment of Barton Springs Road from Zilker Metropolitan Park to Congress Avenue has a high level of pedestrian and bicycle traffic due to its proximity to Zilker Metropolitan Park and other attractors typical to a dense, urban environment.

In order to establish, modify or alter the existing speed limit of a street, the Texas traffic laws require that a traffic engineering investigation be performed. The Austin Transportation Department (ATD) conducted an investigation of Barton Springs Road in accordance with the procedures specified in the Texas Department of Transportation's Texas Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones, 2015 and the Federal Highway Administration's USLIMITS2 tool.

ATD recommends lowering the existing speed limit of 35 MPH to 30 MPH on Barton Springs Road from 650 feet west of Azie Morton Road to Congress Avenue to establish a prima facie speed limit of 30 MPH that is more appropriate for the context of the roadway given the proximity to the park and other attractors that generate a high level of pedestrian and bicycle activity.

ATD recommends the following amendment to City Code Section 12-4-64 (D) (Table of Speed Limits). By deleting this existing code, the street segment of Barton Springs Road between 650 feet west of Azie Morton Road to Congress Avenue would revert to a prima facie speed limit of 30 MPH. Adding the street segment of Barton Springs Road from 650 feet west of Azie Morton Road to Loop 1 as 35 MPH maintains the existing speed limit on this street segment, which was not included in ATD's traffic engineering investigation.

Delete:

Barton Springs Road from Congress Avenue (South) to Loop 1 (MoPac Expressway) (South). (35 MPH)

Add:

Barton Springs Road from 650 feet west of Azie Morton Road to Loop 1 (MoPac Expressway) (South). (35 MPH)

Strategic Outcome(s):

Mobility, Safety