



## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Traffic Study Files

**From:** Austin Transportation and Public Works Department

**Date:** April 9, 2023

**Subject:** Reduced Speed School Zone Investigation

**Location:** Pecan Brook Drive

**Date(s) of Previous Investigation:** None

A traffic engineering investigation has been conducted to determine if a reduced speed school zone is appropriate on Pecan Brook Drive for students attending the Magnolia Montessori For All school.

The following information was collected and analyzed for this determination.

### **General Conditions**

Pecan Brook Drive functions as a two-lane residential collector from Springdale Road to Crystalbrook Drive. Pecan Brook Drive intersects with Springdale Road, which is approximately 720 feet west of the driveway to Magnolia Montessori For All. LBJ High School is located at the intersection of Pecan Brook Drive and Lazy Creek Drive, approximately 800 feet east from Magnolia Montessori For All. The reduced speed school zone for LBJ High School begins approximately 660 feet east of Magnolia Montessori For All. Located directly across the street from Magnolia Montessori For All is the Delco Activity Center, an Austin Independent School District building. The remainder of Pecan Brook Drive contains residential property.

The Magnolia Montessori For All school is located on Pecan Brook Drive, east of Springdale Road. The school is accessed by one driveway. The driveway is a one-way semi-circle with both the entry and exit located on Pecan Brook Drive and is the only intended access point to the parking lot and drop-off/pick-up point for Magnolia Montessori For All.

**Proximity of the School Crossing to the School and Pedestrian Count**

The Magnolia Montessori For All School is located on Pecan Brook Drive, east of Springdale Road. The properties surrounding the elementary school consist multi-family residential homes, single-family residential homes, and a public assembly center managed by Austin Independent School District. In addition to parents and students crossing Pecan Brook Drive to access the school, many other residential pedestrians and bicyclists cross the road on a daily basis. The primary crossing point to access the school is across Pecan Brook Drive adjacent to the driveways for Magnolia Montessori For All and the Delco Activity Center. Pedestrian counts were conducted on September 14, 2022 for the Magnolia Montessori For All student drop-off in the morning (7:30-8:15AM) as well as student pick-up in the afternoon (3:30-4:15PM). The morning pedestrian count for crossing Pecan Brook Drive was 32 total pedestrians. The afternoon pedestrian count for crossing both Pecan Brook Drive was 37 total pedestrians.

**Existing Roadway Conditions**

Pecan Brook Drive functions as a two-lane residential collector, as well as access to LBJ High School, and acts as a connector between Loyola Lane and Springdale Road. The current speed limit on Pecan Brook Drive from Springdale Road to Crystalbrook Drive is 30 MPH. The northern side of Pecan Brook Drive, in the vicinity of Magnolia Montessori For All, from Springdale Rd to 423ft east of Springdale Road, is parking restricted. Pecan Brook Drive has a street width of 44ft. There is an existing uncontrolled crosswalk with pedestrian refuge island located south of the existing Magnolia Montessori for All driveway.

**Presence of Adult Crossing Guard or Student Safety Patrol**

The City of Austin's Transportation Department and Public Works Department Safe Routes to School Program will coordinate with Magnolia Montessori For All staff to discuss about the feasibility of an adult crossing guard at this intersection in the near future.

**Sight Distance**

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

**Sidewalks**

There is a continuous sidewalk on the north side of Pecan Brook Drive from Springdale Road to Uray Drive. There is a continuous sidewalk on the south side of Pecan Brook Drive from Springdale Road to Crystalbrook Drive. Curb ramps have been installed on the north and south sides of Pecan Brook Drive where it intersects Springdale Road and where it intersects Lazy Creek Drive, as well as adjacent to the driveway of Magnolia Montessori For All.

**Recommendation**

Based on the analysis of the information provided in the above sections, a reduced speed school zone of 20 miles per hour (mph) should be installed on Pecan Brook Drive from 920 feet west of Lazy Creek Drive to 520 feet west of Lazy Creek Drive.

Figure 1 presents the study area and limits of proposed speed zones.



FIGURE 1

