



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2252, **Agenda Item #:** 119.

7/20/2023

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Section 12-4-64 (Speed Limits) to establish a maximum speed limit of 15 miles per hour on segments of Escarpment Boulevard, Trissino Drive, and Bernia Drive for students attending Bear Creek Elementary School; and provide for emergency passage.

Lead Department

Public Works and Transportation

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact. Funding in the amount of \$80,000 is available from the Safe Routes to School Program for the necessary school zone flashers.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Bear Creek Elementary School in the Austin Independent School District (AISD) opened in the Fall of 2020 with enrollment capacity of approximately 522 students. The school is located directly adjacent to Escarpment Boulevard between Trissino Drive and Bernia Drive.

A roundabout with marked pedestrian crossings at each leg exists at the intersection of Escarpment Boulevard and Trissino Drive, 520 feet from the school's main entrance. A roundabout with marked pedestrian crossings at each leg exists at the intersection of Escarpment Boulevard and Bernia Drive 0.2 miles from the main entrance. Observations have been made by Transportation and Public Works Department (TPW) staff at the school's morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times in September 2022. The pedestrian crossings at the Escarpment Boulevard and Trissino Drive roundabout are actively and heavily utilized by over a hundred students and parents during each morning and afternoon peak. Similarly, the pedestrian crossings at the Escarpment Boulevard and Bernia Drive roundabout are actively and heavily utilized by over fifty students and parents. TPW staff are recommending a school zone that will cover the crosswalks that are utilized on the route to Bear Creek Elementary School.

In order to modify or alter the existing speed limit of a street, Texas Traffic Laws require that a traffic engineering investigation be performed. The existing posted speed limits on Escarpment Boulevard, Trissino Drive, and Bernia Drive are 30 MPH, 25 MPH, and 25 MPH, respectively. Investigations of Escarpment Boulevard, Trissino Drive, and Bernia Drive were conducted by the Transportation Engineering Division of TPW.

TPW recommends installing reduced school speed zones through the existing pedestrian crossings across Escarpment Boulevard, Trissino Drive, and Bernia Drive near Bear Creek Elementary School. The school zones provide safer crossings with enhanced visibility for students to reach the school and all proposed school zones have been coordinated with AISD staff and received no objections.

The Transportation Engineering Division recommends adding the following amendments to City Code Section 12-4-64 (D) Table of Speed Limits:

Add: Escarpment Boulevard from 160 feet north of Trissino Drive to 600 feet south of Trissino Drive.
(15 MPH) (SZ)

Escarpment Boulevard from 160 feet north of Bernia Drive to 60 feet south of Bernia Drive. (15 MPH)
(SZ)

Trissino Drive from 120 feet west of Escarpment Boulevard to 120 feet east of Escarpment Boulevard.
(15 MPH) (SZ)

Bernia Drive from 120 feet west of Escarpment Boulevard to 80 feet east of Escarpment Boulevard. (15
MPH) (SZ)