



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 8

Agenda Date: April 16, 2025

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Public Works Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Razi Hosseini

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Council Consideration Request from Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito on Lowering Prima Facie Speed Limits in the City and Improving Safety on Neighborhood Streets.

SUMMARY:

On January 29, 2025, Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requesting to lower prima facie speed limits and improve safety on neighborhood streets within the City of San Antonio by amending its prima facie speed limit minimums from 30 to 25 miles per hour, which is the current minimum that municipalities are allowed to request under State Law.

The CCR requests:

- Prioritizing speed limit changes for neighborhood streets within a quarter-mile radius of schools, community centers, and parks.
- Funding, fabrication, and placement of new speed limit signage within those priority areas.

- Heightening enforcement in those identified areas.
- Formalizing an initiative for the City's Government Relations team to support legislation that would change state code to allow municipalities to have flexibility with traffic engineering criteria used to permit changes to speed limits.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Under Texas Transportation Code Section 545.356, the prima facie speed limit in urban areas is set at 30 miles per hour (mph). However, subsection (b-1) permits municipalities to establish a lower speed limit, not less than 25 mph, if the governing body determines that the current speed is unreasonable or unsafe for specific roadways.

Subsection (b-2) applies only to two-lane, undivided highways and subsection (c) is effective when the governing body erects signs giving notice of the new limit.

Texas law mandates that the governing body of a municipality that declares a lower speed limit on a highway or part of a highway under subsections (b-1) or (b-3), publish a report on their website and submit the report to the Texas Department of Transportation no later than February 1st of each year. The report shall detail the speed limits declared by the municipality and provide a comparison of traffic data for the two previous calendar years, the number of traffic citations issued for speed limit violations, the number of warning citations issued for speed limit violations, and the number of vehicular collisions that resulted in injury or death and were attributable to speed limit violations on the highway or part of the highway.

The CCR mentions the newly adopted Vision Zero and Complete Streets policies noting the urgency for safer conditions on our roads for both vehicles and pedestrians as numerous High Injury Network corridors throughout the city remain dangerous and unimproved.

Staff estimates there are approximately 1,200 existing 30 mph signs located citywide.

ISSUE:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends this item be referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

