
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Legal

FROM: Matt Ribitzki, Sr. Deputy City Attorney/Director of Legal Services

MEETING: July 20, 2026

SUBJECT:

Consider and take possible action on a resolution approving the Texas Department of Transportation to establish speed limits in construction zones on the state-maintained highway system within the city limits and authorizing the city manager to execute any documents necessary for such purposes. *(Staff Contact: Matt Ribitzki, Sr. Deputy City Attorney/Legal Services Director)*

SUMMARY:

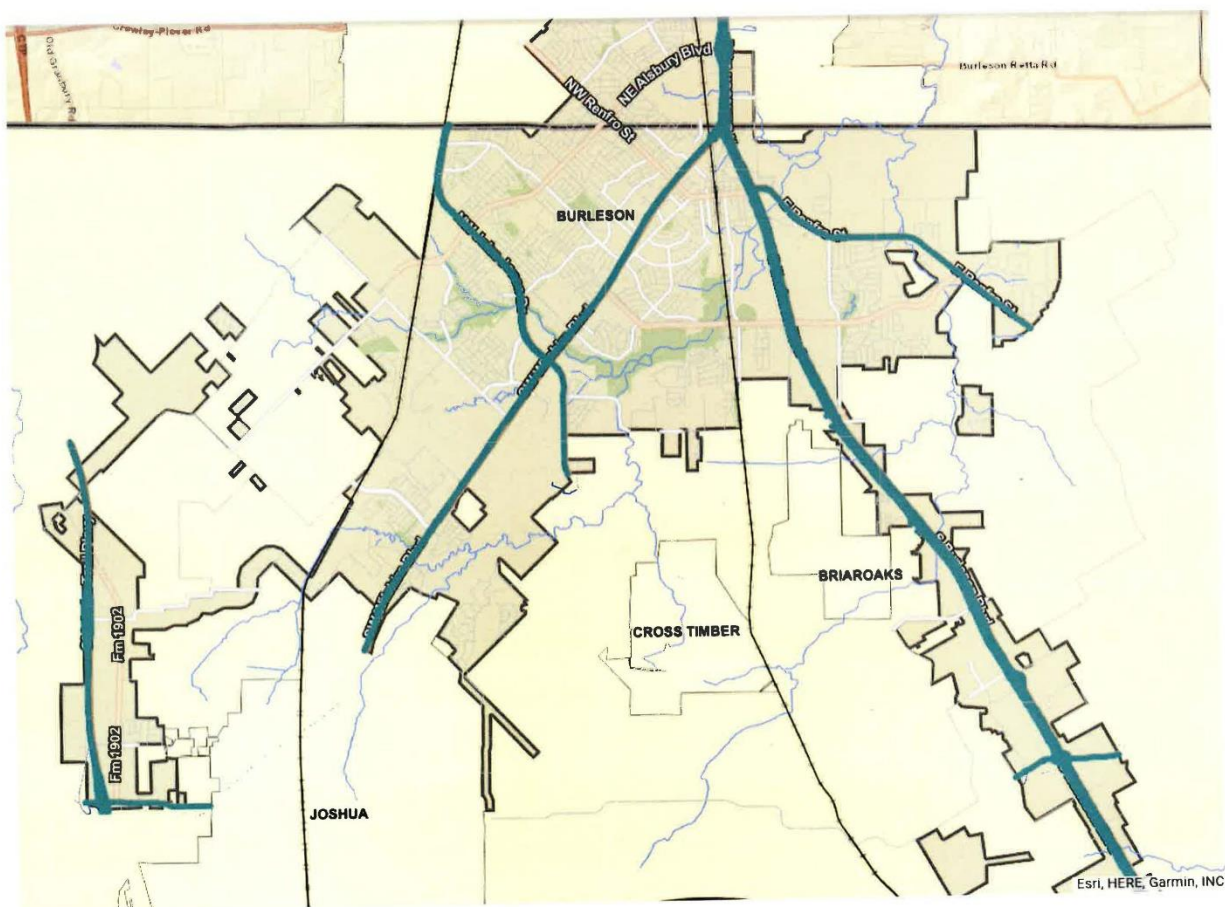
In early June of 2026, the Traffic Operations division of the Texas Department of Transportation reached out to City staff regarding reducing the speed limit in upcoming construction areas. TxDOT specifically requested that the City issue TxDOT a standing letter of concurrence that would not only support TxDOT temporarily changing the roadway speed limit for the two planned construction projects but would support TxDOT continuing to use minute orders to establish temporary speed limits in construction zones for all future construction projects of the state-maintained highway system within the city limits. The proposed resolution would approve TxDOT's request.

According to TxDOT, there are two upcoming construction projects on TxDOT roads in the city limits. The first upcoming construction project is for State Highway 174 (Wilshire Blvd). The construction plan is to create three northbound lanes and three southbound lanes with left turn lanes, as well as adding sidewalks. TxDOT intends for the project to conclude in the fall of 2028. According to TxDOT, some of the construction work may occur at night because certain periods of work will heavily impact multiple lanes at once. The second upcoming construction project is at the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 917 and Interstate Highway 35W. TxDOT will be widening the bridge altering the ramps between the frontage and main lanes. The project will give Farm-to-Market Road 917 a through lane each direction as well as a left turn lanes and right turn lanes to prevent left turning traffic from backing up onto the bridge. The frontage roads will be widened as well as it intersects Farm-to-Market Road 917. TxDOT intends for the project to finish in the summer of 2030.

In order to reduce the speed limit for construction zones on TxDOT roads in the city limits, the city must either pass two different ordinances altering the speed limit (one to reduce the speed limit for the construction and a second to restore the speed limit upon construction completion) or TxDOT may pass the temporary construction speed limit by its own minute order. TxDOT

has respectfully requested that the City issue TxDOT a standing letter of concurrence that would not only support TxDOT changing the speed limit for the two planned construction projects mentioned above, but would support TxDOT continuing to use minute orders to establish speed limits in construction zones for all future construction projects of the state-maintained highway system within the city limits. It's important to note that under the Texas Transportation Code, TxDOT (through the Texas Transportation Commission) has authority to alter speed limits on the state highway system both inside and outside incorporated cities.

The TxDOT roads in the city limits include Interstate Highway 35W, State Highway 174 (Wilshire Blvd), Farm-to-Market Road 731 (John Jones Dr), Farm-to-Market Road 917 (Conveyor Dr), Chisholm Trail Parkway, and portions of E Renfro St. Below is a map of the TxDOT roadways in the city limits:



Looking at the issue, City staff supports issuing a standing letter of concurrence to TxDOT. The standing letter would apply to all future construction projects on TxDOT-controlled roads. Since TxDOT generally controls and manages the construction projects on TxDOT roads, allowing them to reduce the speed limits by minute order will ensure the limits are reduced and restored in a timely fashion, protecting the construction workers as well as benefiting motorists.

The proposed resolution before the City Council supports the Texas Department of Transportation establishing speed limits by TxDOT minute order in construction zones on the burlesontx.com | 817.426.9611 | 141 W Renfro Street, Burleson, Texas 76028

state-maintained highway system within the city limits. Again, the resolution would support TxDOT altering the speed limits only during times of construction, not the general roadway speed limits. The proposed resolution further allows the city manager to execute additional documents to show the City's support, which would include sending a standing letter of concurrence to TxDOT with a copy of the resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

None.

REFERENCE:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

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