
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Errick Thompson, P.E., Deputy Director of Public Works

MEETING: October 2, 2023

SUBJECT:

Consider an ordinance altering the Prima Facie Speed Limit along Greenridge Drive between Hulén Street and FM 731 and Commons Drive from Greenridge Drive and SW Wilshire Blvd. from 30 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour; directing the City Manager or designee to erect the appropriate signage; incorporating the recitals into the body of the ordinance; finding and determining that the meeting at which this ordinance is passed is open to the public as required by law; providing a cumulative clause, a severability clause, a savings clause, a penalty clause, and an effective date (*First and Final Reading*) (*Staff Contact: Errick Thompson, Deputy Public Works Director*)

SUMMARY:

Greenridge Drive and Commons Drive were initially constructed as part of the Arabella Development in 2017. Greenridge Drive is a major collector connecting John Jones Blvd to Hulén Street. Commons Drive is a minor collector connecting Greenridge Drive and SW Wilshire Blvd.

Ultimately, Greenridge Drive will serve as a backage road to Wilshire Blvd connecting John Jones Blvd. to Lakewood Drive, providing an alternative route for vehicular traffic.

Typically, newly constructed roadways retain a Prima Facie speed limit of 30 miles per hour until a traffic study has been performed. Recently, the City received an inquiry regarding the speed of Greenridge Drive and Commons Drive. Typically, a traffic study is performed to determine the 85th percentile speed once a roadway has been opened to traffic.

The 85th percentile speed is “the speed at or below which 85 percent of all vehicles are observed to travel under free-flowing conditions past a monitored point.” Another way to consider this is the average speed at which only 15% of traffic violates. Traffic engineers use the 85th percentile speed as a standard to set the speed limit at a safe speed, minimizing crashes and promoting uniform traffic flow along a corridor.

Staff determined a traffic study had not been performed to date and obtained a traffic engineer to perform a speed study for both Greenridge Drive and Commons Drive.

Data collection sites were set at points east, west, and north of the roundabout. Based upon the results of this study, the 85th percentile speed ranged between 33 and 37 miles per hour. In most

instances, a speed limit based on the 85th percentile speed best reflects the expectations of the largest proportion of drivers, is found by most to be a safe and comfortable limit, facilitates speed enforcement, and offers the greatest chance of achieving some uniformity in speeds on a given road. Based on the collected data and Greenridge and Commons Drive roadway geometry, Kimley-Horn & Associates recommended considering a posted speed limit of 35 mph; staff concurs with this recommendation.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve an ordinance altering the Prima Facie Speed Limit along Greenridge Drive between Hulen Street and FM 731 and Commons Drive from Greenridge Drive and SW Wilshire Blvd. from 30 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour; directing the City Manager or designee to erect the appropriate signage; incorporating the recitals into the body of the ordinance; finding and determining that the meeting at which this ordinance is passed is open to the public as required by law; providing a cumulative clause, a severability clause, a savings clause, a penalty clause, and an effective date. *(First and Final Reading)*
- 2) Deny an ordinance altering the Prima Facie Speed Limit along Greenridge Drive between Hulen Street and FM 731 and Commons Drive from Greenridge Drive and SW Wilshire Blvd. from 30 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour; directing the City Manager or designee to erect the appropriate signage; incorporating the recitals into the body of the ordinance; finding and determining that the meeting at which this ordinance is passed is open to the public as required by law; providing a cumulative clause, a severability clause, a savings clause, a penalty clause, and an effective date. *(First and Final Reading)*

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve an ordinance altering the Prima Facie Speed Limit along Greenridge Drive between Hulen Street and FM 731 and Commons Drive from Greenridge Drive and SW Wilshire Blvd. from 30 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour; directing the City Manager or designee to erect the appropriate signage; incorporating the recitals into the body of the ordinance; finding and determining that the meeting at which this ordinance is passed is open to the public as required by law; providing a cumulative clause, a severability clause, a savings clause, a penalty clause, and an effective date. *(First and Final Reading)*

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

None

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

STAFF CONTACT:

Errick Thompson, P.E.
Deputy Public Works Director
ethompson@burlsonTX.com
817-426-9610