



Pearl Street Speed Reduction

Speed Zone Investigation Request to Oregon Dept of Transportation

Meeting Date	Staff Contact	Email
September 8, 2026	Adam Hanks, City Administrator Brian Harmon, PW Director	Adam.Hanks@CoburgOregon.gov Brian.Harmon@CoburgOregon.gov

SUMMARY AND REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

In support of a recommendation of the Transportation Safety Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendations approved by Council in July of 2024, an opportunity has been identified for the City to submit a request to the Oregon Department of Transportation to conduct a speed investigation for Pearl Street between Finley Street and N Willamette Street. The objective is to seek a reduction in the maximum speed limit on Pearl Street with a transitioned reduction from the existing 35 MPH to 25 MPH with a focus on the section west of Coleman Street.

Suggested Motion

I move to direct staff to complete and submit a Speed Zone Investigation Request to the Oregon Department of Transportation with an intention of reducing the maximum speed limit of 25 MPH on Pearl Street west of Finley Street

BACKGROUND

Throughout the duration of the work and development of recommendations of the Transportation Safety Ad-Hoc Committee, staff provided input that the ability to reduce speed limits on Pearl Street was not possible based on discussion with Lane County Transportation who maintains jurisdictional control over Pearl St (and N Willamette Street). Because of the committee's consistent prioritization of speed reduction on Pearl Street, staff suggested that this request should remain in the final recommendations document as regulatory situations can change.

The final committee recommendations adopted by Council in July of 2024 include the following under "Other Recommendations"

2. Further research the regulations and potential strategies to reduce the current 35 MPH speed limit on Pearl Street between N Willamette and Colemand Street at a minimum and further east if possible.

A recent citizen engagement directly to Lane County regarding the current 35 MPH speed limit resulted in an updated dialogue between City and Lane County Transportation staff and concluded with a potential pathway to pursue a speed reduction.

Key elements of request:

- City staff are eligible entities to submit a Speed Zone Investigation request to ODOT.
- For the initial review, no engineering study or trip count inventories are required
- As part of the Coleman Street pedestrian crossing request to Council, pedestrian and traffic survey work was completed and may be valuable should it be requested as part of the investigation request process.
- Lane County Transportation has agreed to submit a letter of concurrence on behalf of the City of Coburg indicating their support of a speed reduction.
- Prior to a final decision, the City would be notified if further data/study is required or would benefit the decision making process saving that expense decision until after the initial review is complete.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council direct staff to request a Speed Zone Investigation to ODOT for Pearl Street with the intention of a reduction of the maximum speed limit from the current 35 MPH to 25 MPH between Coleman and N Willamette and further east to Finley if possible.

BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPACT

Current expenditures are limited to staff time with no direct expense related to the request to ODOT. As noted, additional data from the crosswalk approval process could be provided as requested to fortify the request. Should additional survey/data be required to extend the review, staff will estimate the cost (Branch Engineering) and present to Council prior to incurring further expense.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

As this request has a direct correlation to the Transportation Safety Ad-Hoc Committee, significant public involvement occurred in the creation and ultimate approval of this Pearl Street speed reduction request. The Ad-Hoc committee met five times between December 2023 and June 2024 and the final recommendations were presented to Council in July of 2024, with all meetings noted being publicly noticed and recorded.

NEXT STEPS

Upon Council approval, staff will submit the Speed Zone Investigation Request to ODOT and update Council as new information becomes available.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Transportation Safety Ad-Hoc Committee – Final Recommendations (June 27, 2024)
2. ODOT Flowchart – “Process for Establishing Speed Zones”