



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Noble Lark Speed Limit
DATE: December 19, 2024
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
PRESENTED BY: Carole Vanzant, CPM, Assistant City Manager

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

Last year, residents residing on Noble Lark Drive and Kalkallo Drive reported an increase of traffic in using Noble Lark Road as a cut-through to and from Dietz Elkhorn Road. The heaviest traffic was causing safety concerns during school drop off and pick up times.

On July 18, 2024, an ordinance was brought to the City Council for consideration on permanently closing the intersection of Noble Lark and Dietz Elkhorn Road. The Council postponed the closure and directed staff to find alternative methods to increase safety and mitigate traffic concerns.

With the first day of the 2024/2025 school year scheduled for August 12, 2024, immediate action was necessary to ensure safety improvements were in place and effective enforcement action could be taken. Accordingly, under Home Rule Charter Section 3.06F(4), the City Council found an emergency related to the public peace, health or safety existed.

Using data collected from previously conducted speed studies, the City Council on August 1, 2024 approved the first reading of an emergency ordinance reducing the speed limit on Noble Lark Drive and Kalkallo Drive from 30 mph to 20 mph. Findings of the studies showed the 85th percentile motorists travel between 24-26 miles per hour. Additionally, the absence of dedicated pedestrian shoulders and centerlines on the roads necessitated a reduction of the speed limit to prevent unsafe conditions.

As the speed limit signs were installed the week of August 12, staff requested additional time to collect traffic data. The City Council, on September 5, 2024, approved an ordinance extending the 20-mph speed limit through January 31, 2025. The ordinance was confirmed on September 19, 2024.

The collected data from the City's feedback radar sign includes traffic counts and monthly speeds for September, October and November. A summary will be presented at the City Council meeting.

Staff is seeking direction on the 20-mph speed limit.

1. If maintained, staff will bring an ordinance for City Council consideration and possible action in January.
2. If not maintained, speed limit will revert back to 30 mph.

POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:

1. Supports Priority 2.3 of the Strategic Plan to Enhance Local Mobility and Multimodal Connectivity.
2. Preserves quality-of-life characteristics through compliance with state law.
3. Ensures appropriate legal means of enforcement are adopted by City Council.

LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:

N/A