



CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action approving the first reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas, amending the Fair Oaks Ranch Code of Ordinances Chapter 12 Traffic and Vehicles, Article 12.01 General Provisions, Section 12.01.003(3) by reducing the maximum speed limit on Rolling Acres Trail from Ammann Road to Silver Spur Trail to 30 mph

DATE: October 2, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Administration

PRESENTED BY: Carole Vanzant, CPM, Assistant City Manager

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

Chapter 12, Section 12.01.003 of the City Code of Ordinances provides the adopted speed limits for all city streets. The Texas Transportation Code section 545.356 states the City Council, for a highway or part of a highway in the municipality, has the authority to alter, by ordinance, the Texas prima facie speed limit of thirty (30) miles per hour (mph) from the results of an engineering and traffic investigation.

Since 1989, the City Council has adopted or affirmed, by ordinance, the maximum, prudent speed limit on Rolling Acres Trail as follows:

- June 1989 – adopted 35 mph between Ammann Road and Silver Spur Trail.
- June 1991 – adopted 40 mph between Ammann Road to Post Oak Trail.
- September 1995 – adopted 30 mph between Silver Spur to Scarteen – approximately 0.4 miles.
- September 2001 – re-adopted 35 mph between Ammann Road and Silver Spur Trail.
- January 2009 – affirmed 35 mph between Ammann Road and Silver Spur Trail.

In 2024, the City Council established the Transportation Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) to assist in the continuance of the city's quality of life through a citizen-government partnership that promotes safe and secure public roads and walks. The Committee's Rules of Procedure states that the Committee shall review transportation safety issues related to public transportation infrastructure, and after due consideration and affirmative vote, recommend action for City Council consideration.

On May 7, 2025, TSAC reviewed a submittal (**Exhibit A**) requesting a reduction of the speed limit on Rolling Acres Trail to 30 mph due to the following.

- Narrowness and curviness of the road
- Being used as a cut through from Ammann Road to Ralph Fair Road
- Pedestrian safety due to high vehicle volume especially between Ammann Road and

Meadow Creek Trail

- Residential risks with routine tasks (retrieving mail, walking, and placing garbage bins out) when two-way traffic necessitates vehicles to move off the asphalt
- Various posted speed limits (Note: when speed limit changed to 35 mph in 2001, the necessary posted speed limit signs were not replaced.)

The submitter noted by reducing the speed limit to 30 mph, it will provide greater time for homeowners to identify oncoming vehicles to take appropriate evasive measures. It would also provide a level of traffic safety consistent with the speed limits on Meadow Creek Trail, Keeneland Drive, Fair Oaks Parkway, and Dietz Elkhorn Road **(Exhibit B)**.

Staff provided the Committee with the following information:

1. In accordance with the City's Transportation Map found in the Comprehensive Plan, Rolling Acres Trail is categorized as a connector street **(Exhibit C)**.
 - a. Other connector streets in the area are posted 35 mph.
 - b. Page 38 of the Plan defines a connector street as *a road for minor circulation within neighborhoods carrying moderate traffic. They collect traffic from larger areas, or from multiple local streets.*
2. The City has no high vehicle volume complaints on file for Rolling Acres Trail.
3. From January 2024 through April 1, 2025, the police issued 12 speeding warnings and citations: three in the 7200 block, two in the 7400 block, three in the 7600 block, two in the 7700 block, and two in the 8000 block. Update: from April 2 through August 30, police issued two speeding warning citations: one in the 7500 block and one in the 7600 block.
4. In October and December 2024 there were two reported vehicle accidents – one involving a deer, another involving a mailbox. Update: in May 2025, there was one reported vehicle accident involving a deer.
5. For driver awareness, staff suggested placing two advisory “curve ahead” signs depicting 30 mph on the sharp curve south of Ammann Road and east of Meadow Creek Trail.



After reviewing and discussing the submittal, *the Committee voted unanimously to recommend reducing Rolling Acres Trail from Ammann Road to Silver Spur Trail to 30 mph due to inconsistent posted speed limits, narrow road, sightline issues, sunlight problems, mailboxes being hit, and high pedestrian and cyclist traffic; requested staff add cautionary ahead curve signs as suggested; and encouraged the submitter to obtain citizen input for presentation to the City Council.*

Post-Transportation Safety Advisory Committee meeting actions include:

1. Cautionary ahead signs were installed as recommended by TSAC, with the concurrence of

the City Manager.

2. The requestor submitted to the City a copy of a self-prepared, distributed citizen survey, and poll results with comments **(Exhibit D)**:
 - a. Ninety-eight surveys were distributed on Rolling Acres Trail with twenty-three responses received.
 - b. Sixty-five percent of respondents support lowering the speed limit to 30 mph **(Exhibit E)**.
3. Radar feedback devices were installed at the top, mid, and lower sections of Rolling Acres Trail from August 20 through September 7 **(Exhibit F)**. This period was chosen to capture data during a school term. Two radar devices were placed between Meadow Creek Trail and Ammann Road (top), two were placed between Wild Oak Hill and Flagstone Hill Drive (mid) and two were placed between Wembley and Sunland (lower). In summary, the captured data reflects:
 - a. Average daily vehicle count:

Southbound:	Top – 844	Mid – 113	Lower – 65
Northbound:	Top – 806	Mid – 144	Lower - 105
 - b. Total average speed:

Southbound:	Top – 33.7	Mid – 31.2	Lower – 21.6
Northbound:	Top – 26.2	Mid – 30.1	Lower – 22.5
 - c. 85th percentile of speed*:

Southbound:	Top – 34.9	Mid – 34.1	Lower – 28.3
Northbound:	Top – 27.3	Mid – 32.9	Lower – 27.4

**The 85th percentile is what 85% of drivers will operate at or below under free-flowing conditions. Traffic and Transportation Engineers use the 85th percentile speed as a guide to set the speed limit at a safe speed, minimizing crashes and promoting uniform traffic flow along a roadway.*

Staff has identified three options for City Council's consideration.

1. Accept the TSAC recommendation and perform the first reading of an ordinance adopting the speed limit to 30 mph between Ammann Road and Silver Spur (proposed ordinance in agenda meeting packet).
2. Provide staff with alternate speed limit recommendation(s).
3. Status quo – Speed limit remains 35 mph between Ammann Road and Silver Spur Trail (applicable posted speed limits will be replaced).

POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:

1. Provides for the continued improvement of the residents' quality of life relative to transportation safety.
2. Complies with the Texas Transportation Code section 545.356 Authority of Municipality to Alter Speed Limits.
3. Provides for a citizen-government partnership.

LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Cost of one speed limit sign and installation - \$250

LEGAL ANALYSIS:

Ordinance approved as to form.

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:

Option 1: I move to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending the City of Fair Oaks Ranch Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12 Traffic and Vehicles, Article 12.01 General Provisions, Section 12.01.003(3) by reducing the maximum speed limit on Rolling Acres Trail from Ammann Road to Silver Spur Trail to the 30 mph.

Option 2: I move to direct staff to bring an ordinance for Council's consideration and possible action at a future meeting reflecting the following speed limits on Rolling Acres Trail:

_____.

Option 3: No motion required.