

SAFE SPEED STUDY

Evaluation of Posted Speed Limits

City of Lake Forest Park
April 2024



NPH
25

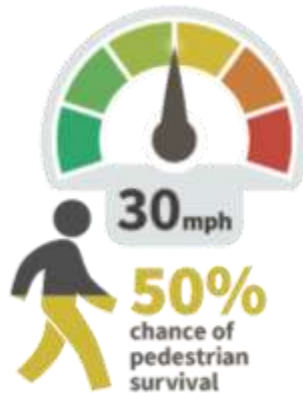
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

Purpose: *Propose a set of comprehensive speed limit changes based on updated speed limit setting methodology and promote safe speeds throughout the City.*

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- City Council adoption of NACTO 2020 *City Limits, Setting Safe Speed Limits on Urban Streets* publication on October 13, 2022 in Ordinance 1252.
- Speed limit changes should be based on a set of objective criteria and readily available data
- The City should strive for a consistent set of posted speed limits

THE CASE FOR ADDRESSING SPEEDS



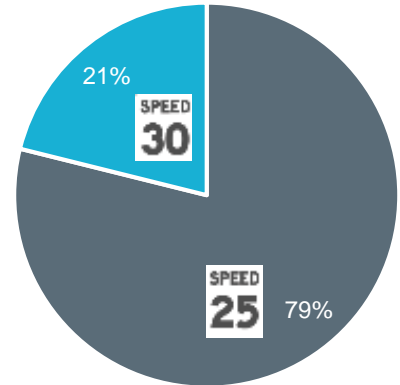
- Vehicle speed is directly linked to crash severity
- Risks for walkers and rollers increase exponentially as speeds increase

OVERVIEW OF POSTED SPEED LIMITS

Existing Context

- 13.2 miles of designated arterials and collectors
- Posted speed limits range from 25 to 30 MPH on City arterials and collectors
- Does not include state highways¹ (SR 522 & 104)
- 20 mph on some local streets

Minor Arterials & Collectors



*Existing posted speed limits on
Lake Forest Park
arterials/collectors*

1. WSDOT has jurisdiction over speed limit setting on State Routes

SPEED LIMIT SETTING METHODOLOGY

Three Options Were Considered

1. Use 'old' methodology based primarily on 85th percentile speeds
2. Use tailored *City Limits* methodology based on a variety of roadway segment data
3. **Set default speed limit on all arterial and collector roadways**

Existing Speed Limits



OPTION 3 – DEFAULT 25 MPH LIMIT ON ARTERIALS/COLLECTORS

- Speed limit lowered from 30 to 25 MPH on all existing 30 mph roadways
- Additional enforcement and traffic calming recommended on NE 195th St and 40th PI (the 2 segments remaining in Opt 2)



RECOMMENDATION #1

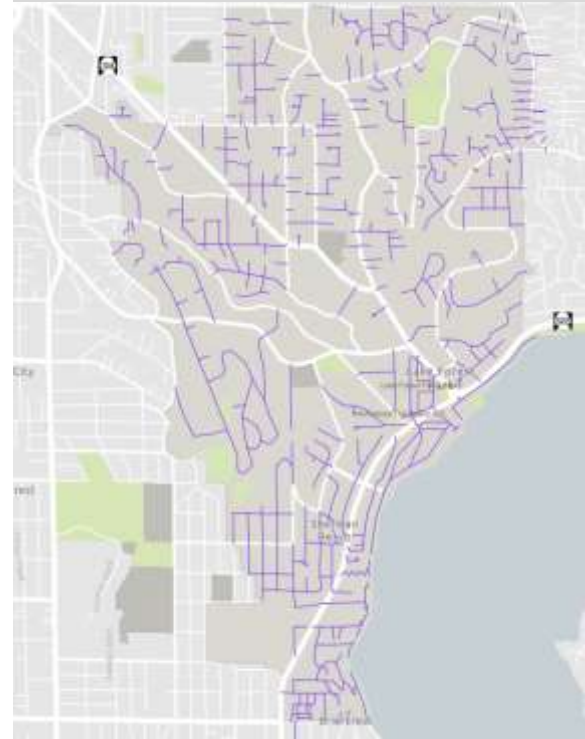


Set a default 25 mph speed limit on arterial and collector roadways (Option 3). Implement additional calming measures on NE 195th Street and 40th Place

LOCAL ACCESS STREETS

- Roadways not designated as arterials or collectors, are “local access” streets
- Approximately 39 miles of local access streets in City
- RCW 46.61.415 allows local jurisdictions to “*establish a maximum speed limit of 20 MPH*” and may do so without an engineering and traffic investigation

Local Access Streets



RECOMMENDATION #2



Set the default speed limit to 20 MPH for all streets classified as “local access,” as allowed under RCW 46.61.415

Photo: Mayor of Salt Lake City after passage of legislation changing the speed limit on local streets to 20 MPH

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

1. Outreach to the community to inform users about the revised speed limits
2. Perform targeted enforcement with warnings for a period of time after implementation
3. Re-visit existing traffic calming policies and funding allocations
4. Consider installing additional traffic calming measures at problem locations
5. Evaluate the posted speed limits on SR 104 and SR 522

Q&A

