



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF SNOQUALMIE

AB22-128
October 24, 2022
Ordinance

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB22-128: SR-202 Downtown Snoqualmie Speed Limit Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
PROPOSED ACTION:	Second Reading of & Adopt Ordinance No. 1265 amending the Snoqualmie Municipal Code Section 10.12.030(A)(2) reducing the speed limit of SR-202 from the Northerly City Limits to Mile post 27.95.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

REVIEW:	Department Director/Peer	Mike Chambless	9/27/2022
	Finance	n/a	Click or tap to enter a date.
	Legal	Anna Astrakhan	9/21/2022
	City Administrator	Mike Sauerwein	Click or tap to enter a date.

DEPARTMENT:	Parks & Public Works		
STAFF:	Patrick Fry, Project Engineer		
COMMITTEE:	Parks & Public Works	COMMITTEE DATE: October 18, 2022	
MEMBERS:	Bryan Holloway	Ethan Benson	Jo Johnson
EXHIBITS:	1. Ordinance No. 1265 2. Speed Limit Overview 3. WSDOT Speed Study		

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUESTED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Amending Snoqualmie Municipal Code to reduce the speed limit(s) on SR 202 from Northerly City Limits to mile marker 27.95 (South of Snoqualmie Middle School/ Herfy's Burgers).

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In June, 2014 the City of Snoqualmie initiated construction of substantial improvements to SR 202, known as the Town Center Phase 2A Improvements, between milepost 26.55 (Northern Street) and milepost 27.07 (Newton Street); Based on changes instituted as a result of the Town Center Phase 2A traffic control plan, the Washington State Department of Transportation ("WSDOT") determined on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the then-applicable 30 miles per hour speed limit on SR 202 between mileposts 26.55 and 27.07 was greater than what was reasonable and safe under the conditions existing during construction of the Town Center Phase 2A project; On August 11, 2014, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1137, which

amended SMC Section 10.12.030 to reduce the speed limit on SR 202 (Railroad Avenue) to 25 miles per hour between milepost 26.55 and milepost 27.7; and Section 4 of Ordinance 1137 provided that its amendment of SMC Section 10.12.030 reducing the speed limit on SR 202 would be of no further force and effect upon the substantial completion of the Town Center Infrastructure Improvements Phase 2A project or June 30, 2015, whichever occurred first; and the City did not declare substantial completion of the Town Center Infrastructure Improvements Phase 2A project until October 2, 2015, which caused the speed limit reduction adopted in Ordinance No. 1137 to expire on June 30, 2015;

BACKGROUND

RCW 46.61.400 establishes Washington State's basic speed law and the maximum speed limits for state highways. The statute also authorizes WSDOT to raise or lower the maximum speed limit when supported by an engineering and traffic investigation. Any speed limit revision must be approved by the State Traffic Engineer and supported by local ordinance.

The SR 202 speed limits in the Snoqualmie area have been 45 mph and 30 mph since 1987. Typical Average Daily Traffic (ADT) has now increased to 10,000, and this segment of SR 202 serves the popular weekend destinations of Snoqualmie Falls, Salish Lodge, Northwest Railway Museum, and the Snoqualmie Ridge golf course. These locations generate recurring congestion on weekends during periods of favorable weather. The complexity of traffic with the proximity of these attractions led the City of Snoqualmie to request a reduction in the speed limit for the 2 ½ mile stretch. In July, 2018, the City of Snoqualmie requested that WSDOT review potential permanent speed reductions on SR 202, due to increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic to / from Snoqualmie Falls; vehicle conflicts arising from vehicles turning into / exiting from the Snoqualmie Falls parking lot; and conflicts between increased pedestrian traffic in historic downtown Snoqualmie and vehicles travelling along SR 202 and/or entering/exiting the back-in, angled parking along SR 202;

ANALYSIS

WSDOT completed a traffic study looking at available crash data, existing speed limits, 85th percentile speed among other necessary data points to determine appropriate speeds throughout this corridor. The study analyzed data January 2017 to December 2021. Conclusions drawn in the speed study are as follows:

- Northerly City Limits - Northern St: **To be lowered to 35mph**
- Northern St – Newton St: **To be lowered to 25mph**
- Newton St – MP 27.95 (Just south of Middle School): **To be lowered to 35mph**

PROPOSED ACTION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 1265 Amending the Snoqualmie Municipal Code to reduce the speed limit of SR-202 from the Northerly City Limits to Mile post 27.95.