



Office of the Town Manager

Christopher E. Martino

STAFF REPORT

Warrenton Town Council

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Council Meeting Date:	November 9, 2022
Agenda Title:	Introduction of an ordinance change addressing speed limits within the Town of Warrenton
Requested Action:	Adopt a Resolution authorizing the advertisement of a Public Hearing to amend the Ordinance related to Speed Limits
Department / Agency Lead:	Michael Kochis, Chief of Police
Staff Lead:	Michael Kochis, Chief of Police

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Warrenton Middle School:

The current school zone speed limit for Warrenton Middle School is 25 mph. A resolution by the Fauquier County School Board was passed requesting that the Warrenton Town Council reduce the school zone speed limit to 15 mph.

Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School:

Currently, no school zone exists for Saint John the Evangelist School. Principal Temple Macdonald submitted a request that school zones with 15mph limits be established for the school on Winchester St. and John E. Mann St. An engineering study, that was conducted prior to the written request recommended that the school zone speed limit for Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School be reduced to 20 mph.

BACKGROUND

On September 12, 2022, The Fauquier County School Board passed a resolution requesting the school zone speed limit for Warrenton Middle School be reduced to 15 mph during drop off and pick up hours.

On June 16, 2022, Kittleson and Associates submitted an engineering study at the request of The Warrenton Town Council, recommending the school zone speed limit for Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School be 20 mph based on their study.

On August 19, 2022, The Principal of Saint John the Evangelist, Mr. Temple Macdonald, submitted a request to create a school zone on Winchester St. and John E. Mann St. The request was to create the school zone, reducing the speed limit to 15 mph during drop off and pick up hours.

Staff Recommendation

Adopt a Resolution authorizing staff to advertise a public hearing for the Council to consider amending the ordinance at the December 13th, 2022 Town Council Meeting.

Proposed Ordinance Changes:

- Reduce the current school zone speed limit for Warrenton Middle School from 25 mph to 15 mph
- Create a school zone for Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School of 20 mph on Winchester Street between 200 feet north of Richards Drive and John E Mann Street, and on John E Mann Street between Winchester Street and Robinson Street.

Service Level / Policy Impact

The reduction of school zone speed limits will allow for strict enforcement of speed during drop off and pick up times near schools. The safety of students while being dropped off and picked up will increase with the lower vehicular speed of traffic in the affected areas. The school speed zones support the following Warrenton 2040 Comprehensive Plan goals: T-1, T-2.

Fiscal Impact

Warrenton Middle School:

No fiscal impact. The signs already exist on location. The Ordinance change would allow enforcement.

Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School:

No fiscal impact to the Town. The total cost of four solar, school zone flashing signs at approximately \$4,000 each would be \$16,000. That cost would be born by Saint Johns the Evangelist.

Legal Impact

Amending the Ordinance will require the advertisement and holding of a Public Hearing prior to the Town Council taking action.

Enforcement of the reduced speed limits during pick-up and drop off will be allowed pursuant to Virginia Code 46.2-873 D,H.

Timing

The Advertisement for a Public Hearing to amend the Ordinance can be placed in time for the Public Hearing to be held at the December 13th, 2022, Town Council regular meeting.

If approved, the speed zones would be created / changed and enforcement would begin once the signs are posted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. School zone ordinance
2. Fauquier County School Board Resolution
3. Engineering study for Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School
4. Request from Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School to create school zones

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