



Office of the Town Manager
Frank Cassidy

STAFF REPORT

Warrenton Town Council

Carter Nevill, Mayor
Heather Sutphin, Ward 1
William Semple, Ward 2
Brett Hamby, Ward 3
James Hartman, Ward 4 Vice Mayor
Eric Gagnon, Ward 5
Paul Mooney, At Large
David McGuire, At Large

Council Meeting Date:	August 13 th , 2024.
Agenda Title:	Speed Limit Discussion
Requested Action:	Receive the information from staff
Department / Agency Lead:	Town Attorney
Staff Lead:	Martin Crim

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town has been working to provide consistent and predictable operations. Part of this requires consistency in information and enforcement. We continue to proactively address speeding complaints and issues Town wide through a variety of tactics. This year, we revamped the Traffic Coalition Work Group into a Task Force. This task force provides active response by implementing traffic calming measures combined with assessments to measure effectiveness. These tactics are adjusted based on results. This has been a successful approach over the last year with several positive results.

The Virginia General Assembly adopted House Bill 1071 which was effective July 1, 2024. This bill, in short, provides the Town the opportunity to set speed limits less than 25 mph on residential streets without going through studies. This provides the opportunity for the Town to set a consistent speed limit throughout our Town. The speed limit cannot be below 15 mph, nor above 25 mph, and can only be applied to residential streets within Town Limits.

The Town has already set the speed limit of 15 mph on many of our streets. This has been a piecemeal approach. This Bill allows the Town to set the speed limit on all our streets. This is consistency and predictability.

The concept of speed limits is based on two programs, the 20 is Plenty and the Zero XXXX programs. These have been incorporated into many jurisdictions' approach to traffic safety and have proven to be effective. Screen shots of the Eugene, Oregon 20 is plenty program are included as an attachment. <https://eugene-or.gov/4488/20-is-Plenty>

BACKGROUND

The Town continues to address speeding on our streets through the Traffic Task Force. This is an action approach to implementing traffic calming with the collaboration of all Town Departments. Some of our streets are 25 mph, some are 35 mph, and some are 15 mph. With the passage of House Bill 1071, we have an opportunity to address speed limits Town-wide.

The Town of Middleburg discussed and adopted this approach at their last council meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Town Staff recommends direction from the Council as to moving forward. If the Council wants this initiative to move forward, staff will prepare a strategic approach to changing the speed limits to include signage, outreach, and education. This will also include the drafting and passage of require resolutions and/or ordinances.

Service Level/Collaborative Impact

Staff will provide an update to the Council at the September Work Session to plan to move forward if so directed.

Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040

T-1: Improve Multimodal Capacity and Safety the Encourages trips by Walking, Bicycling, and Transit.

T-2: Enhance the Traveling Experience by Creating Great Streets.

T-3: Promote Livability in Town by Creating Great Places Where Residents and Visitors feel Welcome and Safe.

T-4: Provide and Equitable and Connected Multi-Modal network.

Fiscal Impact

New signage costs- to be determined.

Legal Impact

Drafting of required resolutions and ordinances.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 20 is Plenty
2. Vision Zero
3. Copy of House Bill 1071
4. Middleburg Council Packet