

Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Chairperson Davis and Committee Members

From: Nathan R. Williams, Civil Staff Engineer

Date: August 28, 2025

Subject: Public Safety & Welfare Committee Meeting of September 3, 2025

Review and take possible action: Request for Additional Speed Limit Signs - Grandview Heights Area

Background

The Engineering Division of the Public Works Department received a complaint from a resident regarding excessive speed entering the Grandview Heights Subdivision Area. This complaint included a request for additional speed limit signage at two locations. Currently, there is one 25 MPH sign on Meadowbrook Dr in between N Fourth St and Wedgewood Dr/Windsor Cir for southbound traffic. This sign would remain in its current location. Additional signage is proposed to be placed on Meadowbrook Dr near Allwardt St for northbound traffic, and on Schuman Dr between N Fourth St and Wedgewood Dr for southbound traffic. Notably, N Fourth St is signed as 35 MPH near Schuman Dr. Under state statute 346.57 (4)(e) Speed Restrictions – Fixed Limits, unsigned roadways within city limits have a speed limit of 25 MPH. City of Watertown ordinance 500-2A defers to this statute language. Additional signage, as requested, would merely serve to clarify the speed limit and could help prevent future speed related incidents.

Budget Goal

5. Maintains a safe and healthy community, with an eye toward future needs and trends

Financial Impact

Minimal labor costs are anticipated with Street Division Crews performing the work. Material costs are anticipated to be under \$100 for a single speed limit sign.

Recommendation

The Engineering Division of the Public Works Department recommends placing a 25 MPH sign at only the Schuman Dr location mentioned above. The additional sign on Meadowbrook Dr is seen as unnecessary given that all adjacent streets are 25 MPH per state statute.

2025 Operational Goals

The purpose of our operational goals is to identify, prior to the budgeting process, what work the city intends to achieve in 2025. The goals should align with our mission. Not only will the operational goals inform budget prioritization, but they will also guide the creation of the 2025 Department Work Plans.

Present a budget that (in no particular order):

1. Invests in the strategic planning and maintenance of our city buildings
2. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity
3. Supports employee retention and growth, while also evaluating operations and the associated staffing
4. Fosters community growth by assessing opportunities, stakeholder input, environmental needs, and modern code and policy priorities
5. Maintains a safe and healthy community, with an eye toward future needs and trends