

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Meeting Date: August 14, 2025
Staff Contact: Curt Mansell, Police Chief

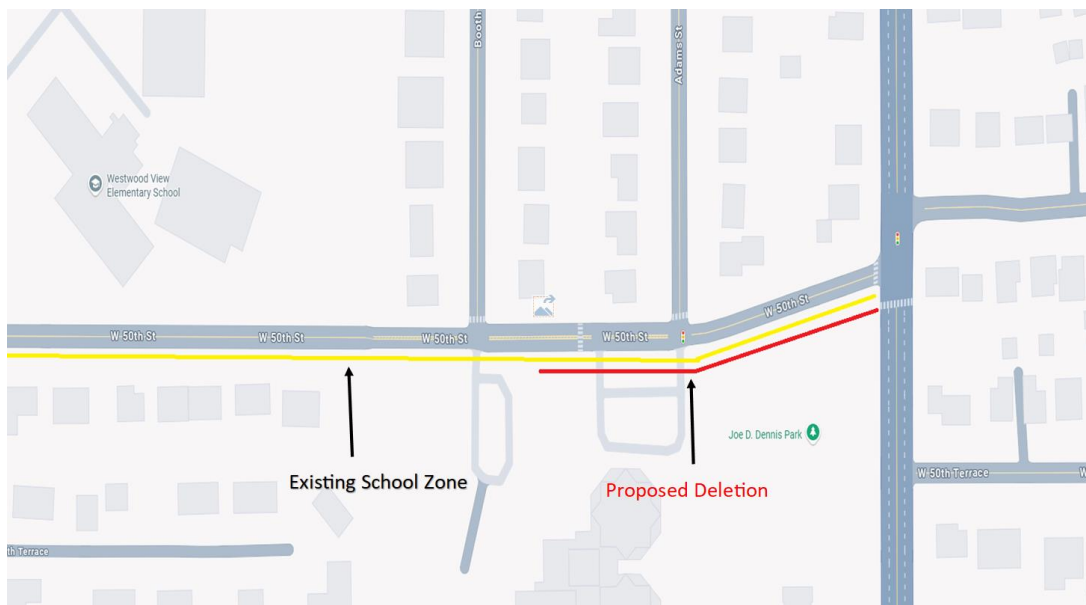
Agenda Item: Consider Ordinance No. 1051 modifying school zones

Background/Description of Item

The streets near schools, as well as those along primary walking routes to and from any school, are critical public infrastructure. Safety of children and others using school facilities is paramount. The new Westwood View Elementary opened in August 2022. At that time, it was determined that there would need to be new/modified ordinance(s) regarding required school zones. Ordinances were modified to include the new requirements. However, parts of the existing school zones from the old Westwood View were left in place in anticipation of Rushton Elementary utilizing the building on a temporary basis, which occurred from August 2022 through May 2024. In May 2025, the Shawnee Mission School District submitted application to the City for a demolition permit of the school building and demolition activities are underway. This action removes any school zones not applicable to the current Westwood View Elementary building, located west of the former building.

Staff Comments/Recommendation

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) recommends school zones extend two hundred ft. (200') to two hundred-fifty feet (250') in all directions as measured from the nearest property line of a school. The illustration below illustrates the modification of the school zone currently in place on 50th Street east of Belinder Ave. The noted proposed deletion would bring the City's school zones into alignment with MUTCD recommendations.



A school zone currently exists on W. 50th Street from Rainbow Boulevard to Norwood St. in both directions as established in August 2022 per Westwood City Code 14-102 (c). With the old Westwood View school now permanently closed, a eastern portion of the existing school zone should be removed. The new modified school zone will now encompass both directions of travel on W. 50th St. at a point starting at Norwood St.

moving east to a point two hundred-fifty (250) feet east of the eastern most property line of the current Westwood View Elementary School.

Budget Impact – N/A

Suggested Motion

I move to approve Ordinance No. 1051 modifying school zones.