



1 – Citywide speed limit evaluation update

City council study session
May 24, 2021

Recommended action:

- None at this time. The purpose of this item is to update the city council regarding staff's speed limit evaluation and discuss next steps

Policy consideration:

- Does the city council wish to implement speed limit changes on city streets based on a safety, engineering, and traffic analysis?

Agenda

- Recap
- What we've heard (feedback)
- Updates to recommendations
- Additional information
- Implementation and schedule



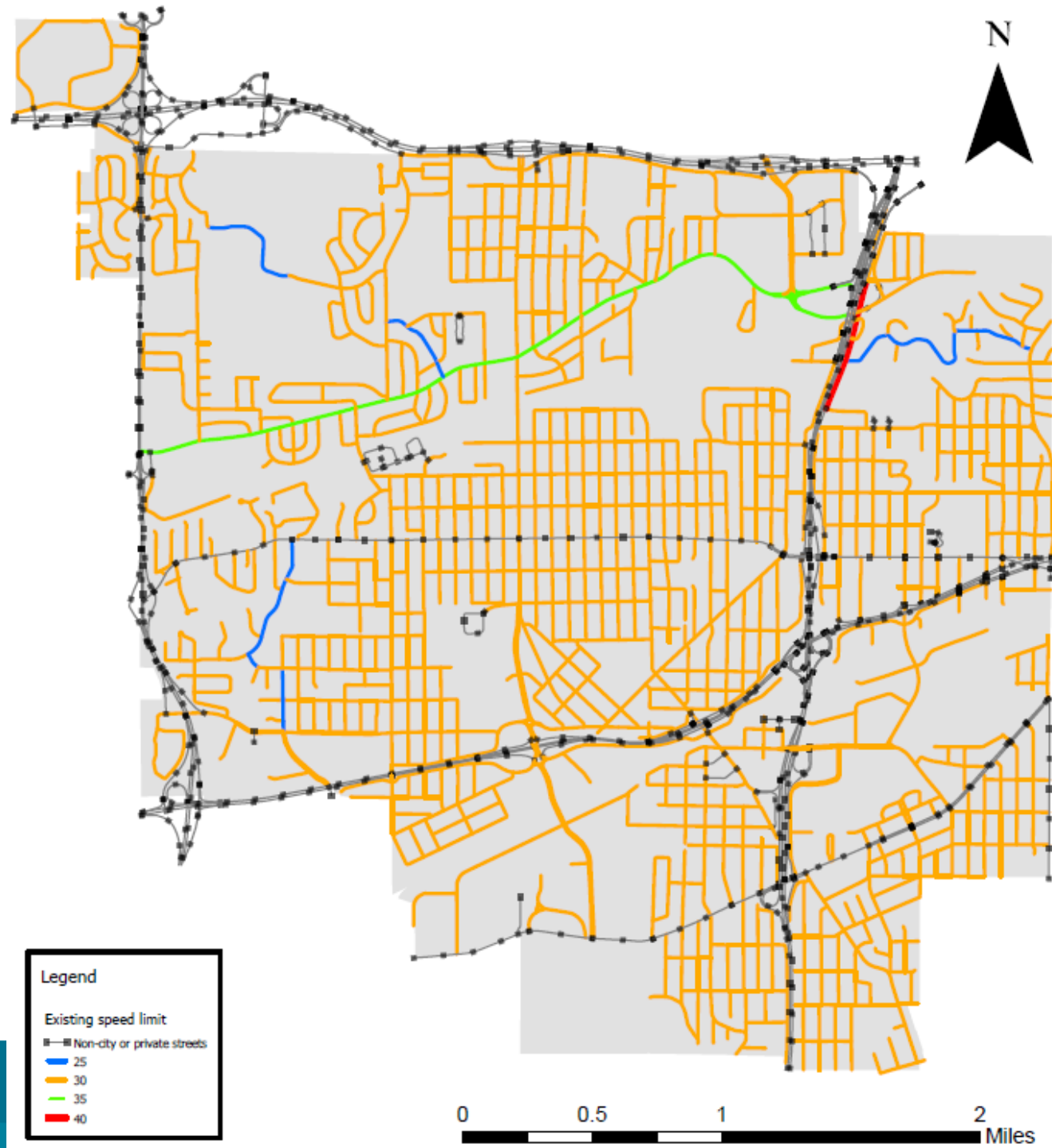


May 2019 MN Statute (169.14)

- A city must:
 - Implement speed limit changes in a consistent and understandable manner
 - Erect appropriate signs to display the speed limit
 - **Develop procedures to set speed limits based on the city's safety, engineering, and traffic analysis.**
- At a minimum, the analysis must consider:
 - National urban speed limit guidance and studies
 - Local traffic crashes
 - Methods to effectively communicate the change to the public

Existing speed limits

- State defaults:
 - 30 mph for urban streets
 - 10 mph for alleys
- Exceptions in St. Louis Park:
 - 25 mph on select neighborhood streets
 - Cedar Lake Road (35 mph)
 - E Hwy 100 Frontage Road (40 mph)



What we've heard

- Citywide postcard, email updates, print media, and social media
- 81 people responded via phone and email
- 140 people responded via social media

LOCAL

Golden Valley, Edina, St. Louis Park looking to decrease speed limits

By Erin Adler Star Tribune | FEBRUARY 4, 2021 — 9:53AM

FEATURED

St. Louis Park leaders consider lower speed limits

Seth Rowe Feb 15, 2021 0



Adjusted speed limits coming soon

See other side for details.

St. Louis Park
MINNESOTA

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Adjusted speed limits considered for St. Louis Park

To support safer streets, the City of St. Louis Park is considering adjusting speed limits on city streets. The city is conducting public outreach leading up to an ordinance change tentatively scheduled for late April. New speed limits are expected to be implemented this summer.

Learn more

Visit bit.ly/speedlimitsSLP or scan the QR code below to learn more about the proposed changes and the answers to frequently asked questions. The city website also includes maps to view proposed speed limit changes on streets throughout the city.

If you have any questions, email eng@stlouispark.org or call 952.924.2656.

nextdoor.com

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www.stlouispark.org/sign-up

YouTube www.youtube.com/slpcable

www.stlouispark.org/sign-up

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What we've heard

- Most common topics:
 - I do/don't support changing speed limits
 - Speed enforcement
 - People drive too fast on my street
 - Stop sign enforcement
 - There is no valid safety issue to address



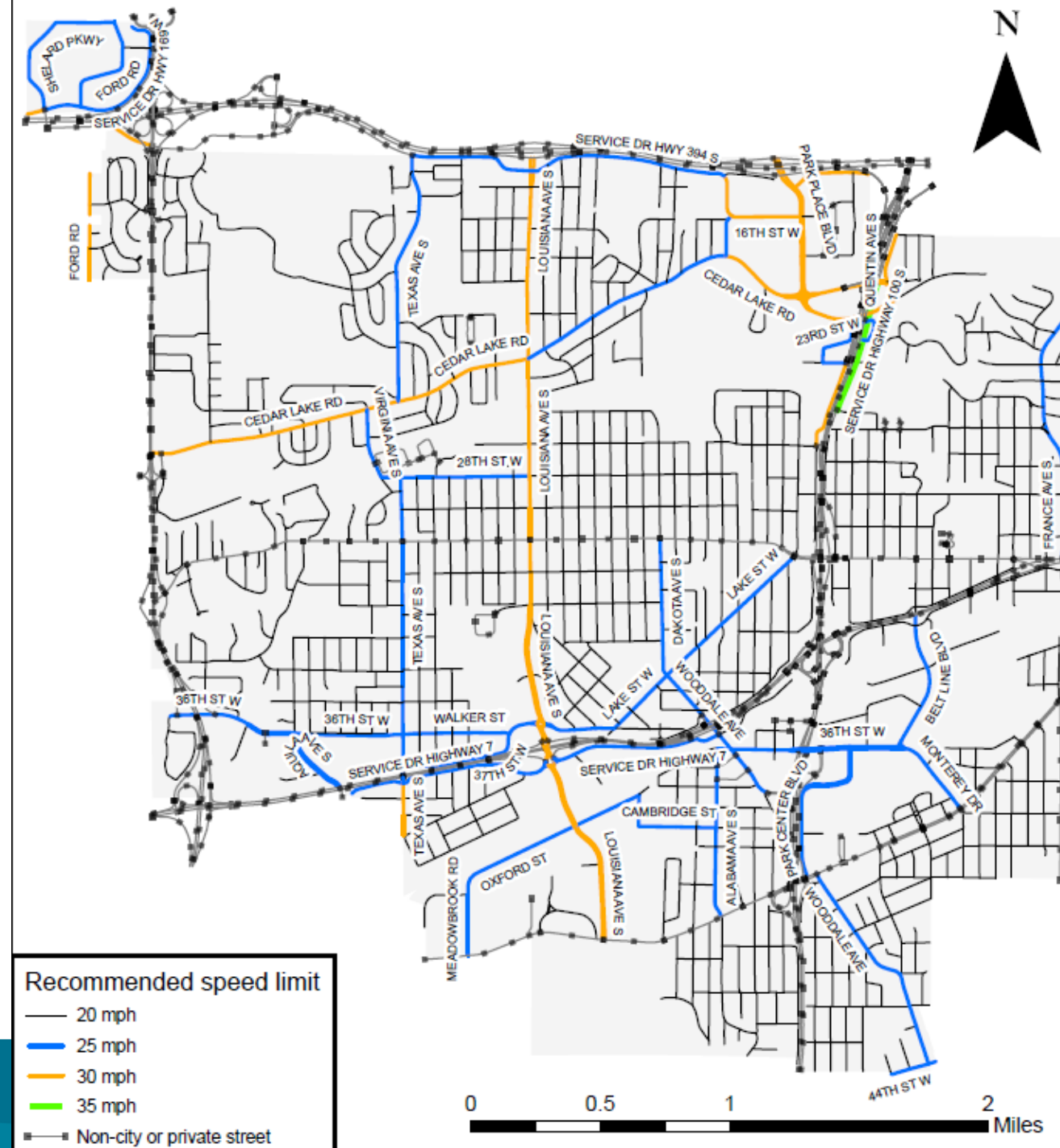
What we've heard

- Most common streets mentioned:
 - Cedar Lake Rd
 - Louisiana Ave
- Additional streets from council feedback:
 - Walker Ave and Lake St (Historic Walker Lake)
 - 36th St
 - Utica Ave

Recommendations

Category approach recommended because:

- It is easier to communicate
- Prioritizes public health and safety
- A citywide speed limit doesn't reflect the design, land use, mode use, and expectations of city streets





Updates to recommendations

- Cedar Lake Rd: **30 mph** west of Louisiana Ave
- Louisiana Ave: **30 mph** north of 32nd St
- 36th St: **25 mph** from Alabama Ave to Beltline Blvd
- Utica Ave: **30 mph** from Westside Dr to 27th St



Lowering speed limits alone

- Lowering speed limits alone can reduce **high-rate speeders** and **overall crashes**.

Boston sites					
Period	Speed (mph)		Proportions		
	Mean	85th percentile	>25 mph (%)	>30 mph (%)	>35 mph (%)
Before	24.8	31.0	47.9	18.2	4.9
After	24.8	31.0	46.9	18.1	3.8
Before-to-after change	0%	0%	-2.1	-0.5	-22.4

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

Table 2. Estimated change in odds of observing vehicles exceeding 25, 30, and 35 mph after speed limit reduction

	Greater than 25 mph	Greater than 30 mph	Greater than 35 mph
Estimated change in odds	-15.9%	-33.6%	-49.6%

Source: City of Portland, OR

Crashes	All Crashes	Injury Crashes	Speeds	50th Percentile	85th Percentile	40+ MPH Speeders
Before	517	193	Before	25.6 MPH	31.2 MPH	1119
After	403	158	After	23.1 MPH	29.0 MPH	513
% Change	-22%	-18%	% Change	-9.9%	-7.1%	-54.1%

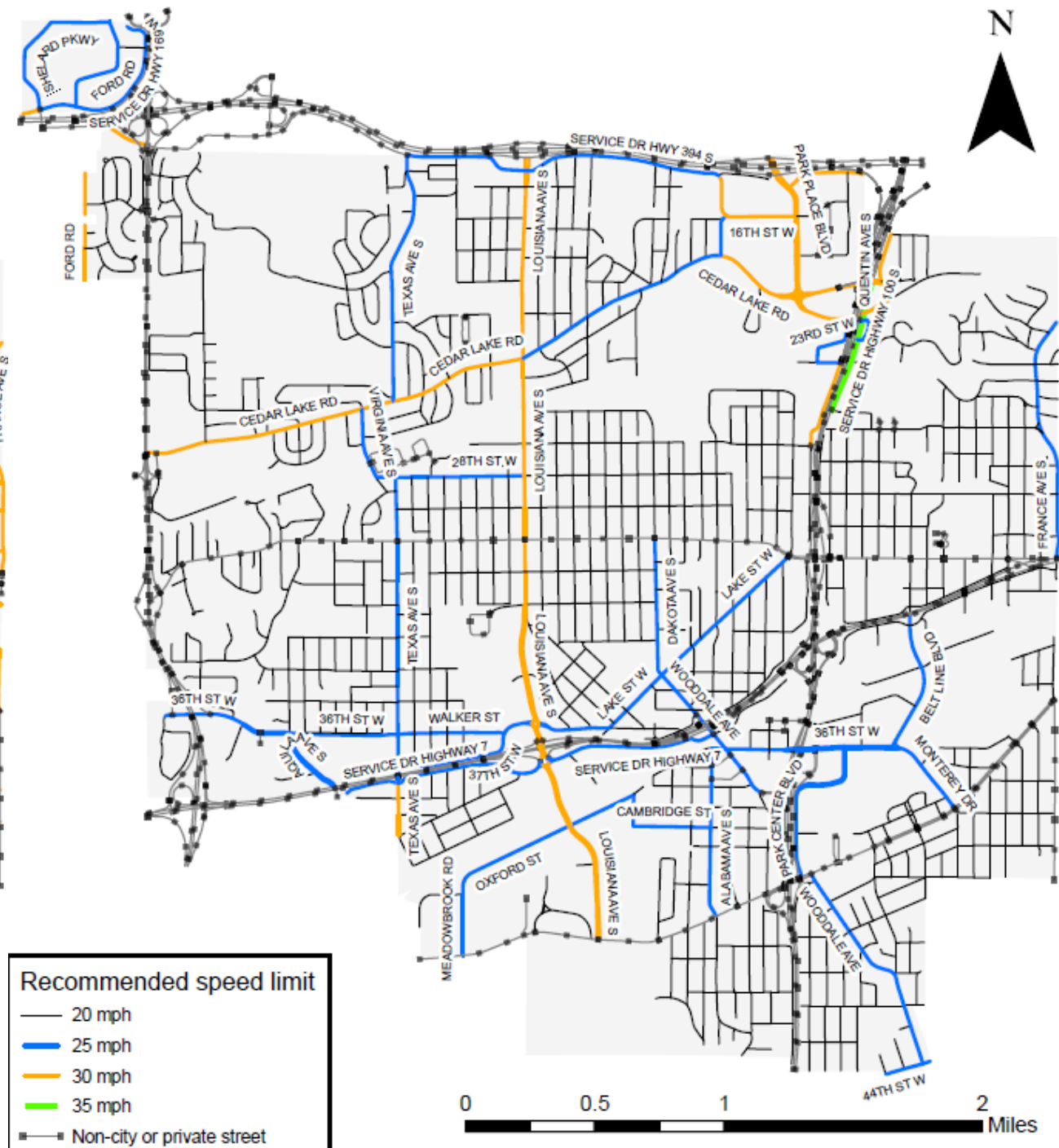
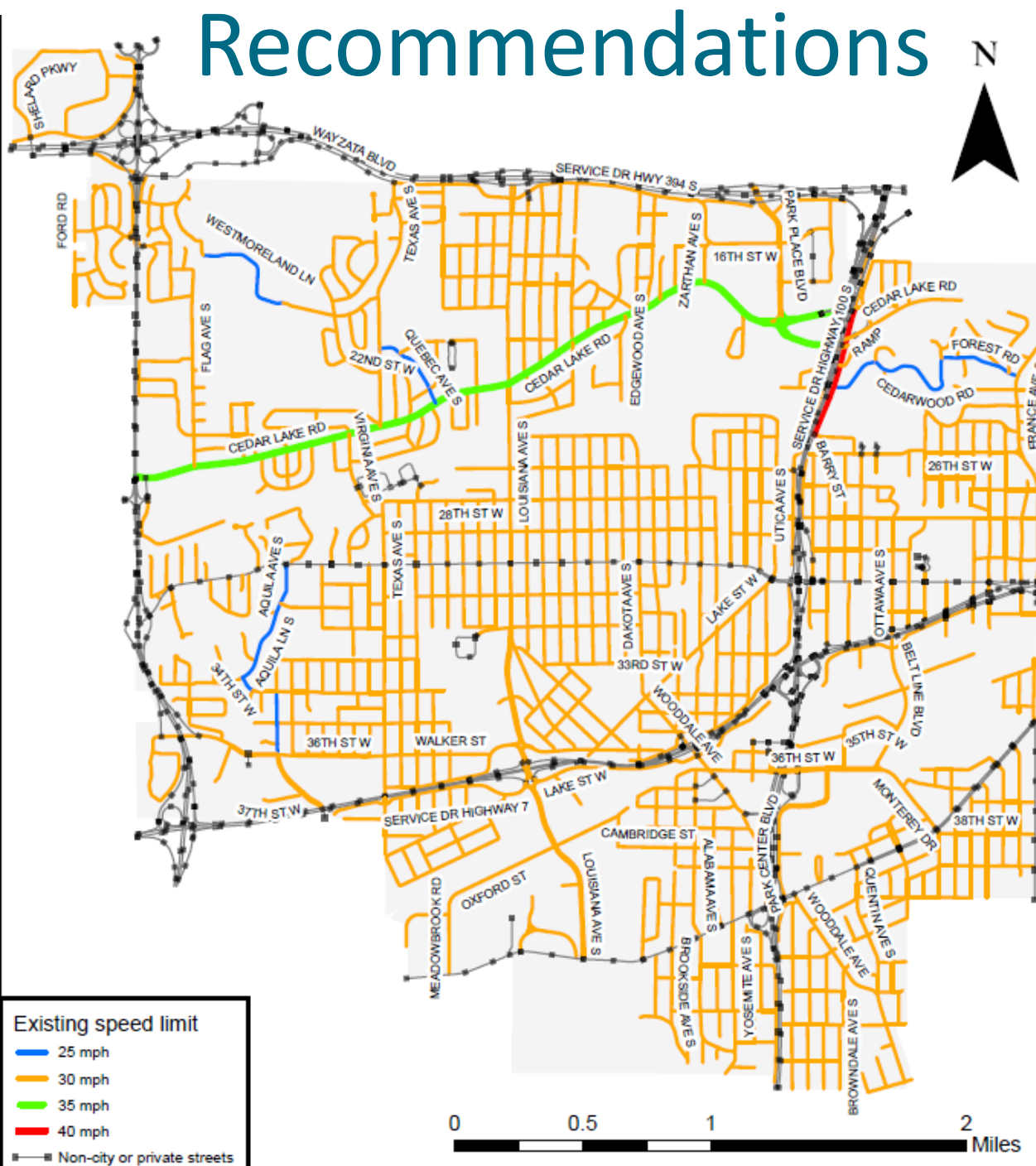
Source: City of Seattle, WA

Enforcement

- Today:
 - Education
 - Verbal warnings
 - Citations



Recommendations





Next steps

- Study session discussion – May 24, 2021
 - 1st reading of ordinance – June 7
 - 2nd reading of ordinance – June 21
 - Implementation – Fall 2021
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- If council requests further discussions or other study, implementation will be pushed to 2022.