



8d – First reading of speed limit ordinance

City council regular meeting
June 7, 2021

Recommended action:

- Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance regarding speed limits and set second reading for June 21, 2021.

Policy consideration:

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



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

Ordinance



- City engineer may establish local speed limits
- Documentation and procedures kept on file by city engineer

Purpose

- Low traffic speeds reduce the likelihood and severity of crashes.
- The current speed limit doesn't reflect residents' and road users' expectations.
- The current speed limit is higher than most drivers are comfortable traveling at.



Speed limit setting goals

- To support the city's goal to **eliminate fatalities and serious injuries** that are a result of crashes on city streets.
- To reflect the city's goal in creating a mobility system that **prioritizes walking first**, then bicycling and transit, and then motor vehicle use.
- To ensure the quality and function of the transportation system contributes to **equitable outcomes for all people**.
- To support the movement of people and goods.
- To be understandable, consistent, replicable, reasonable, and contextually appropriate in setting speed limits.
- To **clearly communicate and educate** the new speed limits and their connection to safety, especially as people enter the city.



Speed limit evaluation

- Provided at Jan. 25 study session
 - National guidance
 - Safety research
 - Lessons from peer cities
 - Safety analysis
 - Speed studies
 - Race equity



DRIVE SLOW STAY SAFE



Implementation

- Print/virtual/in-person education
- Traffic signs
- Traffic signals



DRIVE SLOW STAY SAFE



Next steps

- **1st reading of ordinance – June 7**
- 2nd reading of ordinance – June 21
- Implementation – Fall 2021

