



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 7, 2007**

DATE: June 21, 2007

SUBJECT: Request to advertise an Amendment to Chapter 14.2, (Motor Vehicles and Traffic) Section 14.2-12(a) of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia Concerning Maximum and Minimum Speed Limits along portions of South Arlington Ridge Road, 23rd Street South, and Spout Run Parkway.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the advertisement of a September 8, 2007 public hearing to enact an Ordinance to Amend, Reenact and Recodify Chapter 14.2, (Motor Vehicles and Traffic) Section 14.2-12(a) of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia Concerning Maximum and Minimum Speed Limits along portions of South Arlington Ridge Road, 23rd Street South, and Spout Run Parkway.

ISSUES: None.

SUMMARY: The State Code authorizes local governing bodies to enact and enforce ordinances to increase or decrease the speed limit within its boundaries, provided such increase or decrease is based upon an engineering and traffic investigation.

The Department of Environmental Services, Division of Transportation has conducted studies on South Arlington Ridge Road from South Lynn Street to South Glebe Road and on South 23rd Street from Jefferson Davis Highway to South Arlington Ridge Road. These studies included an evaluation of prevailing vehicle speeds, physical features, accident experience, and traffic characteristics and controls. The results of these studies indicate that the speed limit on these sections of South Arlington Ridge Road and 23rd Street South can be decreased by five miles per hour, from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

Additionally, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) reduced the speed limit on Spout Run Parkway from George Washington Memorial Parkway to Lee Highway on March 7, 2003 from 40 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour. This reduction is also being reflected in the proposed amendments Chapter 14.2, (Motor Vehicles and Traffic) Section 14.2-12(a) of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia Concerning Maximum and Minimum Speed Limits.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Patricia Bush, DES
Jose Thommana, DES

BACKGROUND: Members of the Arlington Ridge Civic Association have requested that the speed limit along portions of South Arlington Ridge Road and 23rd Street South be reduced from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour, in keeping with the low density residential development that lines the streets. Speed limits are determined by ordinance based upon an engineering and traffic investigation, in accordance with Section 46.2-1300 A.1 of the Code of Virginia and Section 14.2-12 of the County Code.

DISCUSSION: Speed studies were conducted along two portions of South Arlington Ridge Road and one portion of 23rd Street South. Studies were conducted at two locations on S. Arlington Ridge Road because of the change in horizontal and vertical alignments at its intersection with 23rd Street S.

Traffic data on S. Arlington Ridge Road near 19th Street South were collected April 12-18. The average 85th percentile speed in the northbound direction is 45.5 miles per hour, which is 15.5 miles over the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour. In the southbound direction, the average 85th percentile speed is 31.4 miles per hour.

In the northbound direction, 80.6% of the vehicles traveled over 35 mph and 47.1% traveled over 40 mph. In the southbound direction, 11.9% of the vehicles traveled over 35 mph and 5.7% traveled over 40 mph. The mean speed for all classified vehicles was 40 miles per hour in the northbound direction and 28.2 in the southbound direction. Passenger cars comprised of 67.9 percent, or 62,573 vehicles, of the total 92,119 vehicles. The number of trucks and buses including single, four-tire trucks up to multi-axle trailers totaled 29,463 vehicles, represent 32 percent of the total vehicles, and motorcycles numbered 83 vehicles (0.10 percent).

Traffic data on S. Arlington Ridge Road near South Lang Street was collected March 21-27. The average 85th percentile speed in the northbound direction is 34.4 miles per hour. In the southbound direction, the average 85th percentile speed is 41.6 miles per hour, which is 11.6 miles over the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour.

In the northbound direction, 12.2% of the vehicles traveled over 35 mph and 0.8% traveled over 40 mph. In the southbound direction, 63.9% of the vehicles traveled over 35 mph and 21.7% traveled over 40 mph. The mean speed for all classified vehicles was 31.0 miles per hour in the northbound direction and 36.6 in the southbound direction. Passenger cars comprised of 78.7 percent, or 52,592 vehicles, of the total 66,793 vehicles. The number of trucks and buses including single, four-tire trucks up to multi-axle trailers totaled 14,034 vehicles, represent 21 percent of the total vehicles, and motorcycles numbered 167 vehicles (0.30 percent).

Traffic data on 23rd Street South near South Ives Street was collected June 6-10. The 85th percentile speed in the eastbound direction is 34.5 miles per hour, which is 9.5 miles over the posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour. In the westbound direction, the 85th percentile speed is 34 miles per hour.

In the eastbound direction, 51.9% of the vehicles traveled over 35 mph and 13.4% traveled over 40 mph. In the westbound direction, 46.6% of the vehicles traveled over 35 mph and 11.2% traveled over 40 mph. The mean speed for all classified vehicles was 30 miles per hour in the northbound direction and 29.2 in the southbound direction. Passenger cars comprised of 89.0 percent, or 32,049 vehicles, of the total 36,005 vehicles. The number of trucks and buses including single, four-tire trucks up to multi-axle trailers totaled 3,753 vehicles, represent 10.4 percent of the total vehicles, and motorcycles numbered 203 vehicles (0.60 percent).

The rationale for the speed limit changes along these roadways is based on the significant horizontal and vertical curves on Arlington Ridge Road south of 23rd Street S., the grade change on 23rd Street S., and the low density residential character of both streets. In addition, there are two schools in close proximity to Arlington Ridge Road and several churches along 23rd Street S.

Spout Run Parkway from George Washington Memorial Parkway to Lee Highway is a state owned and maintained street. VDOT determined it was appropriate to reduce the speed limit by 5 miles per hour from 40 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour. County staff concurs with this reduction in speed limit. The speed limit was changed on March 7, 2003. This change was not reflected in the Arlington County Code, which is now being updated to reflect such speed limits.

FISCAL IMPACT: The cost of installing speed limit signs to reflect these changes will be approximately \$1,200.00. Funds are already available to replace these signs.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REENACT AND RECODIFY CHAPTER 14.2 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), SECTION 14.2-12 (a) OF THE CODE OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA CONCERNING MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM SPEED LIMITS BY DECREASING THE SPEED LIMIT ON

SOUTH ARLINGTON RIDGE ROAD FROM SOUTH LYNN STREET TO SOUTH GLEBE ROAD FROM THIRTY (30) MILES PER HOUR TO TWENTY FIVE (25) MILES PER HOUR,

SOUTH 23RD STREET FROM JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY TO SOUTH ARLINGTON RIDGE ROAD FROM THIRTY (30) MILES PER HOUR TO TWENTY FIVE (25) MILES PER HOUR, AND

SPOUT RUN PARKWAY FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY TO LEE HIGHWAY FROM FORTY (40) MILES PER HOUR TO THIRTY FIVE (35) MILES PER HOUR.

I. BE IT ORDAINED that Chapter 14.2, Section 14.2-12 (a) of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia is hereby amended, reenacted and recodified to read, in pertinent part, as follows:

§ 14.2-12. Maximum and minimum speed limits.

(a) No person shall drive any vehicle upon a highway in this county at a speed in excess of twenty-five (25) miles per hour except upon the following highways or portions thereof on which the speed limits shall be as follows:

Thirty (30) miles per hour upon:

North 10th Street between Arlington Boulevard and North Washington Boulevard.

Fairfax Drive between North Monroe Street and North Glebe Road.

George Washington Parkway, marked portions either side of Key Bridge.

Kirkwood Road from Washington Boulevard to Spout Run Parkway.

Lorcom Lane from Old Dominion Drive to Spout Run Parkway.

Nellie Custis Drive from Lorcom Lane to Military Road.

South Arlington Mill Drive from Shirlington Road to Walter Reed Drive.

~~South Arlington Ridge Road from South Lynn Street to South Glebe Road.~~

North Carlin Springs Road from North Glebe Road to Arlington Boulevard.

South Carlin Springs Road from Arlington Boulevard to Columbia Pike.

Fairfax Drive from Arlington Boulevard to North Barton Street.

Little Falls Road from Yorktown Boulevard at North Kensington Street to Williamsburg Boulevard.

North Pershing Drive from Arlington Boulevard (Fort Myer) to North 2nd Street.

Quaker Lane from Shirley Highway to King Street.

Walter Reed Drive from Columbia Pike to King Street.

North Westmoreland Street from Arlington County line to Fairfax Drive.
South 15th Street from Jefferson Davis Highway to South Hayes Street.
~~South 23rd Street from Jefferson Davis Highway to South Arlington Ridge Road.~~
Chain Bridge Road from North Glebe Road to Fairfax County Line.
Washington Boulevard from Kirkwood Road to Lee Highway.
Spout Run Parkway from Lee Highway to Kirkwood Road.
Williamsburg Boulevard from North Glebe Road to North 29th Street.
Yorktown Boulevard from North 26th Street to North Kensington Street.
Old Dominion Drive from Lorcom Lane to North Abingdon Street.
Military Road from North Glebe Road to Lee Highway.
South George Mason Drive from Arlington Boulevard to Fairfax County line.
South Four Mile Run Drive (West Roadway) from Columbia Pike to South Walter Reed Drive.
Washington Boulevard from North Pershing Drive to North 10th Street.
Columbia Pike from Pentagon Reservation to South Dinwiddie Street.
Army Navy Drive from South 25th Street to South Nash Street.
South Eads Street from South 15th Street to Army Navy Drive.
South Hayes Street from South 15th Street to South 12th Street.
Wilson Boulevard from North Glebe Road to Fairfax County Line.
South Four Mile Run Drive from South Walter Reed Drive to Shirlington Road.
North George Mason Drive from Yorktown Boulevard to Arlington Boulevard.
South Eads Street from South 24th Street to South Glebe Road.
North Roosevelt Street from North 17th Street to Falls Church City line.
North Sycamore Street from Williamsburg Boulevard to North Washington Boulevard.
Clarendon Boulevard from Washington Boulevard to North Oak Street.
Crystal Drive from Jefferson Davis Highway to South 12th Street.
Fairfax Drive from Little Falls Road to Washington Boulevard.
Fort Myer Drive from Key Bridge to Arlington Boulevard (including underpass).
Fort Myer Drive underpass at Wilson Boulevard.
North Glebe Road from Arlington Boulevard to Lee Highway.
Lee Highway from the Federal line at the approach to Key Bridge at Rosslyn to North Nash Street.
Lee Highway from North Quincy Street to Falls Church City Line.
North Lynn Street from Arlington Boulevard to Key Bridge.
North Meade Street from Arlington Boulevard to Jackson Avenue.
Washington Boulevard from Lee Highway to North Westmoreland Street.
Wilson Boulevard from Jefferson Davis Highway to Washington Boulevard.

Thirty-five (35) miles per hour upon:

U.S. Route 1
Old Dominion Drive from Military Road to Lorcom Lane
Columbia Pike from South Dinwiddie Street to Fairfax County line.
South Glebe Road from West Glebe Road to Jefferson Davis Highway
State Route 233 (Airport Viaduct) from Jefferson Davis Highway to Mount Vernon Parkway right-of-way.
South 5th Road from South Carlin Springs Road to Fairfax County line.

Washington Boulevard from Arlington Boulevard to North Pershing Drive.
Old Dominion Drive from North Abingdon Street to North Glebe Road.
Army Navy Drive from South Nash Street to South 12th Street.
South Joyce Street from Columbia Pike to Army Navy Drive.
North Sycamore Street from North Washington Boulevard to North 17th Street.
South Glebe Road from West Glebe Road to Arlington Boulevard.
South Hayes Street from South 15th Street to Army Navy Drive.
Old Dominion Drive from North Glebe Road to Fairfax County line.
North Glebe Road from Lee Highway to ramp from Military Road.
Lee Highway from North Veitch Street to North Quincy Street.
Spout Run Parkway from George Washington Memorial Parkway to Lee Highway.

Forty (40) miles per hour upon:

George Washington Memorial Parkway from Four Mile Run to Spout Run Parkway.
~~Spout Run Parkway from George Washington Memorial Parkway to Lee Highway.~~
Henry G. Shirley Memorial Highway (Route I-95) from the Federal line at the approach to 14th Street Bridge to Arlington Ridge Road connection (Bridge 16).
Lee Highway from North Nash Street to North Veitch Street.

* * *

II. The remaining sub-subsections of § 14.2-12(a) not hereby amended shall remain as previously enacted.