



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of September 25, 2010

DATE: September 10, 2010

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 by Decreasing the Speed Limits on North Pershing Drive from North George Mason Drive and Arlington Boulevard/State Route 50 (Fort Myer).

C. M. RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the advertisement of an October 23, 2010 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 by Decreasing the Speed Limits on North Pershing Drive from North George Mason Drive to Arlington Boulevard/State Route 50 (Fort Myer).

ISSUES: None.

SUMMARY: The State Code authorizes local governing bodies to enact and enforce ordinances to increase or decrease the speed limit on roadways 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 an engineering and traffic investigation on North Pershing Drive from North George Mason Drive to Arlington Boulevard/State Route 50 (Fort Myer). This investigation included an analysis of speed statistics, collision history, pedestrian activity, and roadway characteristics. Based upon these factors, the investigation supports decreasing the speed limit on North Pershing Drive between North George Mason Drive and Arlington Boulevard/State Route 50 (Fort Myer) by five miles per hour, from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

BACKGROUND: Members of the Lyon Park Civic Association and Ashton Heights Civic Association have requested that the speed limit on North Pershing Drive from North George Mason Drive to Arlington Boulevard/State Route 50 (Fort Myer) be reduced from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour, citing vehicle speeds as a safety concern. Speed limits are set by ordinance based upon an engineering and traffic investigation, in accordance with the State Code and Section 14.2-12 of the County Code.

County Manager:

County Attorney:

Staff: Ramzi Awwad, DES (ext. 3721)

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DISCUSSION: An engineering and traffic investigation was conducted on North Pershing Drive from North George Mason Drive to Arlington Boulevard/State Route 50 (Fort Myer). In order to capture variations in traffic patterns and development characteristics along the length of the corridor, the study was performed in four segments based on portions of the corridor with similar roadway and roadside features. Factors considered in the investigation include speed statistics, collision history, pedestrian activity, and roadway characteristics. These factors are based on engineering guidance provided in national publications and would also be used in cases where residents on other residential arterial streets express concern that their requests to lower speed limits have not been granted. State Code requires an engineering study for each speed limit change. Residents may be concerned that a speed limit reduction on an arterial street may contribute to cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets; however, there is little reason to believe that this would be a factor in this case.

For the segments of North Pershing Drive between North George Mason Drive and North Oakland Street, North Fillmore Street and North Cleveland Street, and North Cleveland Street and Arlington Boulevard/State Route 50 (Fort Myer); data collected for the above noted factors supports establishing a speed limit of 25 miles per hour.

For the segment of North Pershing Drive between North Oakland Street and North Fillmore Street, data collected for the above noted factors is inconclusive in supporting establishment of a speed limit of 25 miles per hour. However, in the interest of eliminating driver confusion and reducing speed variation; it is recommended that a single speed limit be established for the entire corridor of North Pershing Drive from North George Mason Drive to Arlington Boulevard/State Route 50 (Fort Myer).

Because a speed limit of 25 miles per hour is recommended for three of the four segments within the corridor, a different speed limit for one segment can lead to driver confusion. Additionally, the variation in speed as drivers increase or reduce their speed when entering and exiting this segment can lead to higher collision rates. This proposed amendment will eliminate this confusion and safety concerns.

Therefore, it is recommended that the County Board authorize the advertisement of a public hearing to consider enactment of the attached Ordinance (Attachment 1), which would reduce the speed limit from the existing 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour along North Pershing Drive from North George Mason Drive to Arlington Boulevard/State Route 50 (Fort Myer).

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

Attachment 1

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 NORTH PERSHING DRIVE FROM NORTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE TO ARLINGTON BOULEVARD/STATE ROUTE 50 (FORT MYER).

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.

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)~~ North George Mason Drive 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.

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:

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Forty-Five (45) miles per hour upon:

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Fifty (50) miles per hour upon:

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Fifty-Five (55) miles per hour upon:

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