



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of September 8, 2007**

**DATE:** August 29, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Enactment of 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South, and Spout Run Parkway.

### **C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Enact the attached 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 along portions of South Arlington Ridge Road and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour and by decreasing the speed limit along Spout Run Parkway from 40 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour.

**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

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

County Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: Patricia Bush, DES  
Jose Thommana, DES

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.

**BACKGROUND:** Members of the Arlington Ridge Civic Association have requested that the speed limit along portions of South Arlington Ridge Road and 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South. Studies were conducted at two locations on South Arlington Ridge Road because of the change in horizontal and vertical alignments at its intersection with 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South

Traffic data on South Arlington Ridge Road near 19<sup>th</sup> Street South was collected April 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. The average 85<sup>th</sup> 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 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 31.4 miles per hour. The mean speed for all classified vehicles was 40 miles per hour in the northbound direction and 28.2 in the southbound direction

Traffic data on South Arlington Ridge Road near South Lang Street was collected March 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. The average 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed in the northbound direction is 34.4 miles per hour. In the southbound direction, the average 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 41.6 miles per hour, which is 11.6 miles over the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour. The mean speed for all classified vehicles was 31.0 miles per hour in the northbound direction and 36.6 in the southbound direction.

Traffic data on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South near South Ives Street was collected June 6-10. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed in the eastbound direction is 34.5 miles per hour, which is 4.5 miles over the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour. In the westbound direction, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 34 miles per hour. The mean speed for all classified vehicles was 30 miles per hour in the northbound direction and 29.2 in the southbound direction.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South, the grade change on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South.

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 by VDOT on March 7, 2003. The Arlington County Code is now being updated to reflect the VDOT speed limit change.

The Transportation Commission will consider this item at its August 30 meeting.

**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.

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