



MEMORANDUM

December 3, 2013

TO: Board of Mayor and Alderman

FROM: Eric S. Stuckey, City Administrator
David Parker, City Engineer/CIP Executive
Paul Holzen, P.E., Director of Engineering
Carl Baughman, P. E., Traffic/Transportation Engineer

SUBJECT: Jordan Road Traffic Calming Recommendation
Report for CIC meeting on December 12, 2013

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a recommendation to the Board of Mayor and Alderman for traffic calming installations on Jordan Road. This recommendation follows up on CIC reports given in September 2012 and October 2012 for various traffic calming options, and neighborhood meetings that have occurred since those reports. The issue was prompted by Jordan Road resident concerns and the Engineering Department finding that the speed profile fits a Speed Limit 40 pattern rather than the posted Speed Limit 30.

Background

In December 2012 an initial Jordan Road properties neighborhood meeting was held to introduce the traffic calming options and to establish an arrangement for the process going forward. Specific options for petition consideration were speed humps, all-way Stops (not recommended by Engineering) and/or driver feedback signs. In the meantime an additional Speed Limit 30 sign was installed southbound just off Liberty Pike and STRICTLY ENFORCED panels were added to the exterior speed limit signs to highlight the enhanced Police presence. There was concern that the petition area was too limited, and a broader Royal Oaks subdivision area meeting was held in July 2013 at which a consensus was reached to install the driver feedback signs. The petition area was refined to just those Jordan Road properties between Cambridge Drive and Sheffield Place, to seek consent from those residents for the illuminated signs.

Data

The response from the seven property owners in the Jordan Road petition zone was six giving consent for the driver feedback signs, and one without a response. On this basis these devices become eligible for consideration. The specific improvements are diagrammed in the petition zone map. The enclosed flyer describes the Driver Feedback Sign equipment and operation. The default message for this interactive illuminated sign will state SPEED LIMIT 30; as a vehicle approaches it will state YOUR SPEED XX (blanks out at a settable maximum value), and if the speed value exceeds the speed limit it will flash SLOW DOWN until the vehicle passes or comes into compliance. Typical speed reductions for these automated sign devices are in the range of 3-5 miles per hour. Additional foliage trimming is proposed to enable proper visibility of the Driver Feedback Signs. The existing northbound SPEED LIMIT 30 sign will be relocated to between Churchill Place and Cambridge Place, and be supplemented with the STRICTLY ENFORCED panel. The existing southbound SPEED LIMIT 30 sign will remain in place and also be supplemented with the STRICTLY ENFORCED panel.

Options

The available options are as follows:



1. Install two driver feedback signs, one in each direction on Jordan Road, placed where downhill traffic will be reminded to slow down. These signs are currently in inventory at the City of Franklin Streets Department. The northbound Speed Limit 30 sign will be relocated to the top of the hill, and foliage overhanging the side of the road will be trimmed (see the petition map).
2. No action – considers that the driver feedback signs may be better applied at some other location, even though they have been in storage for approximately four years (their prior placement was on Lewisburg Avenue near the Fowlkes/Adams intersection).

Financial Impact

The estimated financial impacts are as follows:

Option 1 - The cost of the project will consist of the placement of concrete foundations for the sign supports, and the labor installation for mounting the signs and solar panels, all estimated at \$1,000, using the Streets Department annual contract for signal installations.

Option 2 - No cost.

Recommendation

Staff recommends Option 1 utilizing the Street Departments budget.