



CITY OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

City Council

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

AGENDA DATE: December 14, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Engineering

DIRECTOR: Harold Cannon

AGENDA SUMMARY An Ordinance to amend the Knoxville City Code, Chapter 17, Article VI, Division 1, § 17-262 to lower the unposted speed limit on City roadways by five miles per hour.

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED

All

BACKGROUND

At Section 17-262, the Knoxville City Code establishes a default speed limit of 30 miles per hour for all unposted roadways, known as the regulatory speed limit. The Department of Engineering is recommending a reduction in the regulatory speed limit to 25 miles per hour in order to enhance roadway safety for all users where no other speed limit has been set.

OPTIONS

Approve or deny

RECOMMENDATION

Approve

ESTIMATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

Not applicable.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW

None

FISCAL INFORMATION

None

ATTACHMENTS:

- ordinance, 17-262 (DOC)
- 17-262 Unposted Speed Limit redline (DOCX)

HISTORY:

11/30/21 **City Council** **APPROVED FIRST READING AMENDED**
 Next: 12/14/21

Council Member Rider moved to approve the ordinance, and Council Member Smith seconded the motion.

Speaking in support of the ordinance:

Caroline Cooley, 903 Windgate St

Discussion:

Council Member Rider, Mr. Cannon, Chief Thomas, Vice-Mayor McKenzie, Mayor Kincannon, and Council Member Parker

Council Member Parker moved to amend the ordinance to change the effective date to July 1, 2022. Council Member Fugate seconded the motion to amend.

Discussion:

Council Member Fugate, Mayor Kincannon, Council Member Roberto, Mr. Cannon, Ms. Cooley, Council Members Rider and Testerman, Vice-Mayor McKenzie, Mr. Swanson, Council Members Thomas and Smith, and Chief Thomas

Upon unanimous voice-vote, the motion to amend the ordinance carried.

Upon unanimous voice-vote, the motion to approve the ordinance carried, as amended, on first reading.

AMENDED
11-30-2021

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE TO AMEND THE KNOXVILLE CITY CODE, CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE VI, DIVISION 1, § 17-262 TO LOWER THE UNPOSTED SPEED LIMIT ON CITY ROADWAYS BY FIVE MILES PER HOUR.

ORDINANCE NO: _____

REQUESTED BY: Engineering

PREPARED BY: Law

APPROVED ON 1ST

READING: 11-30-2021

APPROVED ON 2ND

READING: _____

APPROVED AS AN EMERGENCY

MEASURE: _____

MINUTE BOOK: _____ PAGE _____

WHEREAS, Chapter 17, Article VI, Division 1, § 17-262 of the Knoxville City Code of Ordinances sets forth certain maximum speed limits on all roadways within the City where no speed limit is posted by sign; and

WHEREAS, the City of Knoxville Department of Engineering recommends a change to Chapter 17, Article VI, Division 1, § 17-262 in order to improve the safety of unposted roadways, most of which are in residential areas; and

Attachment: ordinance, 17-262 [Revision 1] (8684 : Amend Motor Vehicles and Traffic Code, 17-262)

WHEREAS, Chapter 17, Article VI, Division 1, § 17-262 currently establishes the maximum speed for unposted roadways as 30 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the City of Knoxville's Director of Engineering finds that in many instances within the City, roadway safety for all users will be improved with lower speed limits, to include the unposted roadways; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to modify the existing City Code Chapter 17, Article VI, Division 1, § 17-262 to implement this recommendation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE:

SECTION 1: Chapter 17, Article VI, Division 1, § 17-262 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by deleting Section 17-262 in its entirety and substituting in lieu the following:

Sec. 17-262. - Maximum limits established.

Except when a special hazard exists that requires lower speed for compliance with section 17-261, the limits specified in this section or established as authorized in this division shall be maximum lawful speeds, and no person shall drive a vehicle at a speed in excess of such maximum limits:

- (1) Fifteen (15) miles per hour during a recess period or during a period of forty (40) minutes before the opening hour of a school or a period of forty (40) minutes after the closing hour of a school, while children are actually going to or leaving school.
- (2) Fifteen (15) miles per hour in alleys.
- (3) Twenty-five (25) miles per hour on all streets within the city except those covered by subsection (4) of this section.
- (4) Fifty-five (55) miles per hour on all highways of the national system of interstate and defense highways and other highways which incorporate similar design and access control features.

SECTION 2: If any section or sections of this Ordinance are held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or sections of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 2022, the welfare of the City requiring it.

Presiding Officer of the Council

Recorder

Attachment: ordinance, 17-262 [Revision 1] (8684 : Amend Motor Vehicles and Traffic Code, 17-262)

Knoxville City Code, Chapter 17, Article VI, Division 1

Sec. 17-262. - Maximum limits established.

Except when a special hazard exists that requires lower speed for compliance with section 17-261, the limits specified in this section or established as authorized in this division shall be maximum lawful speeds, and no person shall drive a vehicle at a speed in excess of such maximum limits:

- (1) Fifteen (15) miles per hour during a recess period or during a period of forty (40) minutes before the opening hour of a school or a period of forty (40) minutes after the closing hour of a school, while children are actually going to or leaving school.
- (2) Fifteen (15) miles per hour in alleys.
- (3) ~~Thirty (30)~~ Twenty-five (25) miles per hour on all streets within the city except those covered by subsection (4) of this section.
- (4) Fifty-five (55) miles per hour on all highways of the national system of interstate and defense highways and other highways which incorporate similar design and access control features.