

**CITY OF PAPILLION
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORT
May 4, 2021 AGENDA**

Subject:	Type:	Submitted By:
Approve Resolution No. 21-0079 – General Order Policy PW05052021-2 – Speed Limit Modification Policy	Resolution <i>R21-0079</i>	Jeffrey L. Thompson Public Works Director/City Engineer

SYNOPSIS;

This policy, if approved, would establish criteria for review and recommendations for Speed Limit Modification to promote, public safety, efficiency and effectiveness throughout the City’s transportation system. The guideline will serve as an aide in the implementation and modification of speed limits consistent with City and State laws promoting safety and reliability on public roadways.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

BACKGROUND:

Public Works, Police, City Administration and elected Officials often recognize or receive requests for speed limit adjustment along existing public roadways within the city limits due to public safety concerns or for other reasons than public safety. In the past these requests were brought before the council for consideration directly without a standardized process in place. It was recommended by the Council that a policy be developed by staff through the Public Safety Committee to include some standard investigation process and guidance for these considerations. This policy was developed and presented to the Public Safety Committee on April 20, 2021 with a unanimous vote of 4-0 to recommend it be brought to the full council for consideration of approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Resolution No. R21-0079 | 1 page |
| 2. General Order PW05052021-2 | 3 pages |

RESOLUTION NO. R21-0079

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR CREATION OF THE GENERAL ORDER POLICY AND PROCEDURES HAVING TO DO WITH SPEED LIMIT MODIFICATION POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Papillion that General Order PW05052021-2 Speed Limit Modification Policy is hereby approved.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS __ DAY OF _____ :, 2021.

CITY OF PAPIILLION

David P. Black, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nicole Brown
City Clerk
(SEAL)

PW05052021-2	City of Papillion- General Order	
TOPIC: Speed Limit Modification Policy		
ISSUED BY: Jeffrey L. Thompson	NOTE:	EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2021

I. POLICY GUIDELINE INTRODUCTION

It shall be the policy of the City of Papillion Public Works and Police Department staff members to review and recommend speed limit modifications to the Mayor and City Council that promote public safety, efficiency, and effectiveness in the transportation system. This policy guideline will serve as an aide in the implementation and modification of speed limits consistent with city and state ordinances promoting safe and reliable travel.

Despite the prevalent use and acceptance of speed limits throughout the world, there remains no firm consensus among practitioners concerning the exact methods and techniques that should be used to select the most appropriate speed limit for a particular location. The large number of variables involved and the situational aspect of speed limits makes setting exact practices and procedures difficult. This guide will aide in the process and allow for more informed decisions and practices in setting speed limits.

II. SPEED LIMIT LAWS

Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 60-6,186 establishes the following maximum speed limits, except where a special hazard or construction zone exists:

- 1) 25 mph in any residential district
- 2) 20 mph in any business district
- 3) 50 mph upon any highway that is gravel or not dustless surfaced
- 4) 55 mph upon any dustless-surfaced highway not a part of the state highway system
- 5) 65 mph upon any four-lane divided highway not part of the state highway system
- 6) 65 mph upon any part of the state highway system other than an expressway, a super-two highway, or a freeway
- 7) 70 mph upon an expressway or a super-two highway that is part of the state highway system
- 8) 70 mph upon a freeway that is part of the state highway system but not part of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways

However, Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 60-6,190(4) authorizes a city to alter such maximum speed limits within its corporate limits if the change is based on engineering and traffic investigation, except that (1) no alterations are allowed on state-maintained freeways

which are part of the state highway system, and (2) alterations are allowed on other parts of the state highway system only upon approval of the State Department of Transportation.

Papillion Municipal Code section 190-16 states:

No person shall operate a motor vehicle on any street, alley or other place within the corporate limits at a rate of speed greater than 25 miles per hour, unless a greater rate of speed is specifically permitted by resolution; provided that the Council may designate specific streets or portions thereof, upon which the speed limit shall be greater or lesser than 25 miles per hour. Should the Council determine to establish such speed zones, then signs legible from the roadway shall be posted at regular intervals throughout such speed zone indicating the maximum speed allowed in that zone.

II. SETTING INITIAL SPEED LIMITS

New roadway infrastructure shall have speed limits initially set by the above laws, as altered by the City using factors including but not limited to the engineering design speed, roadway type, governing agency standards, adjacent speed limits, and other roadway specific conditions.

III. MODIFYING EXISTING SPEED LIMITS

The Public Works Director, Police Chief, City Engineer, City Administration, Council Committee, or elected City Official may request a segment of roadway be reviewed for speed limit investigation. The City Engineer will proceed with an investigation and analysis of the speed limit on the roadway segment.

The following steps outline the investigation process for a roadway segment(s) speed limit analysis.

- 1) Request received to investigate speed limit on a city roadway
- 2) The City Engineer shall be notified of the request and will coordinate with the Police Department to perform an investigation of the roadway.
- 3) The investigation into the roadway may include but will not be limited to the review of the following:
 - a. Speed study investigation;
 - b. Accident history or potential;
 - c. Geometric features of the roadway segment including: vertical alignment, horizontal alignment, and sight distance;
 - d. Roadside development;
 - e. Road and shoulder surface characteristics;
 - f. Pedestrian and bicycle activity; and
 - g. Speed limits on adjoining segments.

- 4) After the roadway-specific data are analyzed, the City Engineer or his/her designee shall use it to develop and support the speed limit recommendation. It is important to note that study conclusions may indicate a speed limit modification is not needed. The recommendation shall identify whether the limit should change, what it should change to, or recommend the limit remain the same. Any recommendation made in the investigation shall promote improved motorist and pedestrian safety, recount findings from the crash data analysis, document potential modifications beyond speed limits such as signs or other markings, and suggest any additional studies for any applicable concerns beyond speed.
- 5) All recommended modifications to posted speed limits shall fall within the range allowable by Nebraska statute based on roadway type, shall correspond with industry practices, and employ engineering judgment.
- 6) Proposed speed limit modifications may be presented by the City Engineer or his/her designee to the Public Safety Committee for their recommendation, and then to the Mayor and City Council for approval or denial.
- 7) The Mayor and City Council, upon recommendation from the Public Safety Committee, shall deny or approve any speed limit modification through resolution.
- 8) The City Engineer shall install signs along the street or portion of street, where applicable, indicating the speed limit and such signs shall constitute due and sufficient notice to the public. An ordinance or regulation establishing or modifying a speed limit may not be enforced until and unless traffic speed control signs giving notice thereof are conspicuously posted (*Omey v. Stauffer* , 174 Neb 247, 117 NW2d 481, 1962).