



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Bowlin and City Council Members

From: Rick Brown, Director of Public Works / City Engineer

Date: July 7, 2023

Re: Proposed Speed Limit Reduction on Route 109 from Babler View Drive to Route BA (South)
Recently, the Department of Public Works was notified that MoDOT is recommending lowering the speed limit on State Route 109, from Babler View Drive to 800 feet north State Route BA (South Junction). MoDOT is proposing a speed limit change from the current posted speed of 45 mph to 40 mph. As a result, State Route 109 would have a uniform 40-mph speed limit from State Route BA (South) to south of Manchester Road (see **Exhibit A**).

In order for MoDOT to make this change, the City will have to pass an ordinance that would modify our traffic schedules to include the 40 mph speed limit. This would allow the speed limit to be enforced by the Wildwood Precinct Police.

Recommendation

As would be authorized by passage of Bill #2807, the Department is recommending that we modify our traffic schedules to lower the speed limit, from 45 mph to 40 mph, on State Route 109, between Babler View Drive to 800' north of Route BA (South). This change will also include the reduction of an existing school zone speed limit from 35 mph to 30 mph, between Babler View Drive to Bent Ridge Drive. (The school zone speed limit is enforceable when existing flashing beacons on State Route 109 are activated, which occurs when schools are in session during the AM arrival and PM dismissal periods.)

Reason for Recommendation

- The reduction of the existing speed limit, based on MoDOT's traffic engineering study, is expected to be favorable to public safety.
- The reduction of the speed limit is recommended by MoDOT's traffic engineering study, which considered the following:
 - The construction of the new roundabout at the intersection of State Route 109/BA South.
 - The presence of Babler Elementary School and Lafayette High School.
 - The crash history along State Route 109, in particular at State Route 109 and Bent Ridge Drive.
 - Speed surveys of State Route 109.

This recommendation was reviewed and approved by the Board of Public Safety at their July 6th meeting.

Captain Mundel and I will be available for questions or comments on this matter at the July 10th, 2023, City Council meeting.

RCB



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Exhibit A – Existing 45-mph and Proposed 40-mph Speed Limits on Route 109

