

MEMORANDUM

TO: Claire Powell, City Manager

FROM: David Salmon, P.E., City Engineer

VIA Jim Proce, Assistant City Manager

DATE: March 13, 2023

SUBJECT: **Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Lewisville City Code, Chapter 15, Article II, Section 15-36 by Expanding the School Zone on Farm to Market Road 544 (FM 544) Near Windhaven Parkway; Providing for a Repealer, Severability, a Penalty, and an Effective Date; and Declaring an Emergency.**

BACKGROUND

Section 15-36 of the City of Lewisville Code of Ordinance states that the limits for the school zone on Farm to Market Road 544 (FM 544) is from 400 feet east of Windhaven Parkway to 2,414 feet east of Windhaven Parkway. This area does not include the Windhaven Parkway and FM 544 intersection, where most of the residents and student cross to access Killian Middle School, Independence Elementary School, and the LISD Technology, Exploration and Career Center East. The original school zone was established when Killian Middle School was constructed, and before Windhaven Parkway extended north of FM 544. The Engineering Department is recommending lengthening the school zone to include the intersection of FM 544 and Windhaven Parkway. This will provide a safer passage for students and families who want to access the schools on foot or bike. The Transportation Board considered this item at their March 2, 2021 meeting and recommended approval of the change (7-0). The item was delayed awaiting TxDOT concurrence and then again due to staff turnover, thus the time lapse since Transportation Board consideration.

ANALYSIS

City staff is recommending extending the school zone through the intersection of FM 544 and Windhaven. The change is recommended to improve the safety of students walking to and from the residential neighborhoods south of FM 544 to the school. FM 544 is a hilly road with limited sight distance, is 110' wide, has a high traffic volume, and a 50-mile-per-hour speed limit making the crosswalk unsafe for students.

There are several benefits to expanding the school zone length. First, it will give drivers more time to slow down and be aware of their surroundings, reducing the risk of accidents involving students. Additionally, it will encourage drivers to be more cautious when passing through the

Subject: FM 544 School Zone Ordinance
March 13, 2023
Page 2

area, making it less likely that they will exceed the speed limit or engage in other dangerous driving behaviors. Expanding the school zone length is a relatively simple and inexpensive solution that can have a significant impact on the safety of our students.

Staff is proposing to move the western border of the school zone from 400 feet east of Windhaven to 500 feet west to include the intersection of FM 544 and Windhaven Blvd in the school zone.

CITY STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the ordinance as set forth in the caption above.