

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Donna Barron, City Manager

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

**VIA** Eric Ferris, Deputy City Manager

**DATE:** August 6, 2018

**SUBJECT:** **Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Lewisville City Code, Section 15-35, Maximum Speed Limits on Specific Streets; Establishing the Posted Speed Limits on the Managed Lanes, Main Lanes and Frontage Road Lanes of Interstate Highway 35E from South City Limits to North City Limits of 75 Miles Per Hour, 70 Miles Per Hour, 50 Miles Per Hour and 55 Miles Per Hour.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The construction of TxDOT's I-35Express project was completed in late 2017. Upon the completion of the project, TxDOT conducted speed studies to determine the posted speed limits on the managed lanes, general purpose lanes and frontage road lanes of the Interstate Highway 35E through Lewisville. Based on the study findings, Texas Transportation Commission passed Minute Orders to establish the speed limits recommended by TxDOT on Interstate Highway 35E in Lewisville.

### **ANALYSIS**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) establishes the prima facie reasonable and prudent speed limits on public highways and roadways of the state highway system based on 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds. Texas Transportation Code empowers the Texas Transportation Commission of TxDOT to alter those prima facie speed limits on any part of the state highway system as determined from the results of an engineering and traffic study.

The Interstate Highway 35E (I-35E) through Lewisville is part of the state highway system. The I-35Express design-build project, constructed to improve the mobility on I-35E corridor, started in December 2012 and was completed in late 2017. The I-35 Express project created new managed toll lanes on I-35E, increased the number of main travel lanes or general purpose lanes and improved the frontage roads. After the completion of construction of the I-35Express project, TxDOT conducted an engineering study to establish and/or alter the speed limits on the managed toll lanes, main travel lanes and the frontage road lanes of I-35E.

On March 29, 2018 and on December 14, 2017, the Texas Transportation Commission passed minute orders to alter and/or establish the speed zones on Interstate Highway 35E in the city limits of Lewisville from Milepoint 1.644 to Milepoint 10.664 as follows:

- Managed Lanes of I-35E - 75 mph (two new travel lanes)
- Main Lanes of I-35E - 70 mph
- Frontage Road Lanes of I-35E - 50 mph (from milepoint 1.644 to 8.571)
- Frontage Road Lanes of I-35E - 55 mph (from milepoint 8.571 to 10.664)

REGULAR SPEED ZONES						
County (City)	Highway Control Section	Limits			Length (Miles)	Speed (MPH)
		BEGIN	MP-Milepoint	END		
<b>Dallas District</b>						
Denton (Carrollton)	IH 35 E FR 196-2	MP 1.001	MP 1.644	0.643	50	
Denton (Carrollton)	IH 35 E 196-2	MP 1.001	MP 1.644	0.643	70	
Denton (Lewisville)	IH 35 E FR 196-2	MP 1.644	MP 8.571	6.927	50	
Denton (Lewisville)	IH 35 E 196-2	MP 1.644	MP 10.664	9.020	70	
Denton (Lewisville)	IH 35 E FR 196-2	MP 8.571	MP 10.664	2.093	55	
Denton (Hickory Creek)	IH 35 E 196-2	MP 10.664	MP 10.951	0.287	70	
Denton (Hickory Creek)	IH 35 E FR 196-2	MP 10.664	MP 10.951	0.287	55	
<b>Houston District</b>						
Harris	SH 249 FR 720-3	MP 4.892	MP 12.730	7.838	50	
Harris	SH 249 720-3	MP 8.000	MP 12.730	4.730	65	

Figure 1: Exhibit from the Texas Transportation Commission Minute Order on March 29, 2018 indicating the newly established speed zones on various lanes of IH 35E in Lewisville, Denton County

REGULAR SPEED ZONES						
County (City)	Highway Control Section	Limits			Length (Miles)	Speed (MPH)
		BEGIN	MP-Milepoint	END		
<b>Dallas District</b>						
Denton (Hickory Creek)	IH 35 E XP 196-1	MP 10.657	MP 12.183		1.526	75
Denton (Lake Dallas)	IH 35 E XP 196-1	MP 10.657	MP 12.183		1.526	75
Denton (Carrollton)	IH 35 E XP 196-2	MP 1.001	MP 1.644		0.643	75
<b>Denton</b> <b>(Lewisville)</b>	<b>IH 35 E XP</b> <b>196-2</b>	<b>MP 1.644</b>	<b>MP 10.664</b>		<b>9.020</b>	<b>75</b>
Denton (Hickory Creek)	IH 35 E XP 196-2	MP 10.664	MP 10.951		0.287	75
<b>Houston District</b>						
Brazoria	FM 1301 1412-2	MP 10.510	MP 10.710		0.200	50
<b>Laredo District</b>						
Duval	SH 339 623-2	MP 21.622	MP 22.257		0.635	50
Duval	SH 339 623-2	MP 22.257	MP 23.083		0.826	60

Figure 2: Exhibit from the Texas Transportation Commission Minute Order on December 14, 2017 indicating the newly established speed zones on managed lanes/express lanes of IH 35E in Lewisville, Denton County

A speed limit of 75 mph has been established on the new managed toll lanes. The speed limit on the main travel lanes of I-35E has increased from 60 mph to 70 mph. The recommended speed limit on the frontage road lanes of I-35E from the south city limits (milepoint 1.644) to FM 407 (milepoint 8.571) is 50 mph. And from FM 407 north to the north city limits (milepoint 10.664), the speed limit on the frontage road lanes increased to 55 mph.

Amending the City Ordinance to reflect the new speed limits will allow Lewisville Police Department to enforce the established speed limits on I-35E.

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At the August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting, the Transportation Board considered this item and voted unanimously (6) to (0) to approve the item.

Signage for speed limit signs on the managed lanes, main lanes and frontage roads on I-35E have already been installed by TxDOT.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is City Staff's recommendation that the City Council approve the ordinance as set forth in the caption above.