

Traffic Study Summary

Date: August 26, 2022
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Request: Lower existing 30 mph speed limit in Park Ridge Estates to 20 mph
Recommendation: Retain existing 30 mph speed limit in Park Ridge Estates based on current speeds

Background

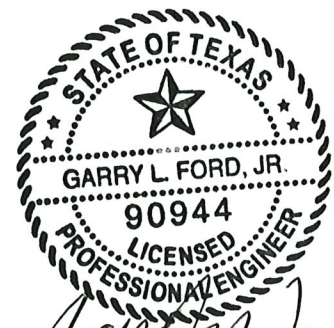
The statutory maximum speed limit in the City of New Braunfels is 30 miles per hour (mph) except where otherwise established by ordinance and posted by official traffic signs. Park Ridge Estates is a subdivision located off the south side of W County Line Road between S Walnut Avenue and FM 725. The posted speed limit throughout the subdivision is 30 mph, and all streets have sidewalks on both sides. Park Ridge Estates has direct connection to W County Line Road where the posted speed limit is 35 mph.



Figure 1. Park Ridge Estates Subdivision



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8/26/22



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An engineering study was completed to evaluate lowering the existing 30 mph to 20 mph on all streets in Parkridge Estates. The study was completed as part of a larger request from the residents and HOA due to speeding and safety concerns, which included investigations for speed humps and all-way stops.

Guidance

Speed limits applicable to public streets are established:

- Statutorily- a maximum speed limit applicable to a particular class of road that is established by State law; or
- As altered speed zones - based on engineering studies.

The maximum speed limits posted should be based primarily on the 85th percentile speed - the speed at or below which 85 percent of vehicles travel. Other factors that may be considered when establishing or reevaluating speed limits include the following:

- Road characteristics
- Roadside development and environment
- Parking practices and pedestrian activity
- Reported crash experience

A city may declare a lower speed limit of not less than 25 miles per hour if the governing body determines that the prima facie speed limit on the streets is unreasonable or unsafe. By State Law, a traffic engineering study is required in order for a city to lower a speed limit below 25 mph.

Site Investigation

Site investigations and a traffic study were completed for Park Ridge Estates in November 2021.

Crash History

Traffic crash data for 2019 through May 2022 was found through TxDOT's Crash Records Information System. There were 4 reported crashes in Park Ridge Estates during this time, of which one was speeding related.

Data Collection

Traffic speed and volume data were collected on November 2, 2021 for several streets within Park Ridge Estates. The average daily traffic (ADT) on Flintshire Drive is 766 vehicles per day (vpd) and the 85th percentile speed is 26 mph. The ADT on Trumans Hill is 428 vpd and the 85th percentile speed is 26 mph. The ADT on Sheridan Park is 386 vpd and the 85th percentile speed is 25 mph.

Recommendation

Based on the site investigation and collected speed data, it is recommended that the regulatory speed in Park Ridge Estates be maintained at 30 mph at this time. The measured 85th percentile speeds for the streets in the subdivision were below the posted speed limit. Posting signs with a lower speed limit would likely not affect driver behavior.