

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Public Works Department

TO: David Cronin, City Engineer
FROM: Nick Voss, Project Engineer
DATE: 12 April 2017
RE: Agenda Item for Transportation Commission 5/1/2017:
Speed Limit & Intersection Ahead Sign Request – Kasold Drive – Tam
O'Shanter Drive to Clinton Parkway

Background

In June, 2016, the Traffic Safety Commission received a request to establish a 35 MPH speed limit on Kasold Drive from Tam O'Shanter Drive to Clinton Parkway and to install an intersection warning sign one block north of Augusta Drive.

Details

Establish 35 MPH Speed Limit

The speed limit may be altered if the existing speed limit is greater or less than what is reasonable or safe. However, simply lowering the speed limit does not guarantee motorists will drive slower.

Speed Limits are set to reduce crash risk, provide a reasonable basis for enforcement, and to be accepted as reasonable by a majority of road users. Speed Limits are typically set according to the 85th percentile speed. This is the speed that 85 percent of drivers drive at or under. The Federal Highway Administration's *Methods and Practices for Setting Speed Limits* states that adjustments to the 85th percentile speed can be made for

- Narrow roadway pavement widths (20 feet or less, for example).
- Horizontal and vertical curves (possible limited sight distance).
- Driveways with restricted visibility and other developments (possible limited sight distance).
- High driveway density (the higher the number of driveways, the higher the potential for encountering entering and turning vehicles).
- Rural residential or developed areas (higher potential for pedestrian and bicycle traffic).
- Narrow shoulder widths (constricted lateral movement).

Kasold Drive – from Tam O'Shanter Drive to Clinton Parkway is classified as an "arterial" street in a residential and commercial area, this section of road is four lanes (two each direction) with a median, with a speed limit of 40 mph. Kasold Drive is not identified as a Safe Route to School, is not on a bus route, and is identified as a bike route on the Countywide Bikeway Study. A continuous shared use path is located on one side of the street.

Speed Limit, Intersection Ahead – Kasold Drive

Traffic data obtained on Kasold Drive during August 2016 found the 85th percentile speed of traffic to be approximately 50.4 mph between Tam O'Shanter Drive and Augusta Drive next to the water tower driveway.

Install Intersection Warning Sign

A Side Road (W2-2 or W2-3) symbol may be used in advance of an intersection to indicate the presence of an intersection and the possibility of turning or entering traffic.

Sign placement would be two feet from the face of the curb and would not provide any lateral separation between the sign and shared use path. There were no reported crashes at the intersection of Kasold Drive and Augusta Drive in 2016.

Action Request

It is recommended that the Transportation Commission deny the request for a 35 mph Speed Limit based on the 85th percentile speed of 50.4 mph.

Request for the Transportation Commission to approve or deny installation of an intersection ahead sign north of Augusta Drive for southbound traffic.