



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Report Prepared by: Mike Davis, PLPD Chief

Date: June 3, 2024

Subject: Speed Limits

Report: There was a previous discussion of updating the speed limit on Patriot Avenue near the splash pad. There has been some confusion on when that will take effect, and specifically what area it will affect, as well as it being a year-round speed limit change versus seasonal. Since this discussion, speed limit signs of 25 mph have been erected, but have not yet been enforced by law enforcement.

We have now been made aware of the need to develop procedures to set speed limits. See the attached 2019 MN State Statute Change.

Chief Davis is suggesting the area near the splash pad, north of the traffic light on Patriot Avenue, for one block or to the next intersection, have flashing speed limit signs similar to a school zone and would only be in effect seasonally.

Council Action Requested: Council direction on how to proceed.

2019 Statute Change

Minnesota Statute Section 169.14, subd. 2 was updated August 1, 2019, by the Minnesota State Legislature. The change gave cities the authority to establish speed limits for streets under their jurisdiction without having MnDOT conduct a speed study, and without approval by the Commissioner of Transportation provided that:

- Speed limits are implemented in a consistent and understandable manner.
- The city erects appropriate signs to display the speed limit.
- The city develops procedures to set speed limits based on the city's safety, engineering, and traffic analysis considering national urban speed limit guidance and studies, local traffic crashes, and methods to effectively communicate the change to the public.

The change was the result of a request by the city of Minneapolis who wanted to have the ability to modify speeds on local roads to help improve pedestrian safety. A consistent legislative priority for the city was to either lower the statutory speed limit or give Minneapolis or cities of the first class the ability to set their own limits.

The state legislature agreed to allow the statute change as requested by Minneapolis, but also felt the authority should be granted to all Minnesota Communities.

