



CITY OF RICHMOND

INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT STATEMENT

Date: November 20, 2019

Ordinance No. 2019-320: To reduce the speed limit on Patterson Avenue between Willow Lawn Drive and Pepper Avenue from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

Patron: Addison

Legislative History: Introduced November 12, 2019

Administrative Staff Presenting: Travis Bridewell (646.5745)

Impact Statement Summary: An engineering study is required by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to determine the proper speed limit. A speed limit should reflect how drivers are actually behaving on the road. Where speed limits are artificially low, the enforcement tolerance must be high. **Several national studies have demonstrated that drivers who travel either slower or faster than the 85th percentile speed* of the traffic stream have a higher crash involvement rate than those drivers whose speed is close to the 85th percentile speed. Posting the speed limit at the 85th percentile speed informs the motorist of the speed which is expected to minimize their risk of a crash.**

**The 85th percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85 percent of the sample of free flowing vehicles are traveling.*

Staff Position: DPW does not support Ordinance No. 2019-320. Patterson Avenue has a 25mph speed limit between Maple Avenue and Glenburnie Road. Ordinance 2019-320 extends the 25mph zone westward to Pepper Avenue and eastward to Willow Lawn Drive. Our engineering December 2018 engineering study, (prepared in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices), recommends to retain the existing 35mph speed limit between Maple Avenue and Pepper Avenue and between Glenburnie Road and Willow Lawn Drive. **The 85th percentile speeds on Patterson Avenue in these two areas where the speed will be reduced to 25 mph averages 43mph.** (The 85th percentile speed is the speed at which 85 percent of motorists are traveling at or below, and is considered the optimum safe speed.) **The US Department of Transportation's USLIMITS2 speed study tool supports the existing 35mph speed as described.**

Administrative Impact Statement of draft Ordinance No. 2019-320: The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is adopted by reference in accordance with Title 23, United States Code, Section 109(d) and Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 655.603, and is approved as the national standard for designing, applying, and planning traffic control devices and is applicable to Virginia, pursuant to Va. Code § 46.2-830. The Safe and Healthy Streets Commission of Richmond Virginia adopted by Resolution on January 16, 2019 to follow Federal and State Requirements found in the MUTCD.

Fiscal Impact: \$ 5,000 (To fabricate and install speed limit signs.)
