



CITY OF RICHMOND

INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT STATEMENT

Date: October 19, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-R065: To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Public Works to develop a process for City residents to request traffic studies of the residential areas within their neighborhoods for the purpose of assessing the appropriateness of instituting a 15 mile per hour speed limit in such areas to increase traffic safety.

Patron: Lynch

Legislative History: Introduced July 26, 2021

Administrative Staff Presenting: Travis Bridewell (646.5745) and Captain Christopher Gleason (646-0400)

Impact Statement Summary: All City resident requests for traffic studies on residential streets for the purpose of assessing the appropriateness of instituting a 15mph speed limits can use the existing RVA311 online citizen customer service and response system.

Staff Position: DPW would not recommend Council adopt Resolution No. 2021-R065 because a new process does not need to be established. The City has the existing RVA311 online citizen customer service and response system for these type requests.

DPW uses a multimodal safe systems approach in determining and setting speed limits based upon the context on local neighborhood streets. That **does not only include the traditional 85th percentile speed** but includes other measures such as

average daily traffic, bicyclist activity, street alignment, number of driveways, crash history, on-street parking and pedestrian activity.

The new State legislation allows for localities to post 15mph speed limit signs without an engineering study. (An engineering study is a national best practice to determine the appropriate speed limit based upon context.) The State does not set speed limits on city maintained streets. That authority is given to the Department of Public Works Director and the Chief of Police. See Division 9 – Department of Public Works Sec. 2-428 of the Code:

(a) The Director of Public Works shall have the power to make rules, regulations and orders relating to traffic, the power for which is conferred to local authorities by the Code of Virginia, Title 46.2 or any other general law of the commonwealth, including the power to make rules, regulations and orders concerning the establishment of signs and signals...

(b) The Director of Public Works shall make continuing studies of traffic conditions in the City and the approaches thereto, with special reference to prevention of congestion and accidents, the provision of parking facilities and the solution of other problems incident to traffic. The director shall report all new regulations to the Chief of Police.

The installation of 15mph speed limits will place an additional burden on the Department of Public Works by installing signs and diverting attention away from the high injury network. This will also place a burden on the Richmond Police Department for enforcing the new speed limits and taking time away from high-visibility speed enforcement on the high injury street network and other traffic safety duties. The Department of Public Works continues to support the State to enact legislation to include reckless driving as 10mph over the posted speed limit of 25mph.