

City Council Agenda Memo

From: Jackie Lanning, City Engineer

Council Meeting: February 9, 2021 / February 23, 2021/ **Reconsideration March 23, 2021**

Subject: Ordinance 21-004, an Ordinance Revising Division 3 of Chapter 82 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brookings and Pertaining to Speed Zones in the City of Brookings, South Dakota.

Person(s) Responsible: Jackie Lanning, City Engineer

Summary:

The street construction on 20th Street South was completed in 2020 with a widened roadway, concrete shared-use path and street lights to enhance traffic and pedestrian safety. After the street reconstruction was completed, the Engineering Department performed speed studies on the segment between Western Avenue South and Main Avenue South in September and October, 2020. The study showed the 85th percentile was 36 mph for the east-bound direction and 37 mph for the west-bound direction. Staff is recommending to change the speed limit to 35 mph between Western Avenue South and Main Avenue South.

Background:

The speed limit on 20th Street South, west of Main Avenue South, was originally set at 35 miles per hour (mph). In 2015, the speed limit was lowered to 25 mph on 20th Street South between Western Avenue South and Main Avenue South. At that time, there were concerns about pedestrian traffic near Dakota Prairie School and pedestrians crossing 20th Street South when there were no sidewalks or street lights in the area.

Item Details:

The street construction on 20th Street South was completed in 2020 with a widened roadway, concrete shared-use path and street lights to enhance traffic and pedestrian safety. The Engineering Department performed speed studies on the segment between Western Avenue South and Main Avenue South in September and October, 2020. The data showed the number of speeders and the average speed of all the vehicles was approximately 31 mph. From the study, the 85th percentile was 36 mph for the east-bound direction and 37 mph for the west-bound direction.

The Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) describes the guidance for setting roadway speeds is to use the 85th percentile speed as target and the speed

should be within 5 mph of the 85th percentile: *“When a speed limit within a speed zone is posted, it should be within 5 mph of the 85th percentile speed of free-flowing traffic”*.

The Traffic Safety Committee discussed the speed limit at their December 10, 2020 meeting. At the meeting, Police Chief Dave Erickson described that since the road was reconstructed, drivers have the sense that the road is 35 mph. The other segments of 20th Street South are also set at 35 mph. The committee voted to recommend the speed limit change with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote.

Staff is recommending that speed limit of 20th Street South between Western Avenue South and Main Avenue South be changed to 35 mph. A speed comparison map is provided that indicates the speeds of collector streets in the area.

Legal Consideration:

The speed limit change is allowed by City Ordinance Section 82-305, whereby the City Council is authorized to determine and establish speed zones on streets and may change the speed limit at any time it may deem necessary.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

Changing the speed limit per the MUTCD guidance allows traffic to flow in a sustainable manner with fuel usage and provides connectivity in the community on the arterial street.

Financial Consideration:

None

Options and Recommendation:

The City Council has the following options:

1. Approve as presented
2. Amend
3. Deny
4. Move the item to a work session
5. Do nothing

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance as presented.

Brookings City Council, February 23, 2021

A public hearing was held on Ordinance 21-004, an Ordinance revising Division 3 of Chapter 82 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brookings and Pertaining to Speed Zones in the City of Brookings, South Dakota. A motion was made by Council Member Niemeyer, seconded by Council Member Brink, that Ordinance 21-004 be approved. The motion failed by the following vote: Yes: 3 - Corbett, Niemeyer, and Brink No: 4 - Bacon, Wendell, Tilton Byrne, and Collins.

Brookings City Council, March 9, 2021 (unapproved)

A motion to reconsider was made by Council Member Collins, seconded by Council Member Brink, for Ordinance 21-004, an Ordinance revising Division 3 of Chapter 82 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brookings pertaining to Speed Zones in the City of Brookings, SD. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes: 7 - Corbett, Niemeyer, Brink, Bacon, Wendell, Tilton Byrne, and Collins. Ordinance 21-004 was therefore reconsidered, and further action will be required at a subsequent meeting.

Supporting Documentation:

Ordinance – Clean

Ordinance – Marked

Traffic Safety Committee Minutes

Hearing Notice – Reconsideration

Hearing Notice

Map

Speed Comparison Map