

November 16, 2015

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

Ordinance No. 6260 establishing a speed limit of 30 mph on NE 4th Street between 116th Avenue NE and 120th Avenue NE, and including certain corrections related to the NE 2nd Street and 114th Avenue SE/NE corridors.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Dave Berg, Director, 452-6468

Mark Poch, Assistant Director – Traffic Management, 452-6137

Kurt Latt, Senior Transportation Engineer, 452-6020

Transportation Department

POLICY CONSIDERATION:

City Code:

Chapter 11.32 establishes speed limits for all streets in Bellevue. BMC 11.32.010 reads “The speed limit on all streets shall be 25 miles per hour except those: A. Posted as school zones, while the posted limits are in effect; and, B. On which another speed is established by the following sections of this chapter.” NE 4th Street between 116th Avenue NE and 120th Avenue NE is a new arterial street where it is necessary to include its speed limit within this City code.

RCW:

As authorized under RCW 46.61.415, the local jurisdiction may establish or alter speed limits on the basis of an engineering investigation. The establishment or alteration of a speed limit is intended to reflect the speed at which a normally prudent driver can perceive and react safely to driving conditions encountered on the roadway. The department takes great care in considering the safe operating speed of a roadway and a variety of elements are part of the evaluation.

Comprehensive Plan Policies:

This proposal is consistent with Transportation Element Policy TR-52 to design arterials and streets to fit the intended character of the areas through which they pass; and Policy TR-53 to maintain and enhance safety for all users of the roadway network.

BACKGROUND:

The completion of the NE 4th Street Extension, between 116th Avenue NE and 120th Avenue NE, has come to fruition after a lengthy and exhaustive planning, design, and construction process. Figure A provides a map depicting the subject new segment of the NE 4th Street Extension. This relatively short roadway segment is a critical piece of the overall vision to construct a corridor that better facilitates traffic flow in the area and further links the ongoing and robust redevelopment of the Bel-Red District/Spring District to the broader surrounding transportation system. Other elements of this corridor’s vision include several phases of 120th Avenue NE between NE 4th Street and Northup Way which are at varying stages of design and completion.

With this segment of NE 4th Street being added to the roadway network, it is necessary to formalize a posted speed and incorporate it into the City's established speed limit ordinance and BMC Chapter 11.32 (Speed). In the City's investigation of determining the safe operating speed of a roadway, the department follows well-established practices. Certain uniform guidance is important in establishing speed limits so driver expectations remain consistent and the greatest degree of respect is afforded to lawful travel and safety.

During the design process for the roadway, considerations to maintain a safe operating speed were made that included lighting, access management, horizontal and vertical curvature design, channelization features, non-motorized accommodations, and other elements. NE 4th Street will serve as a key arterial linkage while also maintaining access for commercial properties lining it on both sides. There are existing well established commercial properties (Best Buy, Home Depot) over the easterly portion, and newly planned or under construction commercial developments over the westerly portion which have been part of these design considerations for the roadway. The roadway's design features are supportive of the recommended 30 mph posted speed limit.

The Transportation Department has consulted with the Police Department on this proposal and the Police Department is supportive of this designated speed limit of 30 mph.

Additionally, there are two corrections necessary in the speed limit Ordinance No. 6191 related to the NE 2nd Street and 114th Avenue NE/SE corridors (see vicinity map). The limits in Ordinance No. 6191 erroneously extends 114th Avenue NE northward toward NE 6th Street, which is a dead end, and should rather reflect the bend turning toward NE 2nd Street. The corrections would read as follows:

“NE 2nd Street from Bellevue Way NE to 114th Avenue NE (corrected from 112th Avenue NE) and 114th Avenue SE/NE from NE 2nd Street to SE 8th Street. This effectively will clarify that the short segment of 114th Avenue NE where it bends to connect with NE 2nd Street at 112th Avenue NE will be inclusive of the corridor limits and posted at 30 mph.”

As described in the proposed Ordinance, it will amend the Ordinance No. 6191 on speed limits to include this extension of NE 4th Street (116th Avenue NE to 120th Avenue NE) and to further correct and clarify the speed limit along the NE 2nd Street and 114th Avenue NE/SE corridors. The applicable section of the Bellevue City Code will also be amended to coincide with the updated ordinance.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

If approved, this Ordinance becomes effective on December 20, 2015.

OPTIONS:

1. Adopt the Ordinance establishing a speed limit of 30 mph for the NE 4th Street Extension, correcting certain naming limits related to NE 2nd Street and 114th Avenue NE/SE corridors, and amending Chapter 11.32 of the Bellevue Municipal Code (BCC).
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1.

MOTION:

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6260 establishing a speed limit of 30 mph for the NE 4th Street Extension, correcting certain naming limits related to NE 2nd Street and 114th Avenue NE/SE corridors, and amending Chapter 11.32 of the Bellevue Municipal Code (BCC).

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Vicinity Map (NE 4th Street Extension; NE 2nd Street and 114th Avenue NE/SE corridors)
- B. Proposed Ordinance No. 6260