

November 20, 2017

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

Ordinance relating to speed limits; amending Section 11.32.020 of the Bellevue City Code to establish a speed limit of 30 mph for 120th Avenue NE between NE 4th Street and NE Bellevue-Redmond Road and to reduce the speed limit for NE Bellevue-Redmond Road between 120th Avenue NE and 124th Avenue NE to 25 mph.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

STAFF CONTACTS

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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.”

120th Avenue NE between NE 4th Street and NE Bellevue-Redmond Road and NE Bellevue-Redmond Road between 120th Avenue NE and 124th Avenue NE are newly configured streets where it is necessary to modify the City code to reflect the revised and intended conditions of these roadways.

RCW:

As authorized under RCW 46.61.415, local jurisdictions 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 its consistency with state law and national practices in setting posted speed limits.

Comprehensive Plan:

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 together with widened segments of 120th Avenue NE and the reconfigured intersection of 120th Avenue NE at NE 8th Street have come to fruition after an extensive planning, design, and construction process. With the completion of these improvements, these roadways begin to fulfill their intended purpose as a primary arterial link between I-405 and the Bel-Red

District. Along with the reconfiguration of the 120th Avenue NE/NE 8th Street intersection, the east/west segment of NE Bellevue-Redmond Road was also changed to have a new tie in with the 120th Avenue NE corridor. Attachment A provides a vicinity map depicting these roadways as they now exist.

With modifications of the aforementioned road segments completed, it is necessary to formalize a posted speed and incorporate it into the City's established speed limit ordinance and BCC 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 these roadways, considerations to maintaining safe operating speed were made that included provisions for lighting, access management, horizontal and vertical curvature design, sound channelization features and non-motorized accommodations, amongst other measures. There are also existing commercial properties and newly planned or under construction commercial developments in the area which have been part of these design considerations. The NE 4th Street extension (116th to 120th) completed in Fall 2015; the 120th Avenue NE Phase 1 segment (NE 4th to NE 7th) completed in Summer 2015; and, the recent completion of 120th Avenue NE Phase 2 from NE 7th Street to NE 12th Street, all serve as key arterial linkages working together to realize the vision set out for the area.

With the intended function of the 120th Avenue NE corridor as a Major Arterial and an ever-growing commercial/mixed use district linked to the I-405 and SR 520 freeways, it is appropriate to consider consistency of the subject segment's speed limit with that of the corridor segments on either side. The currently established speed limit for NE 4th Street leading to 120th Avenue NE is 30 mph (established in 2015 by Ordinance No. 6260). Similarly, the posted speed on 120th Avenue NE north of NE Bellevue-Redmond Road extending to Northup Way has historically been established as 30 mph. With the subject segment of 120th Avenue NE (NE 4th Street to NE Bellevue-Redmond Road), a posting of 30 mph would be consistent with the intended function and posting for the corridor.

The 120th Avenue NE corridor segments follow sound engineering principles in their design which support their arterial functionality and posted speed of 30 mph. Speed study data collection conducted in September 2017, following full use of the roadway, also support the corridor's arterial function and posting to a speed limit of 30 mph. Taken together, the Transportation Department finds it appropriate to establish a speed limit of 30 mph for the subject 120th Avenue NE segment and support associated modifications to the speed limit code.

In addition to the 120th Avenue NE arterial corridor conditions, there are revisions to the code necessary to reflect the reconfigured connection and alignment for NE Bellevue-Redmond Rd in this immediate vicinity. This segment now terminates with its connection at 120th Avenue NE rather than its previous extension to NE 8th Street. With its reconfigured and shortened roadway section, it effectively changes its function supporting a lower speed limit on NE Bellevue-Redmond Rd to 25 mph (from its current 30 mph posting) between 120th Avenue NE and 124th Avenue NE. It should be mentioned the easterly few hundred feet of Segment 2 (NE Bellevue-Redmond Road) approaching 124th Avenue NE is also known as NE 10th Place.

The Transportation Department has consulted with the Police Department on these changes and the Police Department is supportive of the proposal.

The applicable section of the Bellevue City Code will also be amended to coincide with these changes in the updated ordinance.

EFFECTIVE DATE

If approved, this Ordinance becomes effective on December 26, 2017.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance relating to speed limits; amending Section 11.32.020 of the Bellevue City Code to establish a speed limit of 30 mph for 120th Avenue NE between NE 4th Street and NE Bellevue-Redmond Road and to reduce the speed limit for NE Bellevue-Redmond Road between 120th Avenue NE and 124th Avenue NE to 25 mph.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

MOTION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6379 relating to speed limits; amending Section 11.32.020 of the Bellevue City Code to establish a speed limit of 30 mph for 120th Avenue NE between NE 4th Street and NE Bellevue-Redmond Road and to reduce the speed limit for NE Bellevue-Redmond Road between 120th Avenue NE and 124th Avenue NE to 25 mph.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Vicinity Map (120th Avenue NE and NE Bellevue-Redmond Rd street segments)
 - B. Proposed Ordinance No. 6379 with strikethrough
- Proposed Ordinance No. 6379

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

N/A