City of **JOPLIN** City Council Agenda Item

Requested Council Meeting Date: June 6, 2016
Council Bill No. 2016-127

Item: Amend Chapter 114-822, Traffic, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin dealing with the speed limit established on 32nd Street from Main Street to Jackson Avenue

Originating Department: PUBLIC WORKS – ENGINEERING

Attachments: 1) Location Map
2) Current Sections of Code being amended
3) Council Bill No. 2016-127

Department Head: Nicholas A. Heatherly	Date:
Finance Department: Leslie Haase	Date:
City Attorney: Peter C. Edwards	Date:
City Manager: Samuel L. Anselm	Date:

Recommended Action: 1) Approval of an Ordinance to change the existing 35 mph speed limit on 32nd Street from Main Street west to Jackson Avenue to 40 mph speed limit.

Background: A citizen brought to our attention inconsistent speed limits at this location. We conducted a speed study on 32nd Street from Main Street to Jackson Avenue. The study was done based on AASHTO standards, which is a set of nationally recognized engineering standards. Guidelines for the study used criteria from speed limit determination such as prevailing speed, accident rate, and access points along this section of roadway. Prevailing speed or 85th percentile speed was between 35 and 40 MPH. Our recommended speed is 40 MPH. This is a 5 MPH increase in speed from the posted 35 MPH limit. This increase in the speed limit is expected to reduce both the number and severity of accidents on this section of 32nd Street. It will make the speed limit consistent from Range Line Road to Schifferdecker Avenue.

Discussion: The Traffic Commission took up the issue on January 14, 2016 and approved a recommendation to the Joplin City Council for the permanent establishment of the said 40 mph zone. After review, the City of Joplin's engineering staff recommends this speed increase.

Recommendation: The Traffic Commission approved a motion to forward the increased speed recommendation to City Council for an Ordinance to change the existing speed limit of 35 mph to a 40 mph speed limit on 32nd Street from Main Street to Jackson Avenue. Approval of this ordinance is requested on an emergency basis within the meaning of Section 2.12 (1) in that said ordinance is providing for public safety as provided by the Home Rule Charter for the City of Joplin.