City of **JOPLIN** City Council Agenda Item

Requested Council Meeting Date: June 6, 2016
Council Bill No. 2016-128

Item: Amend Chapter 114-822, Traffic, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin dealing with the speed limits established on Connecticut Avenue from 20th Street north to Murphy Blvd.

Originating Department: PUBLIC WORKS – ENGINEERING

Attachments: 1) Location Map
2) Current Sections of Code being amended
3) Council Bill No. 2016-128

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 30 mph speed limit on Connecticut Avenue from 20th Street north to 15th Street; to 35 mph, and the existing 25 mph speed limit from 15th Street north to Murphy Blvd. to 35 mph.

Background: A speed study was conducted on Connecticut Avenue from 20th Street to Murphy Boulevard. Speed observations were collected along Connecticut Avenue just north of 15th Street and at 18th Street. This 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 observed along Connecticut just north of 15th Street (a segment posted at 25 MPH) was between 30 and 35 MPH. The 85th percentile speed observed along Connecticut north of 18th Street was between 35 and 40 MPH. Our recommended speed is 35 MPH. This is a 10 MPH increase in speed from the posted 25 MPH limit north of 15th and a 5 MPH increase in speed from the posted 30 MPH limit between 15th and 20th. This increase in the speed limit is expected to reduce both the number and severity of accidents on this section of Connecticut Avenue. It will also provide a consistent speed limit from the south city limits to Murphy Blvd.

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 35 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 increase speed recommendation to City Council for an Ordinance to change the existing speed limit of 30 mph to a 35 mph speed limit on Connecticut Avenue from 20th Street to Murphy Boulevard be approved. Approval of 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.