City of **JOPLIN** City Council Agenda Item

Requested Council Meeting Date: August 1, 2016
Council Bill No. 2016-134

Item: Amend Chapter 114-822, Traffic, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin dealing with the speed limits established on Indiana Avenue from 23rd Street to 24th Street

Originating Department: PUBLIC WORKS – ENGINEERING

Attachments: 1) Location Map
2) Current Sections of Code being amended
3) Council Bill No. 2016-134

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 Indiana Avenue from 23rd Street south to 24th Street; to 25 mph speed limit.

Background: A citizen brought to our attention high speeds along Indiana Avenue in front of the High School. From June 8, 2016, a speed study was conducted on Indiana from 22nd Street to 26th Street. 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. The speed limit on Indiana between 23rd Street and 24th Street is 35 MPH. Our recommended speed is 25 MPH. This is a 10 MPH decrease in speed from the posted 35 MPH limit. This decrease is expected to reduce both the number and severity of accidents on this section of Indiana. It will also decrease the speed limit to 25 MPH in advance of the hill between 23rd and 24th.

Discussion: The Traffic Commission took up the issue on July 14, 2016, and approved a recommendation to the Joplin City Council for the permanent establishment of the said 25 mph zone. After review, the City of Joplin's engineering staff recommends this speed decrease.

Recommendation: The Traffic Commission approved a motion to forward the decrease speed recommendation to City Council for an Ordinance to change the existing speed limit of 35 mph to a 25 mph speed limit on Indiana Avenue from 23rd Street to 24th Street. 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.