City of **JOPLIN** City Council Agenda Item

Requested Council Meeting Date: August 21, 2017
Council Bill No. 2017-147

Item: Amend Chapter 114-822 Traffic, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin dealing with the speed limits established on Schifferdecker Avenue and Zora Avenue.

Originating Department: Public Works – Engineering

Attachments: 1) Location Maps
2) Current Sections of Code being amended
3) Council Bill No. 2017-147

Department Head: David K. Hertzberg
Finance Department: Leslie Haase
City Attorney: Peter C. Edwards
City Manager: Samuel L. Anselm

Recommended Action: Approval of an Ordinance to change the existing 35 mph speed limit on Schifferdecker Avenue from 20th Street to 9th Street to 45 mph and the existing 35 mph speed limit on Zora Avenue from St. Louis to Range Line to 40 mph.

Background: A speed study was conducted on Schifferdecker Avenue from 20th Street to 9th Street. Speed observations were collected along Schifferdecker Avenue at the intersections and at the 1700 block. 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 Schifferdecker Avenue was 46 mph. The posted speed limit for the segment is 35 mph. Engineering staff recommends an increase to the speed limit of 10 mph. The existing speed limit from south of 20th Street is 45 mph and increasing the speed limit along the segment in question would provide a consistent speed limit along the corridor. Another speed study was conducted on Zora Avenue from St. Louis to Range Line. Speed observations were collected along Zora Avenue at the intersections or St. Louis and Florida Avenues. 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 Zora Avenue was

43 mph. The posted speed limit for this segment is 35 mph. Engineering staff recommends an increase to the speed limit of 5 mph. The existing speed limit from west of St. Louis Avenue is 35 mph and increasing the speed limit along the segment in question would provide a consistent speed limit along the corridor

Discussion: The Traffic Commission took up the issue on July 13, 2017 and approved a recommendation to the Joplin City Council for the permanent establishment of the said speed zones to 45 mph for Schifferdecker Avenue and 40 mph for Zora Avenue. After review, the City of Joplin's engineering staff recommends these speed increases.

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 35 mph to a 45-mph speed limit on Schifferdecker from 20th Street to 9th Street. 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 35 mph to a 40 mph on Zora Avenue from St. Louis to Range Line. 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.

Current Speed Limits

Sec. 114-822. – Specific speed limits.

Street	Extent	Speed
Schifferdecker	Fourth Street to 20th Street	35
	20th Street to south city limits	45
Zora Avenue	Main Street to St. Louis Avenue	40
	St. Louis Avenue to Range Line	35

(Code 1977, § 39-472; Ord. No. 96-027 , § 1, 2-5-96; Ord. No. 2002-086, § 1, 4-10-02 ; Ord. No. 2006-229, § 1, 12-18-06 ; Ord. No. 2013-186, § 1, 8-19-13 ;

Proposed Speed Limits

Sec. 114-822. – Specific speed limits.

Street	Extent	Speed
Schifferdecker	Fourth Street to 9th	35
	9th Street to south city limits	45
Zora Avenue	Main Street to Range Line	40

Code 1977, § 39-472; Ord. No. 96-027 , § 1, 2-5-96; Ord. No. 2002-086, § 1, 4-10-02 ; Ord. No. 2006-229, § 1, 12-18-06 ; Ord. No. 2013-186, § 1, 8-19-13 ; Ord. No. 2016-085 , § 1, 6-6-16; Ord. No. 2016-086 , § 1, 6-6-16; Ord. No. 2016-113 , § 1, 8-1-2016)