Joe M. England, P.E. County Engineer



3151 SE Inner Loop, Suite B Georgetown, Texas 78626 Telephone (512) 943-3336 Fax (512) 943-3335

Williamson County Unified Road System

To:

Williamson County Commissioners' Court

From:

Joe M. England P.E., County Engineer

Date:

November 24, 2009

Subject:

Proposed Speed Limit on Shell Spur

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According to the 2006 edition of the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices the following factors should form the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation for determining the proper numerical value for a speed zone. The factors are as follows:

When a speed limit is to be posted, it should be within 5 mph of the 85th-percentile speed of free-flowing traffic. Option:

Other factors that may be considered when establishing speed limits are the following:

- A. Road characteristics, shoulder condition, grade, alignment, and sight distance;
- B. The pace speed;
- C. Roadside development and environment;
- D. Parking practices and pedestrian activity; and
- E. Reported crash experience for at least a 12-month period.

Upon my field investigation, I found that the section of Shell Spur from Logan Ranch to Shell Road consist of a rural street design within a rural environment with no currently posted speed limit.

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The section of Shell Spur from Logan Ranch to Shell Road consist of approximately 50 feet of right-of-way (ROW), 22 feet of pavement, and no shoulders. The grade is flat with few horizontal curves. There is little roadside development and culture (agricultural along with single family) which generates restrained roadside friction. Parking is off of the right-of-way. There was no observed pedestrian activity. To this date, I have no accident information for the last 12-month period that would dictate any certain speed limit.

A speed study was conducted from October 20 to October 21, 2009 on the section of Shell Spur from Logan Ranch to Shell Road. The result of this study shows an 85% speed of 50 MPH. The 10 MPH pace speed was 41-50 MPH.

The pace speeds would indicate a proposed posting of either 45 or 50 MPH with the 85% suggesting the upper limit of this range. However, due to the horizontal curvature of the road and it leading into a neighborhood, it is my professional opinion that a posting of 45 MPH is proper for the section of Shell Spur from Logan Ranch to Shell Road.

Williamson County Unified Road System 3151 SE Inner Loop, Suite B Georgetown, Texas 78626 512-943-3330

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Percent in Pace:
Number of Vehicles > 60 MPH:
Percent of Vehicles > 60 MPH:
Mean Speed(Average):

Stats