## 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:

January 7, 2010

Subject:

Proposed Speed Limit on Great Oaks Drive

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.

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 Great Oaks Drive from O'Connor Blvd. to Brushy Creek Road consist of an urban street design within a suburban environment with a currently posted speed limit of 30 MPH.

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The section of Great Oaks Drivé from O'Connor Blvd. to Brushy Creek Road consist of approximately 100 feet of right-of-way (ROW), two 24 foot driving lanes, and curb and gutter. The grade is flat with few horizontal curves. There is roadside development and culture (limited commercial and an elementary school with single family homes that back up to the street) which generates restrained roadside friction. Parking is off of the right-of-way. There is moderate 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 March 10 to March 11, 2009 on the section of Great Oaks Drive from O'Connor Blvd. to Brushy Creek Road. The result of this study shows an 85% speed of 36 MPH. The 10 MPH pace speed was 26-35 MPH.

The pace speeds would indicate a proposed posting of either 30 or 35 MPH with the 85% suggesting the upper limit of this range. It is my professional opinion that a posting of 35 MPH is proper for the section of Great Oaks Drive from O'Connor Blvd. to Brushy Creek Road.

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

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