



City of Missoula, Montana
Item to be Referred to City Council Committee

Committee: Public Works

Item: Establishing a Temporary Speed Limit of George Elmer Drive

Date: October 21, 2021

Sponsor(s): Jordan Hess & Kevin Slovarp

Prepared by: Katie Emery

Ward(s) Affected:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Wards | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

Action Required:

Request Public Works & Mobility staff conduct a speed study for the entirety of George Elmer Drive, between the limits of Mullan Road to the south and Pius Way to the north, and set a temporary speed limit for the same at 30 mph.

Recommended Motion(s):

I move the City Council: Authorize the Mayor to direct Public Works & Mobility staff to conduct a speed study for the entirety of George Elmer Drive, between the limits of Mullan Road to the south and Pius Way to the north, and set a temporary speed limit for the same at 30 mph.

Timeline:

Referral to committee:	October 25, 2021
Committee discussion:	October 27, 2021
Council action (or sets hearing):	November 1, 2021
Public Hearing (if required):	N/A
Deadline:	N/A

Background and Alternatives Explored:

Pursuant to Chapter 10.18 of Missoula Municipal Code, a speed study may be requested by City Council and in doing so may also set a temporary speed limit for the same part of a street for which the speed study has been requested.

The posted speed limit for the entire length of George Elmer Drive from Pius Way (north end) to Mullan Road (south end) is 45 mph. Area residents (44 Ranch and Flynn Ranch subdivisions) have contacted Council members about traffic noise and safety concerns for non-motorized users. The majority of these concerns stem from construction vehicles (constructing adjacent subdivision infrastructure and buildings) using this street while traveling at 45 mph.

Within the City residential collector roads are generally posted between 25 and 35 mph. If the posted speed limit was temporarily reduced from 45 mph to 30 mph, then noise would be suppressed and safety for the non-motorized users of the street would be enhanced. In addition, the BUILD Grant Project has designed future George Elmer Drive facilities to a 30 mph speed.

A speed study was going to be conducted anyway for this street to potentially lower the posted speed limit to 30 mph like other collector roads included with the BUILD Grant Project. This request is to temporarily lower the posted limit prior to the anticipated speed study to be completed as a result of the BUILD Grant Project.

Financial Implications:

None

Links to external websites:

Mullan BUILD plans are located at <https://www.mullanbuild.com/>