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Policy on the Installation of School Speed Zones

DATE: December 22, 2014

Update: May 2, 2022

Update: April 17, 2023

In 2014, the City Manager received correspondence from the Ankeny Community School District requesting that the City consider the installation of “reduced speed when flashing” warning signs with flashing beacons at applicable school locations within Ankeny. Five new school speed zones were established in 2015. The ~~following policy update addresses in 2022 relocated the special school zone speed limits and associated flashing beacons specifically at designated school crossing crosswalks with trained adult crossing guards. the installation and uses of such signs and flashing beacons. The 2023 update expands the policy to support residents attending any public or private elementary school in the City.~~

All traffic control measures shall be installed and maintained on the public streets adjacent to the school’s property within the City according to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and according to the recommendations of the Elementary School Walkability Study, dated May 16, 2022. As a supplement to the MUTCD and the Walkability Study, a “School Speed Zone” shall be established on the public streets that meet the following criteria:

- Any public street that is adjacent to ~~a publican~~ elementary school or has a designated school crossing crosswalk that serves a nearby elementary school, and
- The public street has a signed and marked school crossing crosswalk with a trained adult crossing guard, and
- Said school crosswalk is not located at or near an intersection that is controlled by a traffic signal or all-way *STOP* control.

When the above criteria are met on an arterial street, a “25-mph When Flashing” School Zone shall be established; or when met on collector or local streets, a “15-mph When Flashing” School Zone shall be established by installing and maintaining the following traffic control devices:

- Install a School Speed Limit Assembly with “Speed Limit 25 mph when Flashing” or “Speed Limit 15 mph when Flashing” in advance of the school crossing crosswalk from both directions at a distance dictated by the MUTCD.
- Install yellow flashing beacons on the School Speed Limit Assembly that will activate during the specific school arrival / dismissal times so that the school zone speed limit is in effect at the normal times when students are approaching or departing the school property.
- Install a School Zone Sign along the street before the School Speed Limit Assembly.
- Install an End School Speed Limit sign at the downstream end of the school zone.