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Municipal Authority to Alter Speed Limits

June 19, 2018

What Authority a Municipality has to regulate Speed limits.

Sec. 545.356. AUTHORITY OF MUNICIPALITY TO ALTER SPEED LIMITS. (a) The governing body of a municipality, for a highway or part of a highway in the municipality, including a highway of the state highway system, **has the same authority to alter by ordinance prima facie speed limits from the results of an engineering and traffic investigation** as the Texas Transportation Commission on an officially designated or marked highway of the state highway system. The governing body of a municipality may not modify the rule established by Section 545.351 (a) or establish a speed limit of more than 75 miles per hour.

Transportation Code 545.356

- ▶ The governing body of a municipality, for a highway or a part of a highway in the municipality that is not an officially designated or marked highway or road of the state highway system, may declare a lower speed limit of not less than 25 miles per hour, if the governing body determines that the prima facie speed limit on the highway is unreasonable or unsafe. (No Speed Study Required)
- ▶ This applies only to two-lane, undivided highway or part of a highway.

Other Requirements

- ▶ A municipality that declares a lower speed limit on a highway or part of a highway under the provisions of the previous slide (without a speed study) must prior to February 1 of each year:
 - ▶ Publish on its internet website and submit to the Texas Department of Public Safety a report that compares for each of the two previous calendar years:
 - ▶ The number of traffic citations issued by peace officers of the municipality and the alleged speed of the vehicles.
 - ▶ The number of warning citations issued by peace officer of the municipality.
 - ▶ The number of vehicular accidents that resulted in injury or death and were attributable to speed limit violations.

Cost Estimations and Considerations

- ▶ Traffic Study for entire City estimated at \$100,000 plus
- ▶ New speed limit signage estimated at \$60,000
- ▶ Staff time to replace signage
- ▶ Staff time for recurring reports to state (No traffic Study)
- ▶ Increased complaints for speeding (lower speed)

Accident Data

- ▶ 12,907 reported accidents in the past 18 years.
- ▶ 158 involved pedestrians.
- ▶ 36 of those that involved pedestrians occurred on interior residential streets.
- ▶ Speed was not listed as a contributing factor on any of the interior residential street pedestrian accidents.
- ▶ No fatalities on interior residential streets.

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Questions!