

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Communication

Date: 2/14/2024

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

Subject: From the Director, Department of Transportation, requesting to amend the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances Chapter 71 Section 71.30 to change the speed limit from forty (40) miles per hour to thirty-five (35) miles per hour on South 13th Street (CTH V) from West College Avenue (CTH ZZ) to West Puetz Road.

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Request to amend Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances Chapter 71 Section 71.30 to change the speed limit from forty (40) miles per hour to thirty-five (35) miles per hour on S. 13th St. (CTH V) from W. College Ave. (CTH ZZ) to W. Puetz Rd.

POLICY

The Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 349.11 authorizes local authorities to modify speed restrictions on a highway or part thereof which is under their jurisdiction. Chapter 71 Section 71.30 of the Milwaukee County Ordinances establishes speed limits for County Trunk Highways (CTH) including South 13th Street (CTH V) pursuant to the authority established by the State Statute mentioned above. When the local authority determines upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that any statutory speed limit is greater than is reasonable or safe under conditions found to exist may determine and declare a reasonable and safe minimum speed limit on the highway or part thereof in question.

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County has jurisdiction of S. 13th St. (CTH V) from South County Line to W. College Ave. (CTH ZZ). The current posted speed on S. 13th St. (CTH V) in the Milwaukee County jurisdiction is forty (40) miles per hour. The City of Milwaukee jurisdiction of S. 13th St. north of W. College Ave. (CTH ZZ) is currently posted for thirty-five (35) miles per hour.

The segment of S. 13th St. (CTH V) from W. Puetz Rd. to W. Drexel Ave. is being reconstructed with traffic calming geometrics in 2024. The Transportation Services Division of the County's Department of Transportation performed an analysis of S. 13th St. (CTH V). It has been determined that a speed limit of thirty-five (35) miles per hour on S. 13th St. (CTH V) from W. College Ave. (CTH ZZ) to W. Puetz Rd. would be

appropriate to establish a safe and uniform speed limit in this corridor. The proposed thirty-five (35) miles per hour speed limit is better suited than the existing speed limit in terms of the design speed of the proposed roadway, roadside friction, speed enforcement efforts, and overall traffic safety and service aspects of the facility and adjacent developments.

Initial municipal input of the speed limit change was requested from the City of Milwaukee on August 17, 2023 and from the City of Oak Creek on October 2, 2023 through email correspondence. The Cities of Milwaukee and Oak Creek both responded with support of the speed limit reduction.

On October 24, 2023, a letter was sent to nearby property owners, the Cities of Milwaukee and Oak Creek, and Milwaukee County Board Supervisor Steve Taylor (Representing the 17th District) requesting input on the proposal of the posted speed limit change within the subject limits. In addition, Public Involvement Meeting comments were collected as part of the S. 13th St. (CTH V) reconstruction project from W. Puetz Rd. to W. Drexel Ave from August 7, 2023. Overall, five public comments were received via write-in, email, and voicemail regarding the speed limit. Out of the five comments, three agreed with the speed limit reduction and two were opposed.

On January 23, 2024, an email was sent to Supervisor Steve Taylor requesting input regarding the speed limit change. Supervisor Taylor responded with support of the reduction.

Attached is a map showing the limits of the speed limit change and correspondence between the Cities of Milwaukee and Oak Creek.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Posted speed limits inform drivers and motorists of speed restrictions and are an essential part in keeping highways safe for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclist throughout Milwaukee County aligning to the strategic plan (2C, 3B and 3C).

- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.
- 3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability.
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

FISCAL EFFECT

No property tax levy impact results from this action.

TERMS

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

andrea.weddle-henning@milwaukeecountywi.gov

donna.brownmartin@milwaukeecountywi.gov

PREPARED BY:

Andrea Weddle-Henning, P.E., Director of Transportation Engineering, MCDOT

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna Brown-Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Fiscal Note

Location Map

Correspondence with the Cities of Oak Creek and Milwaukee

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk