



Reducing Speed Limits in Business and Residence Districts

City Council Legislative Meeting

March 8, 2022

Authority to Reduce Speed Limits

Updated State Code:

State Code: Cities can reduce speed limits as low as **15 mph in business and residence districts**

City Code:

Current: City can reduce speed limits as low as 25 mph

Proposed: City can reduce speed limits **as low as 15 mph in business and residence districts**

Recommendation acknowledges existing enabling legislation from the state and makes City Code consistent with the Code of Virginia.

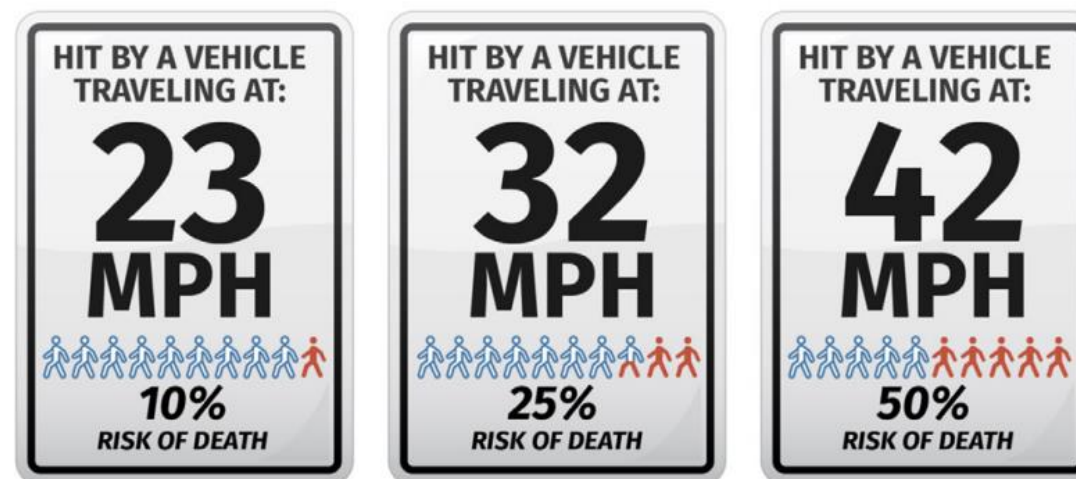
****Amending City Code would not have any immediate or direct impact on existing speed limits in the City****

Background

- **Vision Zero Action Plan** adopted by City Council in 2017
- Speed is recognized as the **fundamental factor** in crash severity
- 1 in 7 pedestrian crashes is **fatal or severe**
- **Children and the elderly** are especially vulnerable
- **Speeding and cut-through traffic** are key concerns voiced by residents

“Setting safer speed limits is a critical tool for reducing crashes and injury, and methods for setting speed limits should be customized to the context of the roadway.”

- *National Roadway Safety Strategy*, US Department of Transportation



US Department of Transportation

Process for Reducing Speed Limits in Alexandria

T&ES performs study

T&ES makes recommendation to
Traffic & Parking Board

Traffic & Parking Board makes
recommendation to the City Manager

City Manager approves change in
speed limit

T&ES installs new speed limit signs

*This process
remains unchanged
by the proposed
ordinance.*

Recommendation

That the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance to authorize the City Manager to reduce posted speed limits to less than 25 miles per hour, but not less than 15 miles per hour, in business and residence districts.