



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Karen Hill, P.E., Transportation Engineer, staff representative for the Traffic Operations Committee and Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

DATE: February 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Response to City Council Referral: Request for review of potential traffic improvements on River Road

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

On November 12, 2024, City Council referred a communication from Councilor Horne, on behalf of a constituent, requesting consideration be given to implementing traffic improvements on River Road to the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) and Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) for review

River Road is a local street with 1,468 average daily traffic (ADT) and a posted speed limit of 30 mph.

TOC has reviewed similar speed concerns on River Road in the past. Prior speed data has shown occasional high-speed vehicles during commuter hours on weekdays, the lunch hour on weekends, as well as very late at night. However, data indicates that 85% of the time, vehicles in both directions are traveling at speeds of 40 mph or less.

Discussion

TOC discussed the referral during its November 19, 2024 meeting. Maria Fowler of 1 River Road; Jane Toumpas of 64 River Road, and Councilor Horne attended the meeting to discuss their concerns.

Ms. Fowler shared that two utility poles on either side of her property have been struck by motor vehicles within the last 18 months. She shared concerns about excessive speeding and lack of curve warning signs in this area of River Road. She also mentioned she has replaced her mailbox twice in the last 6 months due to motor vehicle collisions.

Ms. Toumpas shared that the utility pole in front of her house was hit in 2018, and has had countless side mirrors taken off due to drivers exceeding speed limits and not being able to navigate the roadway.

Speeds

TOC reviewed prior speed data summarized during May 2021 for River Road near #10, as follows:

| Direction | Avg (mph) | 85th (mph) |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Northbound | 35 | 39 |
| Southbound | 36 | 40 |

85th percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85 percent of the drivers travel on a road segment.

Avg = Average speed

mph = miles per hour

Given the reoccurring speed concerns and collected data, the Police Department's representative to TOC indicated that the Police Department will utilize its upcoming highway safety grant to increase targeted speed enforcement on River Road.

It was also the consensus of TOC to install additional chevron signage along the curve facing Washington Street for southbound traffic, as well as curve warning signs in each direction. Signage along Washington Street was installed on December 23, 2024. Remaining signage will be installed by the General Services Department in the near future once materials are received and as weather allows.

TPAC reviewed this referral during its December 5, 2024 meeting and was in support of the recommendations made by the Traffic Operations Committee.

cc: Traffic Operations Committee
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee