



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Mike Land, City Manager

From: Traci E. Leach, Deputy City Manager

Date: April 13, 2021

Reference: DART Rail Update: Amendment to Article 7-2-18

2040: Innovative Transportation Networks

Introduction:

This work session item will provide an update to the City Council on an upcoming ordinance amendment related to the operation of the Silver Line trains. Article 7-2-18 of the Code of Ordinances states, “Except as otherwise provided in section 7-2-19, it shall be unlawful for any engineer or other person in charge of any locomotive, train, motor car or other vehicle for the transportation of freight or passengers by railroad to run the same onto any street crossing within the corporate limits of the city at a greater rate of speed than 20 miles per hour.” DART is requesting that the Council consider amending the ordinance maximum speed to 60 mph.

Background:

The Silver Line will be crossing through eight at-grade crossings within the corporate limits of the City and DART has requested that the City Council amend this ordinance to allow for speeds greater than 20 miles per hour through these locations. The maximum design speeds for crossings in Coppell vary depending on specific location and range from 25 mph to 60 mph. As the trains approach the residential and business core of the City, the maximum operating speeds slow considerably from those identified for the industrial and boundary crossings.

Street Crossing	Operating Speed	
Royal Lane	60	mph
Freeport Parkway	55	mph
Coppell Road	55	mph
Southwestern Boulevard	25	mph
East Belt Line Road	35	mph

Moore Road	35	mph
Mockingbird Lane	35	mph
South MacArthur Boulevard	50	mph
Fairway Drive	50	mph

The amendment requested would be applicable to passenger train service for the DART Silver Line only. It would not impact freight train traffic.

Legal: The City Attorney will draft and review the proposed ordinance change, as directed by the City Council.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Recommendation: This is a briefing only. No action is requested at this time.