



Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

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Mr. Richard Proehl, Chair
House Committee on Transportation
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka KS 66612

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re: HB 2568 – to provide the option to decrease a maximum speed limit in residence districts

Mr. Proehl:

The Brook Creek Neighborhood Association is voicing our support of HB 2568, that would allow local authorities to decrease a speed limit in a residence district to 5 miles per hour, and to decrease any speed limit without requiring an engineering and traffic investigation.

As you know, KSA 8-1560 allows municipalities to decrease the maximum limit within any residence district, but not to less than 20 miles per hour. And to do so, the statute requires an engineering and traffic investigation first, to determine if the lower speed limit would be reasonable and safe under the conditions found to exist.

For various reasons such as the occurrence of speeding cut-through traffic, disinterested delivery vehicle drivers, and concerns for the safety of school children and bicyclists, my neighborhood is trying to get motorists to drive more slowly and safely here. So far we have managed to get the speed limit on a few streets reduced to 20 miles per hour. However, in some situations like in the vicinity of schools, we would prefer to have lower speed limits. Also, the process is slow and cumbersome because each street requires an engineering and traffic investigation. Such investigations are also a financial burden for the City and the taxpayers.

Pedestrian fatality studies indicate that as vehicle speeds double, crash impact force quadruples. Statistics show that there is a 5% fatality rate for pedestrians at 20mph, a 45% fatality rate at 30mph, an 85% fatality rate at 40mph, and a 90% fatality rate at 50mph. Note, the numbers vary from study to study, depending on methodology.

We think it is important for municipalities to have the option of speed limits lower than 20mph under some circumstances with the goal of 0% pedestrian fatality rate. We also believe that having that option would enhance the effectiveness of the City of Lawrence Neighborhood Traffic Management Program. We want to emphasize that this amendment to KSA 8-1560 would not mandate a given speed limit in a residence district, only provide the option of it being lower than 20 miles per hour.

Thank you for your consideration. We request that you do what you can to secure an affirmative vote in committee, and have the bill adopted by both houses of the Legislature.

Thank you,
Jesse Brinson, President