



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** January 13, 2020
SUBJECT: Consider Ordinance No. 3636, amending Section 54-121 of the North Richland Hills Code of Ordinances; establishing a combined school speed zone on Hawk Avenue and Ice House Drive for Birdville High School and Walker Creek Elementary.
PRESENTER: Caroline Waggoner, City Engineer

SUMMARY:

The City Council is being asked to amend Section 54-121 of the Code of Ordinances to provide for a combined school speed zone in Hometown on Hawk Avenue and Ice House Drive.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

A school zone was established on Hawk, Bridge, and Parker for Walker Creek Elementary in 2005. The Birdville High School campus is located less than 200 feet from the Walker Creek campus on Hawk Drive, and also has a school zone on Hawk Avenue which was established in 1999. Since the zones were established, the formerly undeveloped area in the vicinity of the schools has been largely built out, to include hundreds of single-family lots, several multi-family complexes, and the city's public library and recreation center. The background traffic on Hawk has increased dramatically as a result of these developments.

Although the Walker Creek and Birdville campuses operate on different timelines, their proximity to each other effectively creates the perception that the effective school zones overlap. However, there is a roughly 400-foot gap between the two zones on Hawk Drive, leading to driver confusion and potential safety concerns, particularly for pedestrians in the Hawk corridor. Hawk Drive is considered a minor collector roadway, with a 30mph speed limit.

The proposed ordinance establishes one combined school zone on Hawk Avenue and Ice House Drive, to amend the existing school zones on Bridge Street and Mid-Cities Boulevard which are already in place.

The proposed ordinance identifies the geographic limits of the zone(s), but the effective school zone times are established separately by the City Engineer per the City's Code to allow reasonable flexibility based on instructional calendars and campus operational times. The school zone effective times interior to Hometown (Hawk, Bridge, and Ice House) will bracket both campus' start / end times. The school zone time on Mid-Cities Boulevard will remain coordinated with the high school. A graphic exhibit is provided to depict the proposed limits and effective times of the school zones.



RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Ordinance No. 3636, amending Section 54-121 of the Code of Ordinances to establish a combined school speed zone on Hawk Avenue and Ice House Drive.