

TO: Maleshia Farmer, City Attorney
FROM: Caroline Waggoner, P.E., City Engineer
SUBJECT: Rufe Snow Project Construction Speed Limit
DATE: January 16, 2017



The Rufe Snow Drive project is a 1.25 mile undivided arterial widening project in the City of North Richland Hills. The existing 5-lane asphalt section is being widened and fully reconstructed as a 7-lane concrete roadway section. The project will be constructed in three distinct phases, during which time only four travel lanes are provided; two northbound and two southbound. Please accept the following justification for enforcement of a 30mph reduced speed during the construction phase.

Design Speed: The pre-project roadway had a 40 mph speed limit and a largely straight alignment. The traffic control plan (TCP) provided for construction was designed to accommodate **30mph** speeds. The TCP includes lane shifts and closures, requiring motorists to make lateral adjustments.

Access Points: There are three signalized intersections within the construction work zone, four local street connections and 31 commercial driveway connections. The commercial driveway connections will be comprised of temporary surface (gravel, flexbase, etc.) for at least part of the time. In addition these driveway connections do not have radius connections to the roadway as is typical for permanent driveways. As a result, it is necessary for exiting cars to slow down dramatically to safely make the turn. This increased disparity between through traffic speeds and turning traffic speeds is a safety concern, particularly considering the frequency of access points along the corridor.

Worker Safety: During the course of the project there will be work crews present in immediate proximity to the functioning roadway. Enforcing the 30mph design speed during construction will greatly reduce the likelihood of a motorist failing to maintain their lane and potentially injure a nearby worker.

Because the work zone is dynamic during the course of the project, requiring lane closures, excavation and paving activities at any point along the project limits, the recommended 30mph speed should apply to the full project limits until such time as the project is complete (anticipated January 2018).