

**Memorandum  
Public Works Department**



**To:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Reduce Speed Limit; 7 AV 34-38 ST  
**Date:** February 21, 2017  
**Number:** 2017-021

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**SOURCE OF REQUEST:**

Kai Swanson, Special Assistant to the President  
Augustana College  
639 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rock Island, IL 61201-2296

**NATURE OF REQUEST:**

The Traffic Engineering Committee received a request from Augustana College to lower the speed limit to 20 mph on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 34<sup>th</sup> to 38<sup>th</sup> Streets.

**MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES WARRANTS:**

Refer to attached traffic study.

**CONTACTS WITH RESIDENTS:**

None

**TRAFFIC STUDY INFORMATION:**

The current speed limit in this area is 30 mph.

The Engineering Division conducted a traffic study on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 34<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> Streets and determined that the reduction of the speed limit is not warranted.

A copy of the traffic study is attached.

**COST:**

The cost to the city is minimal.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Traffic Engineering Committee recommends that the City Council approve the request to lower the speed limit to 20 mph on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 34<sup>th</sup> to 38<sup>th</sup> Streets and direct the city attorney to prepare the necessary paperwork.

**Submitted by:** Larry Cook, Interim Public Works Director  
Traffic Engineering Committee

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**Approved by:** Randall D. Tweet, Interim City Manager

# Memorandum

## Public Works Department



**To:** Traffic Engineering Committee  
**Subject:** Request for reducing the Speed Limit on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue: between 34<sup>th</sup> & 38<sup>th</sup> Streets  
**Date:** January 20, 2017  
**TEC No:** 17-02

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The Engineering Division evaluated a request reducing the Speed limit on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 34<sup>th</sup> to 38<sup>th</sup> Streets. Currently the speed limit for this section of roadway is 30 mph. Traffic speed analysis was performed along the above road segment on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

According to the current edition of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control and Devices (MUTCD), speed limits shall be set according to the following:

1. *When a speed limit is to be posted, it should be within 5 mph of the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of free-flowing traffic.*

The traffic study indicated the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed along this section of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue was 33 mph. Therefore, the current speed limit of 30 mph is satisfactory.

2. *Other factors that may be considered when establishing speed limits are road characteristics, shoulder conditions, grade, alignment, sight distance, pace speed, roadside development, and environment.*

This section of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue was designed appropriately for a design speed of 35 mph. Therefore, this roadway section does not have any road characteristics, site distance problems or roadside conditions that would necessitate a reduction of the speed limit.

**Summary:** The traffic study performed on the referenced dates indicated that this section of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue did not meet any of the MUTCD conditions for lowering the existing speed limit.

**Submitted by:** Michael J. Kane, P.E., City Engineer

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## Office of the President

February 6, 2017

Larry Cook  
Interim Public Works Manager  
City of Rock Island  
1309 Mill Street  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201  
*Via email: [cook.larry@rigov.org](mailto:cook.larry@rigov.org)*

Dear Mr. Cook:

Please accept for consideration this request that the motor vehicle speed limit on Seventh Avenue be lowered to 20 miles per hour for that portion of the thoroughfare which transects the Augustana College campus (roughly, 34th Street to 38th Street). As you are aware, this is an area of high pedestrian volume, primarily at the six designated pedestrian cross walks between 35th and 38th Streets.

In addition to Augustana students, employees and guests, many school children from Longfellow Elementary and Alleman High School traverse the campus, and are likewise frequent users of the pedestrian crosswalks.

Augustana College President Steve Bahls and Chief of the Augustana Police Department Tom Phillis believe that lowering the speed limit in this manner will result in greater traffic and pedestrian safety in the City of Rock Island, and therefore urge positive consideration.

Should you have any questions, please do not to hesitate to contact me directly at 309.794.7419.

With thanks for all you do to make Rock Island a great community, I am

Yours,



Kai S. Swanson  
Special Assistant to the President