



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

City Manager

City Council Regular Meeting Date: June 3, 2025

To: City Council
From: Dana A. Souza, City Manager
Date: May 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Sanibel Speed Limit Study

BACKGROUND: At the November 12, 2024, City Council meeting, Councilmember DeBruce discussed the need to reduce traffic speed on Rabbit Road and Sanibel Captiva Road to make Sanibel's arterial roads safer for people and wildlife.

At the February 4, 2025, City Council meeting, during the presentation and discussion on the East Periwinkle Way Bridge Project, City Councilmembers recommended examining the feasibility of reducing the speed limit on East Periwinkle Way, from Causeway Boulevard to Lighthouse Beach Park, from 30 mph to 25 mph.

In response to the City Council requests. Staff requested a proposal from Johnson Engineering to complete a speed limit study for Rabbit Road, Sanibel Captiva Road, and East Periwinkle Way. The cost to complete the study is \$24,326.

The consultant will complete traffic counts and a speed study on Rabbit Road, Sanibel Captiva Road, and East Periwinkle Way and will deliver a report with recommendations for the City to reduce the speed of vehicles on the three roads to be studied. The report will include a recommendation for standardizing the spacing of speed limit signs on the roads to be studied.

[The Sanibel Code of Ordinances, Chapter 66, Traffic, Article III, Speed Limits, Division 1](#), states that Periwinkle Way (Ferry to Tarpon), Palm Ridge Rd. and Sanibel-Captiva Rd. have a speed limit of 35 mph and, that bridge at Buell Creek on Bay Dr. has a speed limit of 10 mph. The code does not provide speed limits for other streets or roads. Additionally, [Section 316.183\(2\), Florida Statutes](#) states "On all streets or highways, the maximum speed limits for all vehicles must be 30 miles per hour in business or residence districts, and 55 miles per hour at any time at all other locations. However, with respect to a residence district, a county or municipality may set a maximum speed limit of 20 or 25 miles per hour on local streets and highways after an investigation determines that such a limit is reasonable. It is not necessary to conduct a separate investigation for each residence district."

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

Additionally, Sanibel has posted one sign on the inbound lane of Causeway Blvd. that states 30 mph unless posted. This means that the speed limit on all streets, unless otherwise posted, is 30 mph.

City Council should discuss authorizing staff to proceed with the Speed Limit study as proposed by Johnson Engineering. Should the City Council wish to proceed, the City Manager will approve the study as the cost of \$24,326 is within the City Manager's approval authority. The City Attorney will review and approve the agreement between the City and Johnson Engineering before the City Manager proceeds with the study.

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion and direction.