

STAFF MEMO

TO: Town Council

FROM: Carolyn Howard, Director, Engineering and GIS *CHH*

DATE: June 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2087: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code Section 12-309 to Lower Speed Limit on Prices Fork Road; Schedule Public Hearing for July 8, 2025

As directed by Town Council at its last work session on June 3, 2025, Ordinance 2087 will be placed on the June 10, 2025 Consent Agenda to schedule the Public Hearing for July 8, 2025. The ordinance would reduce the 35 miles-per-hour speed limit to 25 miles-per-hour on Prices Fork Road from Old Glade Road to Main Street.

Following recent concerns about traffic safety on Prices Fork Road, the Town engaged Whitman Requardt & Associates, LLP ("WRA") to perform a Speed and Safety Study. As a result, WRA recommended that the speed limit be reduced in this section of Prices Fork Road based on increased pedestrian crossings of Prices Fork Road and the crash history since 2019. A further discussion of Ordinance 2087 will be scheduled for Town Council's Work Session on June 17, 2025.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TOWN CODE SECTION 12-309
TO LOWER THE SPEED LIMIT ON PART OF PRICES FORK ROAD**

WHEREAS, based on concerns about traffic safety on Prices Fork Road, the Town of Blacksburg engaged an engineering firm, Whitman Requardt & Associates, LLP (“WRA”), to perform a traffic engineering investigation;

WHEREAS, the study prepared by WRA based on its investigation indicated that the volume of pedestrian traffic on Prices Fork Road from Old Glade Road to Main Street has increased dramatically since 2019;

WHEREAS, the WRA study recommended that the speed limit on that section Prices Fork Road be reduced from 35 miles-per-hour to 25-miles-per-hour based on the increased numbers of pedestrians and the crash history in that area; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that lowering speed limits as recommended in the WRA study, and as authorized by Virginia Code § 46.2-878, will make the Town of Blacksburg and its streets safer for all of its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Blacksburg:

1. That Blacksburg Town Code § 12-309 is amended and re-ordained as follows:

Section 12-309. Speed limits; town manager to designate.

- (a) Except as provided in this section, those speed limits set forth in Virginia Code (1950) Title 46.2 Subtitle III, Chapter 8, Article 8, as amended, shall apply in this town. It shall be unlawful to operate any motor vehicle in excess of any speed limit established as provided in this section, if such speed limit is clearly indicated by markers or signs.
- (b) There shall be a 15-mile-per-hour speed limit on the following streets:
 1. College Avenue from Main Street to Otey Street;
 2. Otey Street from College Avenue to Roanoke Street;
 3. Turner Street between Giles Road and Northview Drive;
 4. Huntington Lane;
 5. Snyder Lane;
 6. Hunt Club Road;

7. Gilbert Street;
8. E. Roanoke Street from Fincastle Drive to Alleghany Street;
9. Alleghany Street from E. Roanoke Street to Lee Street;
10. Midtown Way;
11. Belvedere Avenue;
12. Church Street SE from Eheart Street SE to Clay Street SE;
13. Bennett Street from Jackson Street NE to Harding Avenue;
14. Draper Road from Country Club Drive to Airport Road;
15. Penn Street SE; and
16. Wharton Street SE.

(c) There shall be a 20-mile-per-hour speed limit on the following streets:

1. Church Street SE from Clay Street SE to Jackson Street NE;
2. Clay Street from Draper Road SW to Prospect Street;
3. Draper Road from Airport Road to Jackson Street NW;
4. Jackson Street;
5. Lee Street from Draper Road SW to Prospect Street;
6. Main Street from Eheart Street to Prices Fork Road;
7. Progress Street NE;
8. Roanoke Street from Draper Road NW to Owens Street; and
9. Washington Street from Draper Road NW to Wharton Street SE.

(d) ~~There shall be a 40-mile-per-hour speed limit on Prices Fork Road from Old Glade Road to the western town limits. Prices Fork Road:~~

1. *There shall be a 40-mile-per-hour speed limit on Prices Fork Road from Old Glade Road to the western town limits.*
2. *There shall be a 25-mile-per-hour speed limit on Prices Fork Road from Old Glade Road to Main Street.*

* * *

2. That this ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Introduction: _____

Public Hearing & Action: _____

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Town Manager

Town Attorney