

**TO:** Mayor Althoff and City Council

**FROM:** Jeffrey L. McCormick, Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** County Road 17 Speed Study Request

**DATE:** March 14, 2019

**BACKGROUND**

The issue of lowering the speed limit on County Road 17 has been raised in the past, but further housing development has increased the number of adults and children on foot or bicycles sharing the roadway with motor vehicles. A request for a speed study made in June 2018 resulted in a December 2018 speed study, with an allowable reduction of 5 MPH in the current speed. The results of that study showed a very low vehicle count. The problem is that that roadway sees significant vehicle traffic during the May to October timeframe.

While I am thankful that they are willing to reduce the speed, the amount allowed does not meet what I believe is needed given the amount of summer traffic combined with bicycle and walking use by children and adults. I have prepared a new resolution that defines when we would hope a study be conducted and desired outcome.

Goodhue Commissioner Brad Anderson has supported this matter in the past I would expect his continued support. However, setting a lower speed is outside County Highway Department and the City control and we must seek approval from the State. The process is to make a request by Resolution to Goodhue County that the Minnesota Department of Transportation conduct a speed study to determine what the appropriate speed should be. Goodhue County will then consider our request and may approve making a request to the Minnesota Department of Transportation conduct a speed study.

The attached Resolution is to begin that process. Once Goodhue County has received it, they can consider making the request to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

**REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

Motion and approval of the attached Resolution requesting speed study for Goodhue County Road 17 East within the Cannon Falls.

**CITY OF CANNON FALLS  
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2416**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING SPEED STUDY FOR GOODHUE COUNTY  
ROAD 17 EAST WITHIN CANNON FALLS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cannon Falls is located in Goodhue County; and

**WHEREAS**, Goodhue County Road 17 has portions that are within the City of Cannon Falls; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cannon Falls has seen significant housing develop along the eastern part of Goodhue County Road 17 within the City of Cannon Falls; and

**WHEREAS**, the posted speed limit on that section is 55 miles per hour; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents who live in the housing development along Goodhue County Road 17 in Cannon Falls have no alternate route to connect to the rest of the City of Cannon Falls by either foot or bicycle; and

**WHEREAS**, pedestrians and bicyclists must share the roadway with motor vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cannon Falls believes the speed of the roadway should be reduced and a speed study was conducted in December 2018, but the results showed a low vehicle count; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cannon Falls believes the December 2018 speed study did not reflect the actual vehicle usage of the roadway during the time that most bicycle and pedestrian traffic use occur, which is mid-May to Mid-October; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota State Statute 160.14 sets the speed limits for roadways; and

**WHEREAS**, the authority to change roadway speeds lays with the Minnesota Department of Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cannon Falls believes the speed of the roadway should be reduced to 30 MPH from either Primrose Lane or McKinzie Circle, extending to the current 30MPH zone at the bottom of the hill to the west, because of the narrow shoulders that bicyclist and pedestrians must use and steep terrain surrounding the roadway through that stretch of the roadway; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cannon Falls believes that a 30 MPH speed would provide for safer sharing of the roadway and shoulder by all; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cannon Falls believes a transition speed zone reduction zone from either Larkspur Street or Sunflower Court would be appropriate to allow vehicles to slow from the 55 MPH zone; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Cannon Falls City Council requests Goodhue County to petition the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a speed study for the eastern section of County Road 17, within the City of Cannon Falls to be conducted between June and August 2019, with these considerations in mind.

**ADOPTED** by the City Council of Cannon Falls this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

**CITY OF CANNON FALLS**

---

John O. Althoff  
Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Maroney  
City Administrator