



**Item:** Resolution 10157, Establishing a Reduced Speed School Zone for 25<sup>th</sup> Street South

**From:** Jerry McKinley, Traffic Supervisor

**Initiated By:** Public Works Department

**Presented By:** Jim Rearden, Public Works Director

**Action Requested:** Set Public Hearing on Resolution 10157 for September 6, 2016

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**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (set/not set) a public hearing on Resolution 10157 for September 6, 2016.”

2. Mayor requests a second to the motion, Commission discussion, public comment, and calls for the vote.

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**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the City Commission set a public hearing for September 6, 2016, on Resolution 10157.

**Background:**

Significant Impacts

Resolution 10157 would reduce the current speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph. This reduced speed school zone will create a zone where speeding fines double.

Citizen Participation

Initiated by Neighborhood Council #9 and Great Falls Public Schools via request letters presented to Public Works and the City Commission.

Workload Impacts

Installation would be provided in-house as part of regular maintenance work.

Purpose

To establish a 25<sup>th</sup> Street South special reduced speed school zone resolution, to begin 400' north of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and continuing south to 200' south of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

Evaluation and Selection Process

Speed limit will be 25 mph in accordance with M.C.A. 61-8-310 (d) – time period for enforcement will be 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, consistent with all school zones in Great Falls. City staff consulted with MDT and Great Falls Public Schools. The City of Great Falls conducted a traffic study; which included speed and MDT conducted a speed study (both are included in the attachments).

**Concurrences:** Montana Department of Transportation District 3 Traffic Engineer.

**Fiscal Impact:** Funds for the estimated cost of \$2,000.00 for appropriate signage will come from the Street/Traffic Division FY 2017 Budget.

**Alternatives:** Reject Resolution 10157.

**Attachments/Exhibits:** Resolution 10157, COGF Traffic Study, MDT Speed Study, Jim Rearden - Letter to MDT

**RESOLUTION 10157**

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A REDUCED SPEED SCHOOL ZONE FOR 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET SOUTH IN ACCORDANCE WITH M.C.A. 61-8-310.**

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, having met and conducted the hearing this day in regular session at the Civic Center, Great Falls, Montana, at 7:00 P.M., and having considered the cost of operation and equipment do hereby establish the reduced speed school zone for 25<sup>th</sup> Street South as follows:

**25<sup>th</sup> Street South special reduced speed school zone resolution, to begin 400' north of the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and continuing south to 200' south of the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.**

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2016.

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Bob Kelly, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

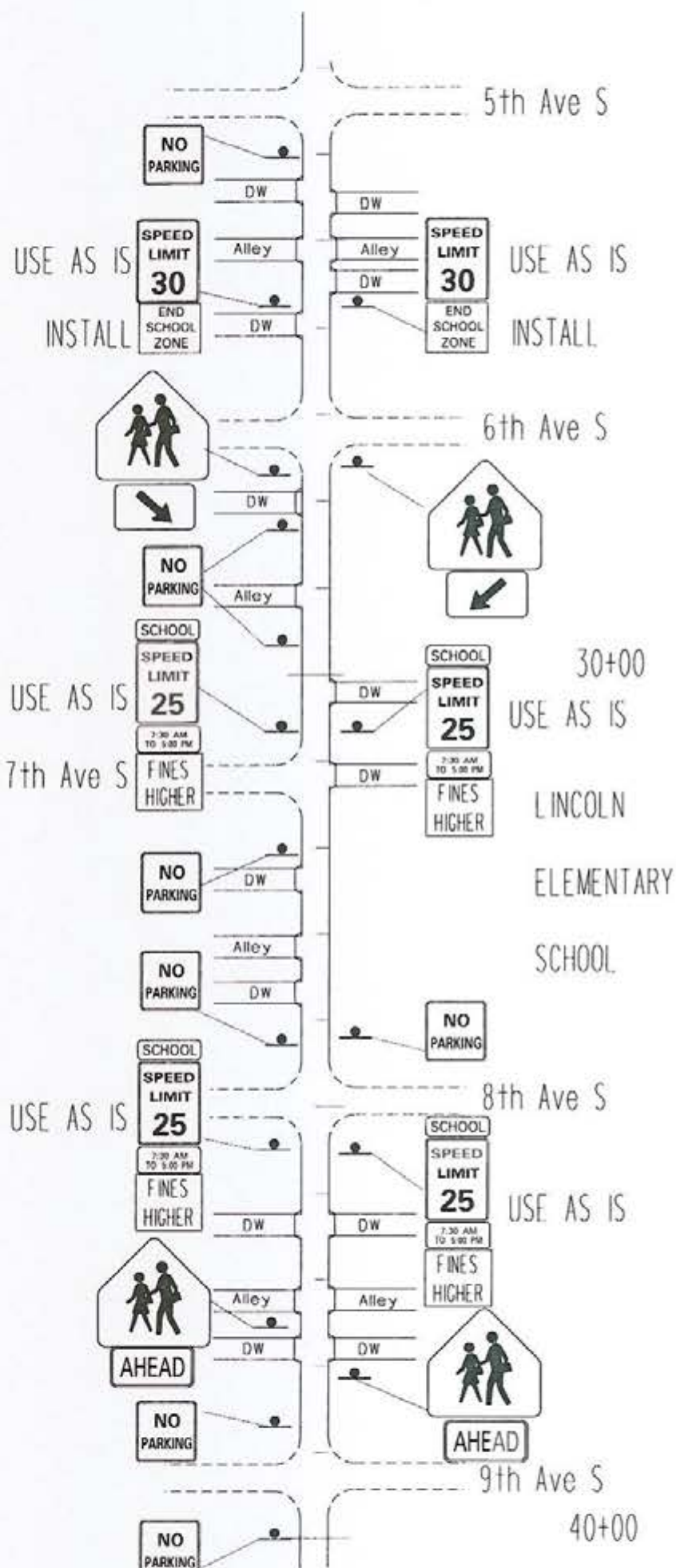
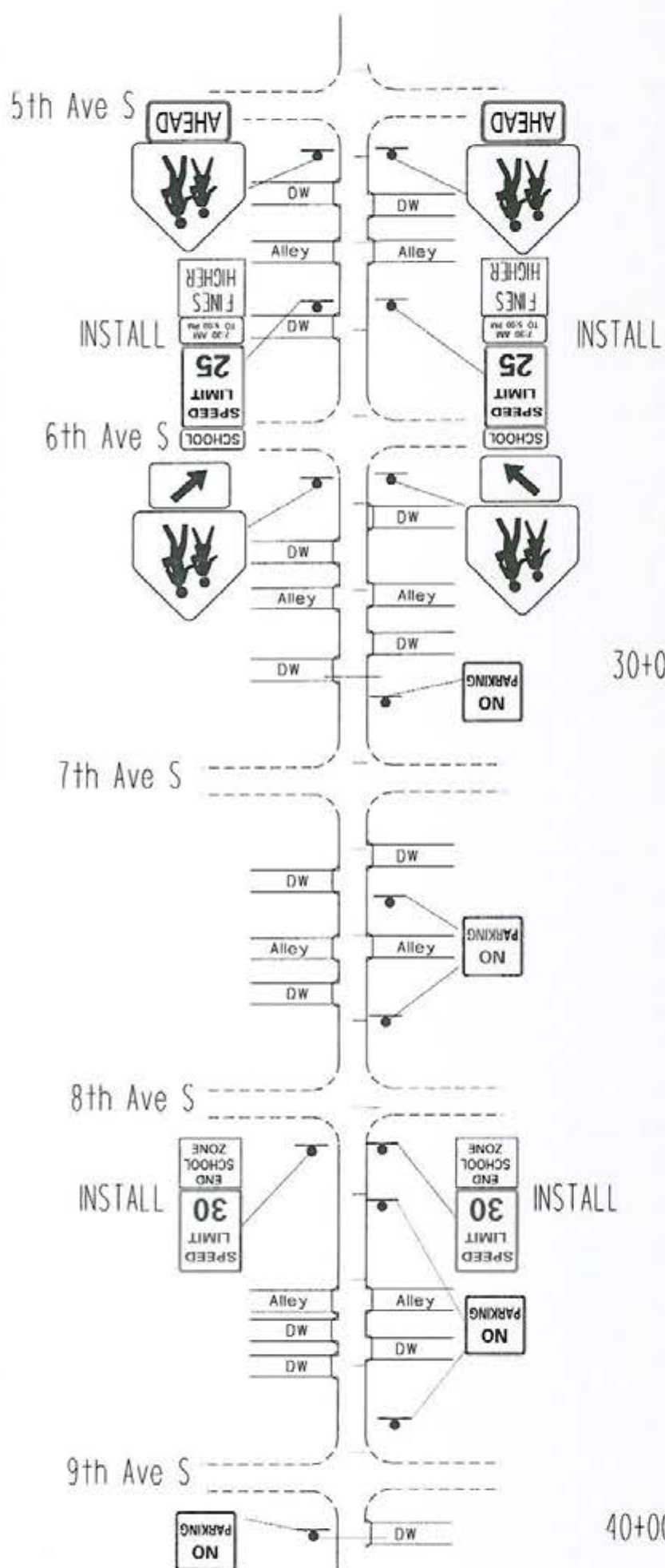
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Sara R. Sexe, City Attorney

State of Montana     )  
County of Cascade   : ss  
City of Great Falls   )

25th Street S.  
U-5217  
2 Lanes One-way SB

26th Street S.  
U-5226  
2 Lanes One-way NB

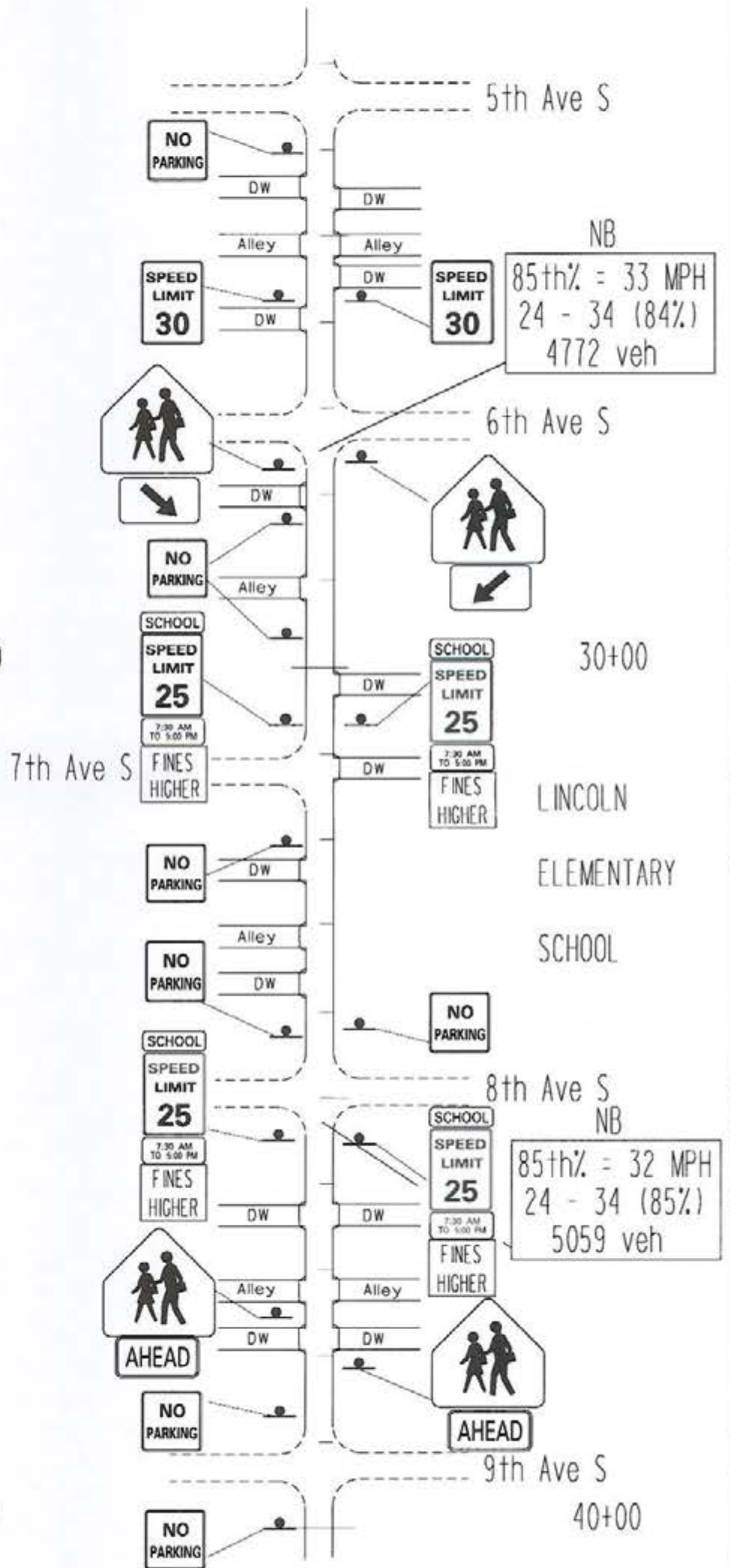
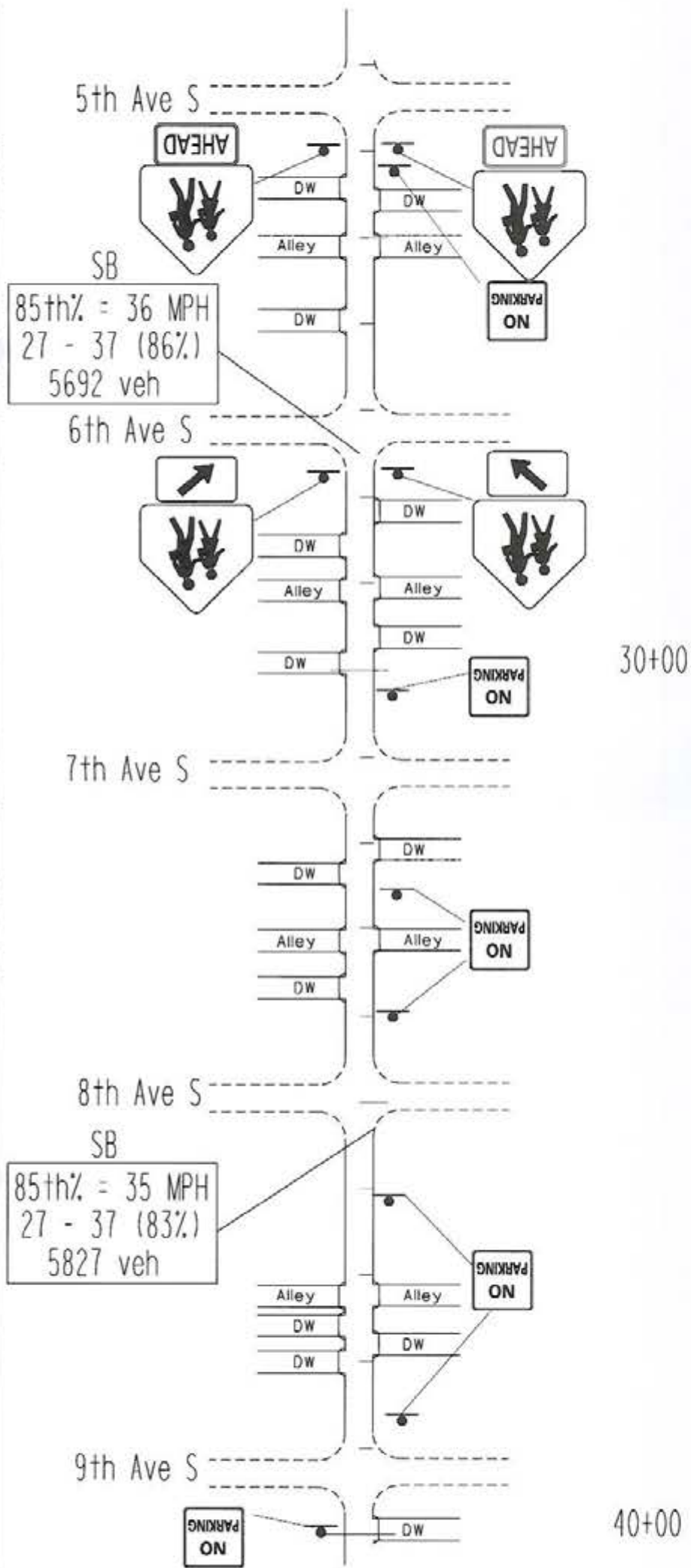


SPECIAL SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMIT  
25th & 26th STREET S.  
GREAT FALLS MT

JULY 2016

25th Street S.  
U-5217  
2 Lanes One-way SB

26th Street S.  
U-5226  
2 Lanes One-way NB



SCHOOL SPEED ZONE STUDY  
25th & 26th STREET S.  
GREAT FALLS MT

JULY 2016



PO Box 5021, 59403

July 27, 2016

Dave Hand, District #3 Administrator  
Montana Department of Transportation  
200 Smelter Ave NE  
Great Falls, Mt 59403-1359

Dear Dave,

In June of 2016 the City of Great Falls Public Works Department received a letter from Great Falls Public Schools requesting expansion of the school zone around Lincoln School. Specifically to create a reduced speed school zone on 25th Street S, from 6th Ave S to 8th Ave S. In addition, in July 2016 we received a letter from the Neighborhood Council#9 Chair making a similar request.

25th Street is an F.A.U. Route (U-5217) beginning at 10th Ave S, and ending at River Dr N. It is approximately 1.6 miles long and is a southbound two lane one way with a posted speed of 30mph. It has three signalized intersections at Central Ave, 1st Ave N, and 2nd Ave N.

The roadway passes by Roosevelt Elementary School and Paris Gibson Education Center where a 25mph school speed zone exists for both schools.

There are 4 signed and marked school crosswalks on 25th street. Three are at unsignalized intersections, one is at a signalized intersection. The crosswalk at 25th St & 6th Ave S is the last one on this southbound one way. It is approximately 1,200 feet from the end of the school zone at Paris Gibson Ed. center. This crosswalk is not adjacent to Lincoln School property but the crossing serves Lincoln School students.

The crosswalk at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue S has a crossing guard assigned to it. The crossing guard logged 4,210 student crossings from October 1, 2015 to June 9, 2016 (154 school days). This breaks down to 27 crossings per day. We can extrapolate on this information and assume there would be approximately 4,921 student crossings during an 180 day school year.

On June 14th and 15th, 2016 we collected average daily traffic, speed, and gap data on 25th Street S approximately 100 feet north of 6th Ave S.

Average Daily Traffic was 6,018 (no seasonal adjustment factor applied)

The 85th percentile speed was 34mph, the average speed (50th percentile) was 31mph .

Gap data was determined based on a crossing distance of 34 feet and a 2 feet per second walking speed for children age 6 to 10.

Minimum crossing time was determined to be 17 seconds (34ft/2.0sec), so gaps in traffic of 17 seconds or greater were measured. Adequate gaps in traffic exist when there is one gap (17 seconds or more) per minute.

25th Street and 6th Ave S meets this standard during hours when school crossing activity occurs...7am to 9am, and 2pm to 4pm, but when measured over a 24 hour period, it averages 0.9 gaps per minute, which falls slightly short of one adequate gap per minute minimum.

Crash data is incomplete. We do not have information for 2015 and 2016. There were no crashes reported in 2014 and one angle/injury crash in 2013 (no pedestrians involved).

Based on the aforementioned information, and similar applications around other school crosswalks in Great Falls, we believe the School District/Neighborhood council request has merit and we support it with the following modification:

*Because there are no school crosswalks on 25th Street S at 7th or 8th Ave S, and the roadway is not adjacent to school property, there is not sufficient justification to extend a reduced school speed zone on 25th Street S beyond the immediate vicinity of 6th Ave S. This is consistent with reduced speed school zones at other locations in Great Falls.*

Because 25th Street is a Federal Aid Urban Route we are presenting our desire to create this reduced speed school zone to the Montana Department of Transportation for approval as directed by MCA Section 61-8-310, (5) and (6).

Currently the speed limit is 30mph. Using our speed study data and the formula outlined in MCA Sec 61-8-310 (1d), we would reduce the speed to 25mph for a distance consistent with the M.U.T.C.D. sec7B-15(07).

This reduced speed zone would begin approximately 200feet north of 6th Ave S to a point approximately 200feet south of 6th Ave S. The school speed zone would be signed in accordance with the M.U.T.C.D., and would be consistent with other school speed zones in Great Falls. We will proceed upon your approval.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Rearden  
Public Works Director  
City of Great Falls

cc: Dave Dobbs  
Ken Jorgensen  
Jerry McKinley  
Patty Cadwell  
Steve Prinzing