



Item: Resolution 10157, Establishing a Reduced Speed School Zone for 25th Street South.

From: Jerry McKinley, Traffic Supervisor

Initiated By: Public Works Department

Presented By: Jim Rearden, Public Works Director

Action Requested: Conduct Public Hearing and Adopt Resolution 10157

Public Hearing:

1. Mayor conducts public hearing, calling three times each for opponents and proponents.
2. Mayor closes public hearing and asks the will of the Commission.

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move the City Commission (adopt/not adopt) Resolution 10157, establishing a reduced speed school zone for 25th Street South.”

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

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10157, establishing a reduced speed school zone for 25th Street South.

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 25th Street South special reduced speed school zone resolution, to begin 400' north of 6th Avenue South and continuing south to 200' south of 6th 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 original request to MDT from Director Rearden was to begin the school zone 200 feet north of 6th Avenue South but, it is the preference of the State to begin the school speed limit closer to the 400' distance prior to the crosswalk. The City of Great Falls conducted a traffic study; which included speed and MDT conducted a speed study (both are included in the attachments). At the August 16, 2016 City Commission Meeting the Commission set the public hearing for September 6, 2016.

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 ESTABLISHING A REDUCED SPEED SCHOOL
ZONE FOR A CERTAIN AREA ON 25TH STREET SOUTH**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 61-8-310 local authorities may alter limits or establish or alter area of school zone; and

WHEREAS, the current posted speed limit on 25th Street South beginning 400' north of 6th Avenue South and continuing south to 200' south of 6th Avenue South is 30 mph; and

WHEREAS, letters of request were received from Neighborhood Council 9 and Great Falls Public Schools to initiate a reduced speed zone in the area of Lincoln School; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of documentation of actual travel speeds the Montana Department of Transportation supports the City's request to implement a 25 mph school zone speed limit on 25th Street South beginning 400' north of 6th Avenue South and continuing south to 200' south of 6th Avenue South. The time period for enforcement will be 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., consistent with all school zones in Great Falls; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, met in regular session and conducted a public hearing at 7 p.m. this 6th day of September, 2016, at the Civic Center, Great Falls, Montana, as well as considered the cost of operation and equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, that:

A special reduced speed zone is hereby established along 25th Street South, beginning 400' north of 6th Avenue South and continuing south to 200' south of 6th Avenue South.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, that City staff erect the required signage for the school zone speed zone.

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

Bob Kelly, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

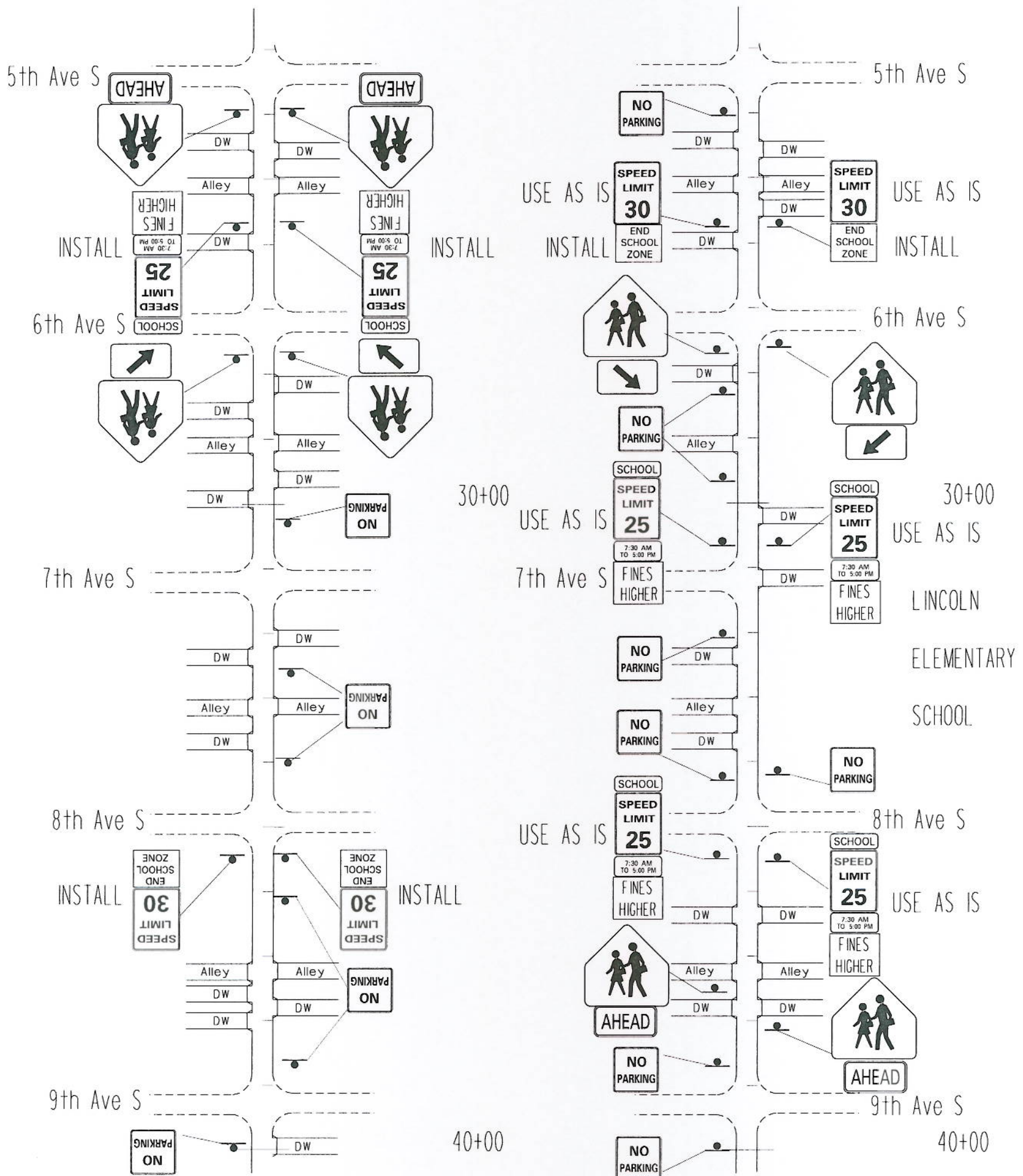
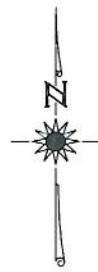
(Seal of the City)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

Sara R. Sexe, City Attorney

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

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

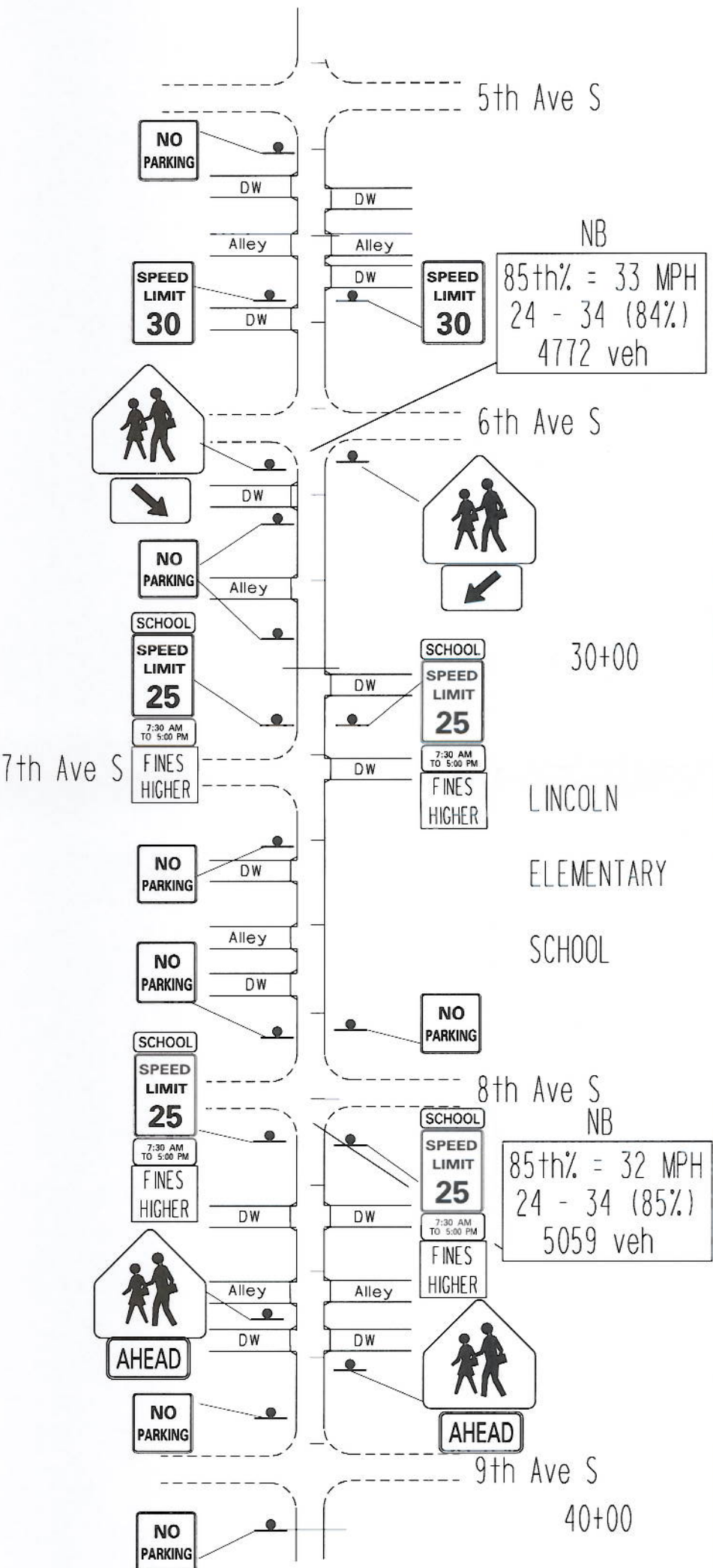
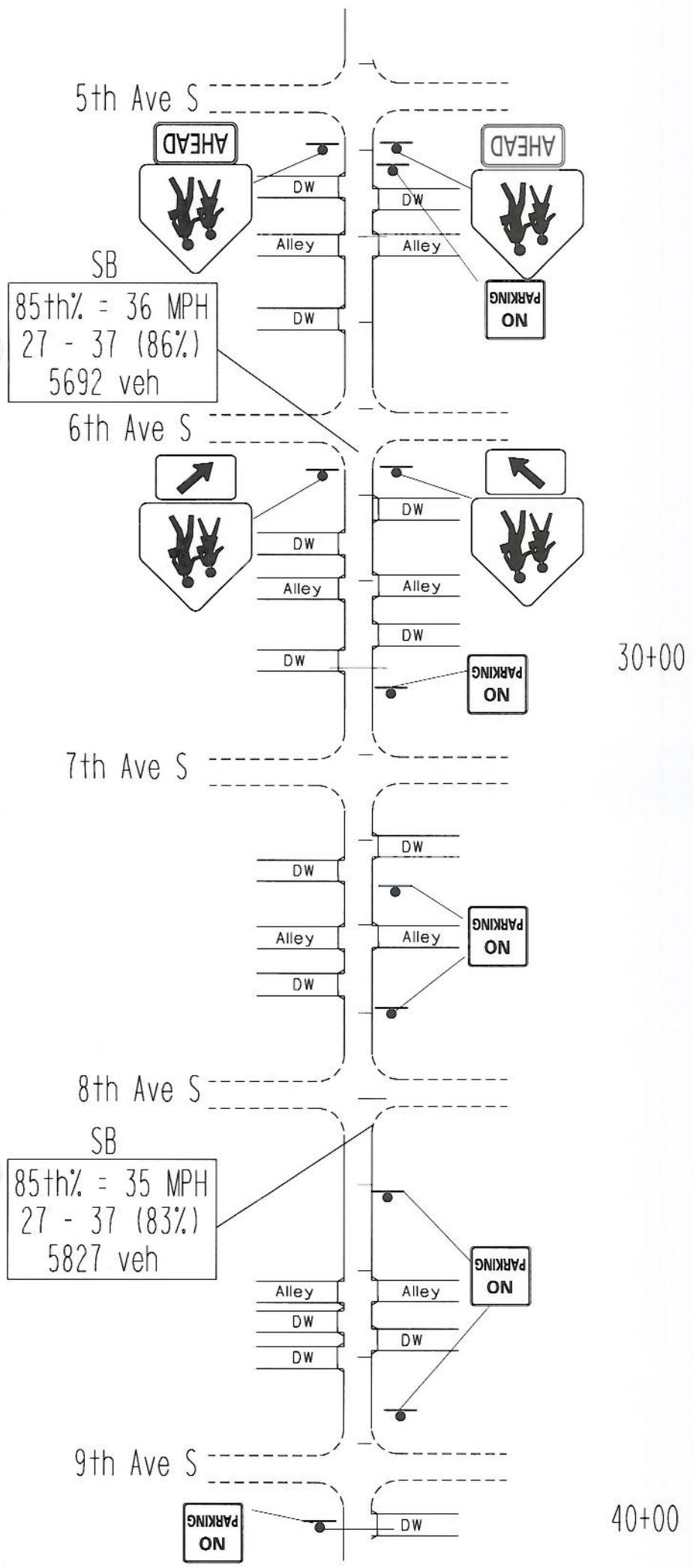
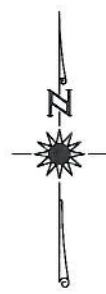


SPECIAL SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMIT
25th & 26th STREET S.
GREAT FALLS MT

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 6th 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