TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA

Town Council Regular Meeting
Agenda Item 6.c.

Agenda Item: **Ordinance 25-O-15 to amend Chapter 42 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), DIVISION 2 (SPEED LIMITS), Sec. 42-101 (Enumerated), to extend the 25 mph section on Herndon Parkway from Van Buren Street to the eastern intersection with Summerfield Drive**

Meeting Date: September 23, 2025

Category: Consent

Prepared by: Mike Shindledecker, Transportation Engineer

Description:
This Ordinance will reduce the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph for a section of Herndon Parkway from Summerfield Drive to Campbell Way.

Background:
The Department of Public Works received community concerns regarding the intersections of Herndon Parkway with Palmer Drive (west) and Cypress Tree Place/Acadia Road. At the intersection of Herndon Parkway and Palmer Drive, it was noted that pedestrians cross Herndon Parkway to/from Chandon Dog Park and surrounding trails/neighborhoods. This activity was corroborated by staff observations and with physical evidence of a desire trail through the median grass. At the intersection of Herndon Parkway and Cypress Tree Place/Acadia Road, a resident indicated safety concerns for both pedestrians and motorists, noting that nearby bus stops and daycare center generate pedestrian traffic throughout the area. The resident also noted that the new development located on Acadia Road will likely exacerbate traffic concerns.

In response to the above concerns, the Town's Traffic Engineering Improvement Committee (TEIC) conducted a study to assess conditions at both locations. The study included site observations by engineering staff, measured traffic speeds, traffic and pedestrian volumes, input from Herndon's Police Department, a review of Virginia and National best practices, and consideration of the Town's Traffic Calming and Crosswalk Standards. Findings indicated that there is a need for a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Herndon Parkway and Palmer Drive; however, geometric and speed constraints limit staff's ability to safely install a crosswalk. As such, staff determined that a reduction of vehicle speeds would enable the deployment of a crosswalk consistent with Town standards. Similarly, geometric conditions at the intersection of Herndon Parkway and Cypress Tree Place/Acadia Road limit sight distance and increase the risk of potential crashes between motorists and with pedestrians.

The study concludes that, given the aforementioned geometric conditions, coupled with higher-intensity commercial and residential land uses, there is a need and justification to reduce the posted speed limit of Herndon Parkway consistent with other high-activity areas in Town. As such, staff recommends a reduction in the speed limit to 25 mph, consistent with adjacent roadway segments and in support of the Town's goals of eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

Timing Impact:
Following approval of the Ordinance, staff will inventory and order applicable traffic signs which may take up to three months. Four weeks prior to deployment, a public information and communication campaign will inform motorists of the speed limit change. Speed limit sign replacement will take approximately one day to complete. Herndon Police Department will conduct targeted, educational enforcement for approximately two weeks following the speed limit change.

Strategic Focus Area:
Secure and Interconnected Community

Fiscal Impact:
Costs to adjust the speed limit on Herndon Parkway are limited to staff time and the replacement of roadway signage. Costs for signage fall within the Town’s programmatic budget for Signs and Signals maintenance. No changes are required to the adopted Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget.

Legal Impact:
Changing roadway speed limits falls under the authority of Town Council as determined by State Code. Additional traffic law enforcement may be required to enforce the revised speed limit until conditions and motorist behavior stabilize.

Staff Recommendation/Next Steps:
The staff recommends that the Town Council adopt the attached Ordinance to amend Town Code. No further action will be required of Town Council. Staff will inventory required and available equipment upon adoption of the Ordinance, and then proceed with public communications and installation.

Attachments:
1. Herndon Pkwy - Palmer and Cypress Traffic Study
2. Ordinance (Proposed)