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RESOLUTION NO. 35-95

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER REINSTATEMENT OF TEXAS LAWS THAT INCREASE THE SPEED LIMIT ON HIGHWAYS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF MESQUITE, TEXAS.

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is moving toward repeal of the national 55 mile per hour (mph) speed limit; and

WHEREAS, Article 6701d, Section 169B Vernon Civil Statutes, "Temporary Speed Limits," will automatically be repealed when the national 55 mph speed limit is repealed; and

WHEREAS, Article 6701d, Section 167 Vernon Civil Statutes, "Authority of State Highway Commission to alter maximum speed limits," delegates to the Texas Transportation Commission the responsibility for determining reasonable and prudent speed limits; and

WHEREAS, the administration of the Texas Department of Transportation has requested that each District office recommend reasonable and prudent speed limits for the highways within their Districts; and

WHEREAS, the Dallas District of the Texas Department of Transportation is recommending an increase in the speed limits on freeways within the City of Mesquite; and

WHEREAS, there are 20 miles of controlled access freeways within the City of Mesquite; and

WHEREAS, the increase in traffic flow, and consequent congestion within the City of Mesquite over the past 22 years that the national 55 mph speed limit has been in effect increases the potential for accidents at higher rates of speed; and

WHEREAS, the combined total of traffic accidents on Interstate Highway 635, Interstate Highway 30, Interstate Highway 20 and U.S. Highway 80 currently stands at 497 per calendar year, or 39 percent of Mesquite's annual total traffic accidents; and

WHEREAS, the combined total of traffic fatalities on Interstate Highway 635, Interstate Highway 30, Interstate Highway 20 and U.S. Highway 80 currently stands at eight per calendar year, or 70 percent of Mesquite's annual total traffic deaths;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the city council strongly urges the Texas Transportation Commission to consider the option of maintaining the current 55 mph speed limit on controlled access freeways within the city limits of Mesquite.

SECTION 2. If the Texas Transportation Commission chooses to increase the speed limits within the city of Mesquite, the city council strongly urges the commission to provide funds to improve the freeways within the city limits of Mesquite to increase roadway safety, including, but not limited to reconstruction of U.S. Highway 80 to current design standards, and reconstruction of Interstate Highway 635 and Interstate Highway 30 interchanges to minimize main lane incidents.

DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 20th day of November, 1995.

Cathy Ray
Mayor

Carole Lochhead
City Councilmember

Steve Whitworth
Mayor Pro Tem

John L. Helman, Jr.
City Councilmember

James W. Folks
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

Steve Alexander
City Councilmember

Mark S. Hims
City Councilmember