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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Engineering Division – Traffic Section
2625 E. Glendale Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911
TEL (920) 832-5580
FAX (920) 832-5570

To: Municipal Services Committee
From: Eric S. Lom, City Traffic Engineer
Date: November 1, 2021
Re: 15 mph Speed Limit Designation on 800 W. Washington Street (Story St to Bennett St)
(follow-up to a 6-month trial)

Earlier this year, my office was contacted by a resident that lives on the 800 block of W. Washington Street. She expressed concern about safety related to the speed of traffic.

The block in question is a one-way (westbound) street that is extremely narrow, with very tight sight lines and no posted speed limit (see Figures 1 & 2 below). Despite the fact that this block looks, feels and functions like an alley, it is actually designated as a residential “street.” As such, state statutes designate the “default” statutory speed limit as 25 miles per hour (mph). State statutes designate a 15 mph speed limit for designated alleys.



Figure 1- 800 W. Washington St (looking west)



Figure 2- 800 W. Washington St (highlighted)

Based on our review, we recommended designating and posting a 15 mph speed limit for a 6-month trial period. We did not receive any feedback or complaints from the public during the six-month trial period. Based on this, we recommend making the changes permanent.

To accomplish this, section 19-61 of Chapter 19 of the Appleton Municipal Code requires the following amendment:

Sec. 19-61 Speed Limits Designated - Fifteen miles per hour.
Add: “Washington Street from Story Street to Bennett Street”