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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
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**To:** Municipal Services Committee  
**From:** Eric S. Lom, City Traffic Engineer  
**Date:** March 17, 2021  
**Re:** 15 mph Speed Limit Designation on 800 W. Washington Street (Story St to Bennett St)  
(proposed 6-month trial)

My office was recently 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 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, the physical characteristics of this block are much more consistent with an alley than a typical residential street. As such, we recommend designating and posting a 15 mph speed limit for a 6-month trial period.