



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of January 25, 2020

DATE: January 16, 2020

SUBJECT: An ordinance to amend, reenact, and recodify Chapter 14.2 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic) of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia, To Amend Section 14.2-12 to include a \$200 additional speeding fine zone on applicable road segments in compliance with Va Code Section 46.2-878.2.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Enact the attached Ordinance to Amend, Reenact and Recodify Chapter 14.2 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic) Section 14.2-12 of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia to allow establishment of a \$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone on applicable road segments in compliance with Virginia Code Section 46.2-878.2.

ISSUES: County Board approval after a public hearing is needed to amend the Code of Arlington County, Virginia. There are no known outstanding issues as of the date of this report.

SUMMARY: Arlington County seeks to address speeding concerns through designation of a "\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone" on applicable road segments in compliance with VA Code section 46.2-878.2. The "\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone" is an addition to the County's full transportation safety toolbox and the Vision Zero initiative and does not replace the consideration and implementation of any other suitable tools.

BACKGROUND: The Code of Virginia allows localities to post signs for and enforce an additional \$200 fine for speeding on residential streets which meet a certain criterion as stated below. Arlington County residents have asked for staff to implement these additional fines for multiple neighborhood street segments.

The above section of the Virginia State Code is referred to as a "\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone" in this document.

County Manager:

MJS / MLC

County Attorney:

[Handwritten signatures]

29.

Staff: Valerie Lee, Department of Environmental Services

DISCUSSION: To establish a “\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone” for a roadway segment in Arlington County, Department of Environmental Services(DES) staff will conduct a “\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone” evaluation. Such evaluations may be initiated:

- Through evaluation of existing traffic data
- In response to speeding complaints

A road segment within Arlington Right-Of-Way (ROW) qualifies for a “\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone” consideration if all of the following are true:

- The road segment is located within a "residence district" as defined in VA Code section § 46.2-100. "Residence district" is defined as the territory contiguous to a highway, not comprising a business district, where 75% or more of the property abutting such highway, on either side of the highway, for a distance of 300 feet or more along the highway consists of land improved for dwelling purposes, or is occupied by dwellings, or consists of land or buildings in use for business purposes, or consists of territory zoned residential. (See the Reference section below.)
- The road segment is classified as a neighborhood principal, minor arterial, or major arterial street, according to the Arlington County road classification map.
- The road segment has a “documented speeding issue” as defined in the next section.

“Documented Speeding Issues” are defined as meeting one of the following scenarios:

- The County has speed data, collected within five (5) years from the day of the “\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone” evaluation in question, showing speeding on the segment;
- There is a recorded traffic evaluation, produced within five (5) years from the day of the “\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone” evaluation, that includes speeding as one of the issues;
- The County has written confirmation from the Police Department that speeding has been observed through enforcement activities.

Once the evaluation concludes that a road segment is suitable for implementation of the “\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone,” a “\$200 Additional Speeding Fine” sign will be attached to the speed limit signs along the road segment to alert drivers of the posted speed limit and the additional penalty for speeding. A speeding citation issued within a “\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone” is subject to this additional penalty as stated in VA Code § 46.2-878.2.

Potential Impact Context:

The “\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone” targets Arlington County’s residential streets that carry relatively higher traffic volumes and have documented speeding issues. Arlington has approximately 88 centerline miles of arterial streets and neighborhood principal streets. They account for about 20% of total centerline miles owned by Arlington County. However, since data-supported speeding confirmation is required by the proposed criteria of this ordinance, the actual impact is expected to be less than 20% of County-owned streets.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Level of Engagement: The “\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zones” have been requested by Arlington County citizens through the Customer Care & Communication (C3) portal and verbal comments to staff.

Outreach Methods: Public notice was given in accordance with the Code of Virginia by publishing the notice twice on December 31, 2019, and January 7, 2020, in *The Washington Times* prior to the County Board meeting on January 25, 2020.

Community Feedback: Community feedback will be heard at the January 25, 2020, Arlington County Board Meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: The cost of installing “\$200 Additional Speeding Fine” signs to reflect these changes will cost approximately \$250 per roadway segment. Staff anticipates a maximum of 60 new locations per year, for a total expenditure amount not to exceed \$15,000 per year. These additional costs will be covered by the Department of Environmental Services Transportation Engineering and Operations Division. Any additional revenue generated from this will be added to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget. Any significant revenue changes in FY 2020 will be addressed at mid-year.

Attachment 1

Amendment to Chapter 14.2-12 of the Arlington County Code to include a "\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone" on applicable road segments in compliance with VA Code section § 46.2-878.2.

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia that Chapter 14.2, Section 14.2-12 (H), of the Arlington County Code is amended, reenacted and recodified, effective January 25, 2020, to read in pertinent part, as follows:

Chapter 14.2 Motor Vehicles and Traffic

§ 14.2-12. Maximum and Minimum Speed Limits

H. The County Manager or his designee may establish a "\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone" within Arlington County Right-of-Way (ROW) if all of the following are true:

1. The road segment is located within a "residence district" as defined in VA Code section § 46.2-100;
2. The road segment is classified as a neighborhood principal, minor arterial, or major arterial street, according to the Arlington County road classification map; and
3. The road segment has a "documented speeding issue." "Documented Speeding Issues" are defined as meeting one of the following scenarios:
 - a. The County has speed data, collected within five (5) years from the day of the "\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone" evaluation in question, showing speeding on the segment;
 - b. There is a recorded traffic evaluation, produced within five (5) years from the day of the "\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone" evaluation, that includes speeding as one of the issues; or
 - c. The County has written confirmation from the Police Department that speeding has been observed through enforcement activities.

Upon a conclusion by the County Manager or designee that a road segment is suitable for implementation of the "\$200 Zone," a "\$200 Additional Speeding Fine" sign may be attached to the speed limit signs along the road segment to alert drivers of the posted speed limit and the additional penalty for speeding. A speeding citation issued within a "\$200 Additional Speeding Fine Zone" is subject to this additional penalty as stated in VA Code § 46.2-878.2.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all provisions of Chapter 14.2 of the Code shall remain as previously enacted.