



## ORDINANCE NO. 28825

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the Model Traffic Ordinance; amending Chapter 11.05  
2 of the Tacoma Municipal Code by amending Section 11.05.510, entitled  
3 “Twenty miles per hour limit - Streets designated,” to establish a default  
4 speed limit of 20 miles per hour on nonarterial (residential) streets; adding a  
5 new Section 11.05.515, entitled “Twenty-five miles per hour limit – Streets  
6 designated”; and amending Section 11.05.520, entitled “Thirty Miles per  
7 hour limit – Streets designated,” to lower the speed limit from 30 miles per  
8 hour to 25 miles per hour on arterial streets in four Neighborhood Business  
9 Districts: Old Town, 6th Avenue, Lincoln, and McKinley Hill, to become  
10 effective on January 1, 2023.

11 WHEREAS the link between speed and injury severity in crashes is  
12 consistent, direct, and especially critical for more vulnerable roadway users, and

13 WHEREAS, on February 18, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution  
14 No. 40559, committing to Vision Zero and setting a goal to eliminate traffic fatalities  
15 and serious injuries by 2035, and

16 WHEREAS safe speeds are a primary element of Vision Zero’s Safe  
17 Systems approach; lowering speeds improves safety by reducing the frequency  
18 and severity of crashes, improving visibility, providing additional time for drivers to  
19 stop, and reducing the potential for fatal or severe injuries by lowering impact  
20 forces, and

21 WHEREAS Revised Code of Washington (“RCW”) 46.61.415 permits local  
22 governments the authority to establish a speed limit of 20 miles per hour (“mph”)  
23 on a nonarterial street without an engineering or traffic investigation, and

24 WHEREAS the majority of streets in Tacoma’s Neighborhood Business  
25 Districts are classified as arterials, and RCW 46.61.400 sets a minimum speed  
26



1 limit of 25 mph on arterial streets and further requires an engineering or traffic  
2 study to change the speed limit on an arterial street, and

3 WHEREAS Resolution No. 40559 directed the City Manager to work with  
4 staff to complete a study on the state of speed and safety in Tacoma and consider  
5 a default speed limit of 25 mph on arterial streets and 20 mph on residential  
6 streets, and

7 WHEREAS the study was initiated in September 2021, with a focus on all  
8 residential streets and arterial streets within Neighborhood Business Districts,  
9 which are meant to provide services to the surrounding community, serve as a  
10 place for neighbors to gather, and be pedestrian-friendly destinations, and  
11

12 WHEREAS traffic studies were conducted on arterial streets located within  
13 Neighborhood Business Districts as defined by Title 1 of the Tacoma Municipal  
14 Code, and

15 WHEREAS the traffic studies analyzed land use and road characteristics,  
16 five-year crash data trends, and speed and volume data, and found that four  
17 Neighborhood Business Districts have conditions in place which would support  
18 lowering the arterial speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph: 6th Avenue, Old Town,  
19 McKinley Hill, and Lincoln, and  
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21 WHEREAS, given that people who are walking or biking are twice as likely  
22 to live after being hit by a car at 25 mph than at 30 mph, this small speed limit  
23 reduction doubles the odds of survival, and  
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25 WHEREAS the study recommendations were finalized in April 2022, and  
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an overview of the findings and speed limit reduction recommendations were presented to the City Council at its Study Session of June 7, 2022, and

WHEREAS staff will collect pre- and post-speed data, and report the findings to the Transportation Commission within one year of speed reduction implementation; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That Chapter 11.05 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, relating to the Model Traffic Ordinance, is hereby amended as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A," to become effective on January 1, 2023.

Section 2. That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney, is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Passed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Attorney



## EXHIBIT "A"

### CHAPTER 11.05 MODEL TRAFFIC ORDINANCE

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Sections:

- 11.05.010 Model Traffic Ordinance adopted.
- 11.05.020 Sections not adopted.
- 11.05.030 Statutes not adopted.
- 11.05.035 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.040 Amendment of WAC 308-330-555.
- 11.05.050 Additional statutes adopted.
- 11.05.060 Scope and construction of terms.
- 11.05.070 Curb defined.
- 11.05.080 Driveway defined.
- 11.05.090 Driveway return defined.
- 11.05.100 Fire line defined.
- 11.05.110 Fire zone defined.
- 11.05.120 Leaving minors unattended.
- 11.05.130 Driving while eating or drinking.
- 11.05.131 Automotive Sound Systems – Excessive Noise Prohibition.
- 11.05.132 Unlawful exhibition of speed prohibited.
- 11.05.133 Unlawful exhibition of speed attendance prohibited.
- 11.05.135 Unlawful to park or stand unlicensed vehicle.
- 11.05.136 Presumption and reference to illegal parking.
- 11.05.140 Taxicabs – Prohibited parking areas.
- 11.05.150 One-way streets designated.
- 11.05.160 Construction work – Special permit required.
- 11.05.170 Illegal parking – Exceeding parking time limit.
- 11.05.180 Illegal parking – Removal of mark.
- 11.05.190 Illegal parking – Move vehicle to avoid time limit.
- 11.05.200 Parking of commercial vehicles in certain zoning districts prohibited.
- 11.05.210 Delivery and construction vehicles – Emergency repairs.
- 11.05.220 Parking of commercial trailers prohibited.
- 11.05.225 Parking prohibited within two feet of a mailbox.
- 11.05.230 Parking, extended period.
- 11.05.231 Human habitation of vehicles.
- 11.05.235 Residential Parking Zones – authority.
- 11.05.236 Residential Parking Zones – violation.
- 11.05.237 Residential Parking Program – revocation of privileges.
- 11.05.240 School zones designated.
- 11.05.245 Parking prohibited within two feet of another vehicle.
- 11.05.250 City Traffic Engineer regulates and designates on-street parking restrictions.
- 11.05.260 On-street parking regulation. Pay stations; establishing pay station rates, designating revenues; citizen advisory committee.
- 11.05.270 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.280 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.290 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.300 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.310 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.320 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.330 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.340 *Repealed.*



- 1 11.05.350 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.360 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.370 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.380 *Repealed.*
- 2 11.05.390 No parking at any time.
- 11.05.400 *Repealed.*
- 3 11.05.410 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.420 *Repealed.*
- 4 11.05.430 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.440 *Repealed.*
- 5 11.05.450 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.460 *Repealed.*
- 6 11.05.470 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.480 Loads – Unloading vehicle – Operation.
- 7 11.05.490 Arterial streets designated.
- 11.05.492 Transit streets designated.
- 8 11.05.494 Pedestrian streets in centers.
- 11.05.500 Yield right-of-way intersections designated.
- 9 11.05.510 Twenty miles per hour limit – Streets designated.
- 10 [11.05.515](#) [Twenty-five miles per hour limit – Streets designated.](#)

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12 **11.05.510 Twenty miles per hour limit – Streets designated.**

13 The maximum rate of speed on [a nonarterial street shall be designated 20 miles per hour.](#) ~~the following streets~~  
 14 ~~and portions of streets shall be 20 miles per hour.~~ [A nonarterial street is any street not designated in this](#)  
 15 [chapter as an arterial street.](#)

- 14 ~~Bradley Road~~
- 15 ~~East Road~~
- 16 ~~Orchard Road~~
- 17 ~~Summit Road~~
- 18 ~~West Road~~

18 **[11.05.515 Twenty-five miles per hour limit – Streets designated.](#)**

19 [The maximum rate of speed on an arterial street shall be designated 25 miles per hour, except in those](#)  
 20 [instances where a different maximum lawful speed is provided in this chapter.](#)

20 **11.05.520 Thirty miles per hour limit – Streets designated.**

21 The maximum rate of speed on the following streets and portions of streets shall be designated 30 miles per  
 22 hour:

- 22 North 1st Street from Division Avenue to North E Street.
- 23 Sixth Avenue from Walters Road to [Alder Street](#) ~~Tacoma Avenue South.~~
- 24 North 9th Street from Pearl Street to Mildred Street.
- 25 South 9th Street from South Sprague Avenue to Tacoma Avenue South.
- 25 East 11th Street from A Street to St. Paul Avenue.
- 26 South 11th Street from South Ferry Street to Tacoma Avenue South.



- 1 South 12th Street from South Orchard Street to South Sprague Avenue.
- 2 South 13th Street from South K Street to Tacoma Avenue South.
- 3 East 15th Street from East D Street to St. Paul Avenue.
- 4 South 15th Street from South Cedar Street to Tacoma Avenue South.
- 5 South 19th Street from South Sprague Avenue to Tacoma Avenue South, and from South Jackson Avenue to Seashore Drive, and from South Orchard Street to South Pearl Street.
- 6 North 21st Street from North Steele Street to North Pearl Street.
- 7 South 24th Street from A Street to South C Street.
- 8 25th Street from South State Street to Pacific Avenue.
- 9 25th Street from East J Street to Portland Avenue.
- 10 26th Street from Pacific Avenue to East G Street.
- 11 North 26th Street from North Alder Street to North Washington Street and from North Monroe Street to Narrows Drive.
- 12 East 27th Street from East Bay Street to East L Street.
- 13 East 28th Street from East L Street to East Bay Street.
- 14 29th Street Northeast from 53rd Avenue Northeast to Northeast City Limits.
- 15 North 30th Street from Schuster Parkway to North ~~Pearl~~Starr Street.
- 16 North 30th Street from North White Street to North Pearl Street.
- 17 31st Street Northeast from 49th Avenue Northeast to 53rd Avenue Northeast.
- 18 34th Street from South G Street to East L Street and from East Portland Avenue to East Roosevelt Avenue.
- 19 South 35th Street from South Tacoma Way to South Adams Street.
- 20 South 36th Street from South Adams Street to South Tyler Street.
- 21 North 37th Street from North Pearl Street to North Vassault Street.
- 22 South 37th Street from South Steele Street to South Sprague Avenue.
- 23 South 38th Street from Pacific Avenue to Tacoma Avenue South~~South Tacoma Way and from East McKinley Avenue to East Portland Avenue.~~
- 24 South 38th Street from South J Street to South Tacoma Way.
- 25 South 38th Street from East McKinley Avenue to East Portland Avenue.
- 26 45th Avenue Northeast between Northshore Parkway and Browns Point Boulevard.
- 27 North 46th Street from North Stevens Street to North Vassault Street.
- 28 South 47th Street from South Wapato Street to South Washington Street.
- 29 South 48th Street from Portland Avenue to McKinley Avenue and from Pacific Avenue to South Wapato Street.
- 30 49th Avenue Northeast from 31st Street Northeast to Northeast City Limits of Tacoma.
- 31 South 50th Street from South Puget Sound Avenue to South Tacoma Way.
- 32 51st Street Northeast from Browns Point Boulevard to Slayden Road Northeast.
- 33 North 51st Street from North Pearl Street to North Mildred Street.



- 53rd Avenue Northeast from 29th Street Northeast to 31st Street Northeast.
- 1 South 54th Street from South Ferry Street to South Railroad Avenue and from South Wapato Street to South Tacoma Way.
- 2 56th Street from McKinley Avenue to South Washington Street.
- 3 South 58th Street from South Tacoma Way to South Washington Street.
- 4 64th Street from South Yakima Avenue to East City Limits.
- 5 South 66th Street from South Wapato Street to West City Limits.
- 6 South 74th Street from Interstate Highway Number 5 to South Tacoma Way.
- 7 84th Street from East City Limits to West City Limits.
- 8 96th Street from South Yakima Avenue to East City Limits.
- 9 A Street from South 21st Street to South 27th Street.
- 10 South Alaska Street from South 38th Street to South 72nd Street.
- 11 Alder Street from North 30th Street to South 8th Street.
- 12 South Alder-Cedar Transition from South 8th Street to South 9th Street.
- 13 Browns Point Boulevard from North City Limits to Norpoint Way (Vicinity of 33rd Street Northeast and 4800 Norpoint Way).
- 14 South C Street from South Commerce Street at South 19th Street to South Tacoma Way.
- 15 South Cedar Street from South 9th Street to South 19th Street.
- 16 Center Street from South Tacoma Avenue to South M Street and from South Union Avenue to South Tyler Street.
- 17 East D Street from East 15th Street to Puyallup Avenue.
- 18 Delin Street from Pacific Avenue to South Wright Avenue.
- 19 Division Avenue from Stadium Way to 6th Avenue.
- 20 Division Lane from East Fairbanks Street to East McKinley Avenue.
- 21 North E Street from Division Avenue to North 1st Street.
- 22 Earnest S. Brazill Street from South Sprague Avenue to Tacoma Avenue South.
- 23 Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing from East Portland Avenue to East City Limits.
- 24 East Fairbanks Street from East Division Lane to East Roosevelt Avenue.
- 25 North Ferdinand Street, North Waterview Street, North 49th Street from North 46th Street to Ruston Way.
- 26 East G Street from Puyallup Avenue to East 26th Street.
- 27 South G Street from South Wright Avenue to South ~~48~~37th Street.
- 28 [South G Street from South 40th Street to South 48th Street.](#)
- 29 East Grandview from East Pioneer Way to East Wright Avenue.
- 30 I Street from 5th Avenue to North Steele Street.
- 31 South J Street from Division Avenue to Center Street.
- 32 Jefferson Avenue from Broadway to Center Street.
- 33 M Street from Center Street to South 56th Street.



- 1 McCarver Street from North Tacoma Avenue to Ruston Way.
- 2 East McKinley Avenue from East 32nd Street to East ~~Wright Avenue~~ ~~96th Street~~.  
[East McKinley Avenue from East 36th Street to East 96th Street.](#)
- 3 East McKinley Way from East Wiley Avenue to East 32nd Street.
- 4 McMurray Road from Marine View Drive to Browns Point Boulevard.
- 5 Narrows Drive from Jackson Avenue to North 37th Street.
- 6 North Mildred Street from 6th Avenue to North 9th Street.
- 7 Norpoint Way Northeast between the North City Limits and Browns Point Boulevard.
- 8 Norpoint Way Northeast between 49th Avenue Northeast and 29th Street Northeast.
- 9 South Oakes Street from its intersection with South Pine Street between South 46th Street and South 47th Street and South 74th Street.
- 10 North Orchard Street from 6th Avenue to North 35th Street.
- 11 North Pearl Street from North 42nd Street to North 54th Street.
- 12 South Pine Street from South 38th Street to South 47th Street.
- 13 East Portland Avenue from East Fairbanks Street to East 21st Street (Lincoln Avenue).
- 14 Proctor Street from North 37th Street to North 30th Street and from North 24th Street to South 19th Street.
- 15 Puyallup Avenue from A Street to East Portland Avenue.
- 16 Railroad Street from South 54th Street at South Wapato Street to South 54th Street at South State Street.
- 17 East Roosevelt Avenue from East Wright Avenue to East Fairbanks Street.
- 18 Ruston Way from North McCarver Street to Ruston City Limits.
- 19 Schuster Parkway from North 30th Street to Ruston Way.
- 20 St. Helens Avenue from Division Avenue to 6th Avenue.
- 21 St. Paul Avenue from East 11th Street to East 15th Street.
- 22 South Sheridan Avenue from South 56th Street to South 72nd Street.
- 23 South Sprague Avenue from 6th Avenue to South 23rd Street and South 37th Street to South Tacoma Way.
- 24 Stadium Way from Commerce Street to Division Avenue.
- 25 Steele Street from North M Street to North 15th Street and from South 28th Street to South 42nd Street.
- 26 Stevens Street from North 46th Street to South 19th Street.
- 27 North Tacoma Avenue from North 3rd Street to North McCarver Street.
- 28 Tacoma Avenue South from Division Avenue to Delin Street.
- 29 Tacoma Mall Boulevard from Steele Street to South 56th Street.
- 30 Taylor Way from East 11th Street to Lincoln Avenue.
- 31 South Thompson Avenue from South 32nd Street to South ~~46~~ ~~37~~th Street.  
[South Thompson Avenue from South 40th Street to South 46th Street.](#)
- 32 Thompson Avenue – Yakima Avenue Transition from South 46th Street to South 48th Street.
- 33 South Tyler Street from South 19th Street to South 74th Street.



- 1 Union Avenue from North 30th Street to South 15th Street.
- 2 North Vassault Street from North 37th Street to North 51st Street.
- 3 South Warner Street from South 38th Street to South 47th Street.
- 4 Walters Road from 6th Avenue to South 19th Street.
- 5 South Washington Street from South Tacoma Way (near South 42nd Street) to South 58th Street.
- 6 East Wiley Avenue from East D Street to East L Street.
- 7 South Wilkeson Street from South 19th Street to South Tacoma Way.
- 8 East Wright Avenue from East Grandview Avenue to East Roosevelt Avenue.
- 9 South Yakima Avenue – I Street Transition from 6th Avenue to South 8th Street.
- 10 South Yakima Avenue from South 8th Street to South 32nd Street and from South 48th Street to South 96th Street.
- 11 South Yakima Avenue from South 8th Street to South 32nd Street and from South 48th Street to South 96th Street.
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