



Transportation Advisory Board Report

Date: December 16, 2008
To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Renate Ehm, Senior Transportation Engineer
Subject: Traffic Speeds on Baseline Road at Rhodes Junior High School

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the impact that changes to the school zone on Baseline Road have had on reducing traffic speeds. The school zone for Rhodes Junior High School (JHS) extends from a point west of Pennington to a point east of Longmore. A location map is attached. See Figure 1.

This report is informational only.

The changes to the school zone have had an impact in reducing driver speeds.

Background

Prior to March 2006, the reduced speed school zone on Baseline Road adjacent to Rhodes JHS was posted with static signs that indicated the speed limit was reduced from 45 mph to 35 mph between the hours of 7:30 am and 4:00 pm when school was in session.

In an effort to increase driver awareness and compliance with the reduced speed school zone, driver speed feedback signs (DSFS) were installed and yellow flashing lights were installed that indicated the 35 mph speed limit was in effect when the yellow lights were flashing. Both devices became operational in March 2006, and the 35 mph speed limit hours were extended to run from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm on school days.

In early May 2008 fixed speed enforcement cameras were installed in the school zone.

Staff has been collecting speed data regularly at this site to assess the impact that the various measures have had on driver speeds.

Discussion

Ten sets of speed data have been collected at this site since October 2005. See Figure 2.

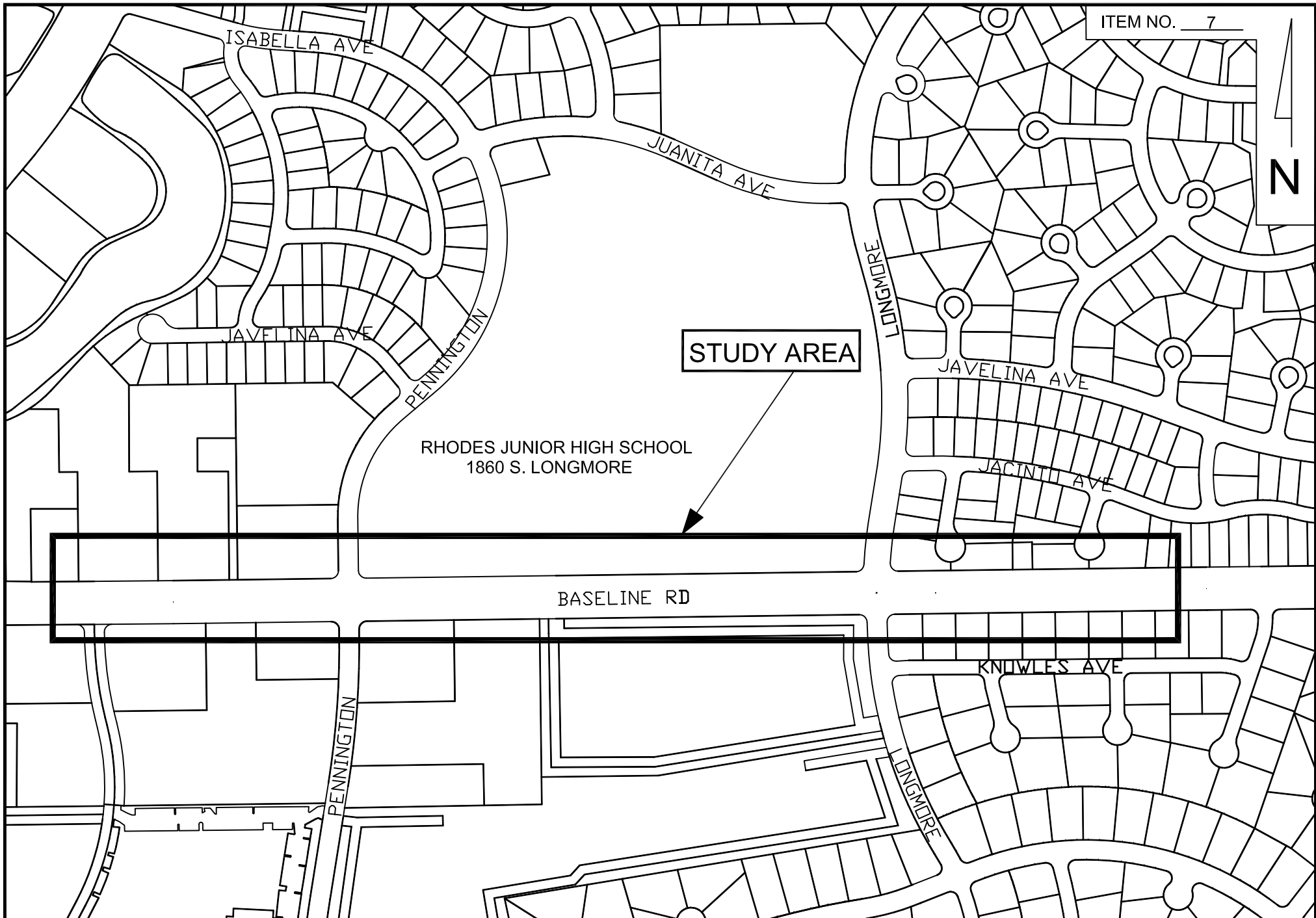
Speed data is presented in terms of the 85th percentile speed, which is the speed at or below which 85 percent of drivers are traveling. If the speeds of all drivers were ranked from slowest to fastest, the 85th percentile speed separates the slowest 85% from the fastest 15%. This statistic is used as an indication of what most drivers would find to be a reasonable and prudent speed limit for the conditions on a particular street.

Before any changes were made to the reduced speed school zone, the 85th percentile speed was 46.6 mph during the hours when the 35 mph speed limit was in effect and 48.2 mph when the 45 mph speed limit was in effect.

Speeds decreased following the addition of the DSFS and yellow flashing lights and have remained fairly constant throughout the time during which these devices have been operating. The December 2007 speed counts showed that the 85th percentile speed was 40.8 mph during the hours when the 35 mph speed limit was in effect and 47.5 mph when the 45 mph speed limit was in effect.

The most recent speed counts show the impact that the addition of fixed speed enforcement cameras have had on the 85th percentile speed. Speed data taken in September 2008 showed that the 85th percentile speed was 36.8 mph when the 35 mph speed limit is in effect and 44.3 mph when the 45 mph speed limit was in effect.

Renate Ehm, Senior Transportation Engineer



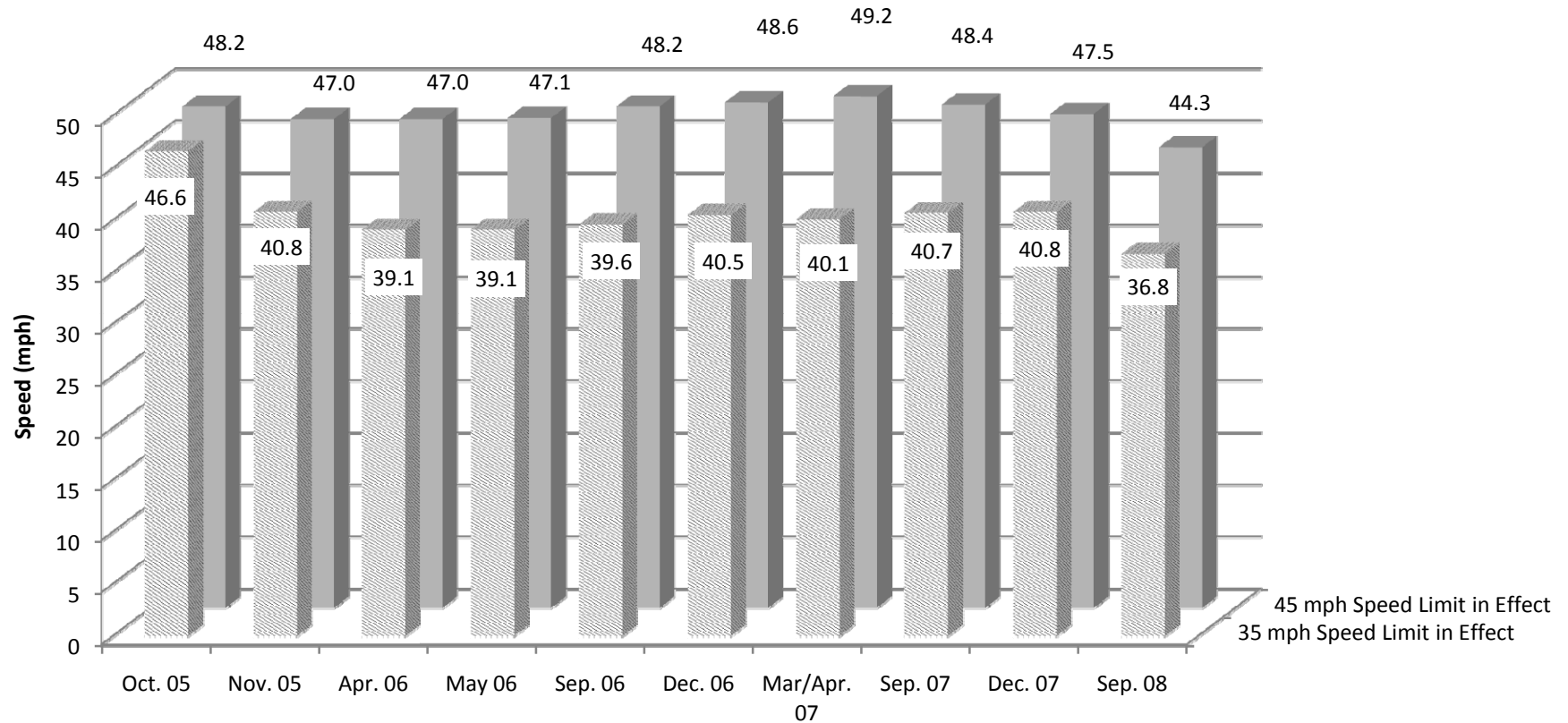
RHODES JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
1860 S. LONGMORE

STUDY AREA

BASELINE RD

Figure 2

85th Percentile Speeds on Baseline Road Between Pennington and Longmore Over Time



- Oct. 05 - Static Signs Only
- Nov. 05 - Static Signs and Intense Police Enforcement
- Apr. 06 through Dec. 07 - DSFS and yellow flashing lights
- Sep. 08 - DSFS, yellow flashing lights, fixed speed enforcement cameras