

May 12, 2021

Hermiston City Council  
180 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Hermiston, OR 97838



**Planning  
Department**

Re: Planning Commission Recommendation Regarding Diagonal Blvd Speed Limit

Dear Mayor and City Council:

The Hermiston Planning Commission recently approved a new 199-unit residential manufactured home park on E Diagonal Blvd. A large-scale residential development such as this poses the potential to add significant pedestrian traffic to the neighborhood, especially new pedestrian trips to Sandstone Middle School. The planning commission carefully considers the impacts of development on neighborhoods and how best to mitigate potential safety concerns. To accomplish this mitigation, the planning commission required significant improvements to E Diagonal Blvd in the form of sidewalks, street widening, and a new left turn lane for the development. However, there is one safety concern which was raised by the public in testimony and heavily discussed by the planning commission; the issue of crosswalks on E Diagonal Blvd and the need to reduce the speed on E Diagonal to 25 mph near this development. Currently, the speed limit at the intersection of Diagonal and E Ridgeway is 35 mph. At full build-out it is likely there will be a significant number of school-aged children attempting to cross Diagonal from the north side to the south side to access the multi-use trail along the south side of Diagonal or to access E Ridgeway, both of which provide a safe route to Sandstone Middle School.

To insure pedestrian safety, the planning commission respectfully recommends that the city council carefully weigh and consider lowering the speed limit on E Diagonal from 35 mph to 25 mph from NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street to NE 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret Saylor".

Margaret Saylor  
Chair  
Hermiston Planning Commission