

RESOLUTION 2025-19

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (SDDOT) TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT ON SD HIGHWAY 115 (MINNESOTA AVE) FROM ½ MILE SOUTH OF WILLOW STREET (273RD ST), TO ½ MILE NORTH OF LINCOLN COUNTY HIGHWAY 106 (271ST ST).

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisburg and northern Lincoln County continue to experience the fastest growth rates in the State of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, safety of the traveling public, students, school staff, and community members is of paramount importance to the City of Harrisburg; and

WHEREAS, SD Highway 115 was previously a westerly boundary of the formal City limits, and

WHEREAS, SD Highway 115 is currently a centrally located principal arterial that is heavily traveled, and runs adjacent to and through areas frequently used by commuters, school district students, families, and school buses; and

WHEREAS, urban growth and development impacting traffic patterns and traffic volumes since the 2020 Highway 115 reconstruct and established 55 mph speed limit has included (as shown in pink in attached exhibit);

- City population growth from 6,700 to 11,200
- School district growth from 5,427 to 6,200+
- Kwik Star gas station & truck stop at Tom Sawyer Trail & 115
- SDK dog park expansion north of Tiger Way & 115
- Noteboom RV expansion at Willow & 115
- Residential development:
 - Mills Creek Addition – 158 single and multi-family lots
 - East of 115 and Tom Sawyer Trail
 - Sunny Haven & Tom Sawyer Addition – 75 single family lots
 - West of 115 and Tom Sawyer Trail
 - Sawyer Pointe Apartments – four 36-unit apartments (144 total units)
 - East of 115 and Tom Sawyer Trail
 - Rix Addition & Tiger Way – 61 multi-family units
 - North of 115 and Tiger Way
- Conversion of 272nd St from a rural gravel road to a paved 2-lane roadway from Hwy 115 to Cliff Ave in 2024, with additional conversion of 272nd St from Hwy 115 to Louise Ave in 2026/27
- Continued growth in south Sioux Falls, within the Harrisburg School District, south of 57th St
 - Approximately 2/3 of the Harrisburg School District student body reside in south Sioux Falls, with one of two main entrances to Harrisburg High School located along SD 115.

WHEREAS, over 520 acres of new active development has been annexed, zoned, and preliminary plans approved for an additional 894 residential lots (as shown in green in attached exhibit); and

WHEREAS, a recent draft version of a new Harrisburg Housing Study indicates the need for an additional 3,000+ housing units and 900 rental units by 2033; and

WHEREAS, the current posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour between Willow Street and Highway 106 poses a heightened risk for accidents, near-misses, and traffic-related hazards involving the traveling public, school-aged children, and other community members; and

WHEREAS, the City and School District have observed increased traffic congestion, increased traffic accidents, growth in community and student body population, and higher pedestrian crossings in this corridor, intensifying the need for reduced vehicle speeds; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County has implemented similar speed reductions from 55 mph to 45 mph on two major arterial roadways, Cliff Ave (475th Ave) from Harrisburg north to Sioux Falls, and Willow St (273rd St) from I-29 east to Hwy 115 (as shown in blue in attached exhibit); and

WHEREAS, lowering the speed limit from 55 miles per hour to 45 miles per hour on this section of Highway 115 would provide drivers with additional reaction time, provide consistency in speed limits on major arterial roads connecting the metro to Sioux Falls, and reduce the severity of potential accidents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Harrisburg formally requests the South Dakota Department of Transportation to reduce the posted speed limit on Highway 115 from ½ mile south of Willow Street (273rd St) to ½ mile north of County Highway 106 (271st St) from 55 mph to 45 mph; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Administrator are authorized to forward this resolution to the South Dakota Department of Transportation and other relevant state and local authorities to advocate for prompt consideration and implementation of this request.

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2025.



Derick Wenck
Mayor

ATTEST:

Deb Harris
Deb Harris
Finance Officer

Publication:

EXHIBIT A

