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## TxDOT's plan to raise speed limits clears key hurdle



By Brandon Formby  
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The Regional Transportation Council today agreed to fund \$54 million in projects aimed at easing the state's attempts to raise speed limits on scores of area highways.

The Texas Department of Transportation still needs clearance from environmental agencies before it can rise the limits, which will mainly occur on suburban and rural highways. Once that occurs, it will take the agency 60-90 days to change speed limit signs.

Because higher speeds lead to higher car emissions, TxDOT must show that it will offset the expected increase by decreasing emissions elsewhere. The funding package approved Thursday aims to do just that.

Projects include retiming traffic lights throughout the region to decrease stop-and-go traffic. TxDOT also plans to increase the number of passing lanes where 18-wheelers are prohibited from driving.

The Texas Department of Transportation hopes to raise the speed limit on scores of highways by 5 mph.

Major suburban routes proposed to see higher limits include Central Expressway through Richardson and Collin County, Interstate 30 from LBJ Freeway to Rockwall, Interstate 35E from LBJ to Denton and Interstate 20 from State Highway 360 to U.S. Highway 175.

I-20 would see the higher 70-mph limit. The others would rise from 60 to 65 mph.

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