

**Town of Chevy Chase
Town-Wide Speed Limit of 20 mph**

Ordinance No.: 21-01
Introduced: 3/10/21
Adopted:
Effective:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 15 OF THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE MUNICIPAL CODE TO REDUCE THE TOWN-WIDE SPEED LIMIT OF 25 MILES PER HOUR TO 20 MILES PER HOUR AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO PROVIDE FOR THE ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SPEED LIMIT SIGNS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

WHEREAS, Maryland Code, Local Government Article, Section 5-202, as amended, authorizes the legislative body of each municipal corporation in the State of Maryland to pass ordinances that such legislative body deems necessary to assure the good government of the municipality, to protect and preserve the municipality's rights, property and privileges, to preserve peace and good order, to secure persons and property from danger and destruction, and to protect the health, comfort, and convenience of the citizens of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, Section 25-102(a)(10) of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Code grants to the legislative body of every local authority in Maryland, including the Town of Chevy Chase, the power to alter speed limits as provided in Title 21, Subtitle 8 of the Transportation Article; and

WHEREAS, Section 21-803 of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Code grants to the legislative body of every local authority in Maryland, including the Town of Chevy Chase, general power to alter speed limits specified in the Transportation Article, if, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, the local authority determines that any maximum speed limit specified therein is greater or less than reasonable or safe under existing conditions on any part of a roadway in its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Section 25-106 of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Code authorizes every local authority in Maryland, including the Town of Chevy Chase, to place and maintain those traffic control devices that the local authority considers necessary to carry out the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law or local traffic ordinances or to regulate, warn, or guide traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Town's traffic consultant, A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc., concluded an engineering and traffic investigation in the Town in October 2020 and found that a Town-wide speed limit of 20 miles per hour, except on streets where lower limits currently apply, would promote the public good, safety and convenience; and

WHEREAS, following the engineering and traffic investigation, the Town Public Service Committee (PSC) submitted a report and recommendation to the Town Council dated December 14, 2020, in which the PSC indicated support for a Town-wide speed limit of 20 miles per hour, except where lower limits currently apply; and

WHEREAS, Section 301 of the Town of Chevy Chase Charter authorizes the Town Council to pass ordinances as it may deem necessary for the good government of the Town; for the protection and preservation of the Town's property, rights and privileges; for the preservation of peace and good order; for securing persons and property from violence, danger and destruction; and for the protection and promotion of the health, safety, comfort, convenience, welfare, and happiness of the resident(s) of the Town; and for such other police and health matters as it may deem necessary;

WHEREAS, the Town Council introduced the following ordinance in public session assembled on the 10th day of March, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council held a public hearing on the following ordinance in public session assembled on the ___th day of _____, 2021; and

WHEREAS, upon consideration of the report and recommendations of the traffic engineer, the support of the PSC, and the testimony and evidence presented at the public hearing, the Town Council finds that 25 miles per hour, which is the currently speed limit for Town roads under Section 21-801.1(b) of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Code, as amended by Town Ordinance No. 08-02, effective April 9, 2008, is greater than reasonable under existing conditions on the Town roads and unsafe; and

WHEREAS, upon consideration of the report and recommendations of the traffic engineer, the support of the PSC, and the testimony and evidence presented at the public hearing, the Town Council finds that a speed limit of 20 miles per hour is reasonable and safe under existing conditions on the Town roads, except where lower limits currently apply; and

WHEREAS, upon consideration of the report and recommendations of the traffic engineer, the support of the PSC, and the testimony and evidence presented at the public hearing, the Town Council finds that it is appropriate, necessary and advisable for the public good, safety and convenience to establish a Town-wide speed limit of 20 miles per hour, except where lower limits currently apply, and to erect speed limit signs at proper locations in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that the ordinance as hereinafter set forth is necessary for the good government of the Town; for the protection and preservation of the Town's property, rights and privileges; for the preservation of peace and good order; for securing persons and property from violence, danger and destruction; and for the protection and promotion of the health, safety, comfort, convenience, welfare, and happiness of the residents of the Town.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this ___th day of _____, 2021, by virtue of the authority given to it by the Maryland Code and the Town of Chevy Chase

Charter, the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase does hereby adopt the following ordinance.

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED AND ORDERED, by the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase, acting under and by virtue of the aforementioned authority, that the Town Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

* * *

Sec. 15-3. - Town-wide speed limit.

The speed limit on all roadways within the Town shall be ~~25~~ **twenty (20)** miles per hour, unless otherwise provided by the Town Council.

Sec. 15-4. - Special speed limits.

~~(a)~~ The speed limit on the following roadways shall be ~~twenty (20)~~ miles per hour:

- ~~(1) Curtis Road between Leland Street and Oakridge Avenue;~~
- ~~(2) Lynn Drive between Oakridge Lane and Maple Avenue;~~
- ~~(3) Oak Lane between Leland Street and Meadow Lane;~~
- ~~(4) Oakridge Avenue between Curtis Road and Leland Street;~~
- ~~(5) Oakridge Lane between Lynn Drive and Leland Street; and~~
- ~~(6) Stanford Street between Oakridge Avenue and East Avenue.~~

~~(b)~~ **(a)** The speed limit on Pine Place between Ridgewood Avenue and Maple Avenue shall be fifteen (15) miles per hour.

~~(c)~~ **(b)** The speed limit on Ridgewood Alley east of Ridgewood Avenue shall be ten (10) miles per hour.

~~(d)~~ **(c)** The roadways described in this subsection ~~(d)~~ **(c)** are hereby declared and designated as a school zone. Fines for violation of the speed limits in this subsection ~~(d)~~ **(c)** shall be doubled. The speed limit on the following roadways shall be fifteen (15) miles per hour from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on school days:

- (1) Eastbound and westbound Rosemary Street between Meadow Lane and Maple Avenue;
- (2) Northbound and southbound Hillcrest Place between Bradley Lane and Sycamore Street;
- (3) Eastbound and westbound Stanford Street between Ridgewood Avenue and Rosemary Circle;
- (4) Northbound and southbound Meadow Lane between Rosemary Street and Sycamore Street;
- (5) Eastbound and westbound Beechwood Drive between Valley Place and Sycamore Street;
- (6) Northbound and southbound Valley Place from Beechwood Drive to Meadow Lane; and
- (7) Northbound and southbound West Avenue between Ridge Street and Bradley Lane.

* * *

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED, by the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase, acting under and by virtue of the aforementioned authority, that:

(1) The Town Manager is authorized to provide for the erection and maintenance of appropriate speed limit signs in accordance with the most recent edition of the “Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways;” provided that, no such sign shall be erected on State highways without the approval of the State Highway Administration;

(2) If any part or provision of this ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the part or provision held to be invalid shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any remaining part thereof; and

(2) This ordinance shall take effect on the ___th day of _____, 2021 (30 days after adoption).

ATTEST:

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Secretary

Cecily Baskir, Mayor
Town of Chevy Chase

Bold and Underline indicates new material

~~Strike through~~ indicates material deleted

* * * indicates material unchanged