

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

TO: Traffic Safety Commission

FROM: Patrick Thomas, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

DATE: June 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Engineering and Traffic Survey Update

PREPARED BY: Nick Minicilli, Senior Traffic Engineer
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RECOMMENDATION: That the Traffic Safety Commission recommend the City Council adopt an Ordinance reaffirming and adjusting the speed limits identified in the Summary of Recommended Speed Limits.

BACKGROUND: The California Vehicle Code (CVC) requires local authorities to review, reaffirm or adjust speed limits within their jurisdiction every seven (7) years based on an Engineering and Traffic (E&T) Survey. The CVC also mandates that new speed limits be established based on an Engineering and Traffic Survey. The E&T survey provides the mechanism for the legal enforcement of the posted speed limit using radar or any other electronic speed-measuring device.

As defined in the California Vehicle Code, an engineering and traffic survey is “a survey of highway and traffic conditions in accordance with methods determined by the Department of Transportation for use by state and local authorities.” The survey shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of prevailing speeds as determined by traffic engineering measurements, accident statistics, and highway, traffic, and roadside conditions not readily apparent to the driver. These characteristics are all considered when determining a reasonable and prudent posted speed limit. It should be noted that establishing a speed limit, which is not consistent with the 85th percentile speed, constitutes a “speed trap” and is not enforceable using radar or any other electronic speed-measuring device.

Willdan Engineering conducted an E&T Survey on seven (7) roadways, which included twenty-four (24) segments. The survey indicates that most existing speed limits do not require a change, and the recommended speed limits are consistent with the existing posted speed limits. There are, however, six (6) segments where the existing posted speed limit is recommended to be adjusted. The segments are as follows:

- Butterfield Stage Road – Rancho California Rd to Ave. Lestonnac 55 MPH to 50 MPH
- Butterfield Stage Road – Ave. Lestonnac to Pauba Road 55 MPH to 50 MPH
- Butterfield Stage Road – Pauba Road to De Portola Road 55 MPH to 50 MPH
- Ynez Road – North City Limits to Date Street Not Posted to 45 MPH
- Ynez Road – Santiago Road to La Paz Street 45 MPH to 40 MPH

- Ynez Road – La Paz Street to Jedediah Smith Road 45 MPH to 40 MPH

The recommended posted speed limits conform to the requirements of the California Vehicle Code and the Caltrans MUTCD for establishing prudent posted speed limits that are consistent with roadway conditions, prevailing speeds, and more importantly, enforceable.

Staff recommends the Commission approve a recommendation that the City Council adopt an Ordinance establishing the speed limits identified in Attachment 1 Summary of Recommendations.

The public has been notified of the Traffic Safety Commission's consideration of this issue through the agenda notification process.

FISCAL IMPACT: Adequate funds are available for installation of signs and pavement legends in the Public Works, Traffic Engineering Division's Operating Budget.

ATTACHMENTS: 1 - Summary of Recommended Speed Limits
2 - 2024 Engineering and Traffic Survey