

**PUBLIC TRAFFIC/SAFETY COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Public/Traffic Safety Commission

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

DATE: December 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Engineering and Traffic Survey Update

PREPARED BY: Nick Minicilli, Senior Traffic Engineer

RECOMMENDATION: That the Public/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 twenty-one (21) roadways, which included thirty-nine (39) 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, seventeen (17) segments where the existing posted speed limit is recommended to be adjusted. The segments are as follows:

- Avenida Buena Suerte – Del Rey Road to Avenida Centenario 30 MPH to 25 MPH
- Avenida Centenario – Avenida Buena Suerte to Via Norte 30 MPH to 25 MPH
- Channel Street – Butterfield Stage Road to Chaote Street 35 MPH to 25 MPH
- Harveston Drive – Harveston Way to Fairmont Lane 35 MPH to 30 MPH
- Harveston Drive – Fairmont Lane to Lakeview Road 35 MPH to 30 MPH
- La Paz Street – Temecula Parkway to Ynez Road 35 MPH to 25 MPH

- Murrieta Hot Springs Rd – Pourroy Road to Butterfield Stage Road Not Posted to 50 MPH
- Overland Drive- Enterprise Circle to Jefferson Avenue 35 MPH to 30 MPH
- Rainbow Canyon Road- South City Limits to Temecula Creek Inn 40 MPH to 35 MPH
- Rainbow Canyon Road- Temecula Creek Inn to Pechanga Parkway 40 MPH to 35 MPH
- Redhawk Parkway- Vail Ranch Parkway to Wolf Valley Road 45 MPH to 40 MPH
- Redhawk Parkway- Wolf Valley Road to Peppercorn Drive 45 MPH to 40 MPH
- Redhawk Parkway- Peppercorn Drive to El Chimisal/Tehachapi Pass 45 MPH to 40 MPH
- Redhawk Parkway- El Chimisal/Tehachapi Pass to Nighthawk Pass 45 MPH to 40 MPH
- Temecula Lane- Loma Linda Drive to Canterfield Drive Not Posted to 25 MPH
- Vail Ranch Pkwy- Nighthawk Pass to Harmony Lane/Terzich Drive 45 MPH to 40 MPH
- Vail Ranch Pkwy- Harmony Lane/Terzich Drive to Redhawk Parkway 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 Public/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 - Willdan Engineering - 2021 Engineering and Traffic Survey