

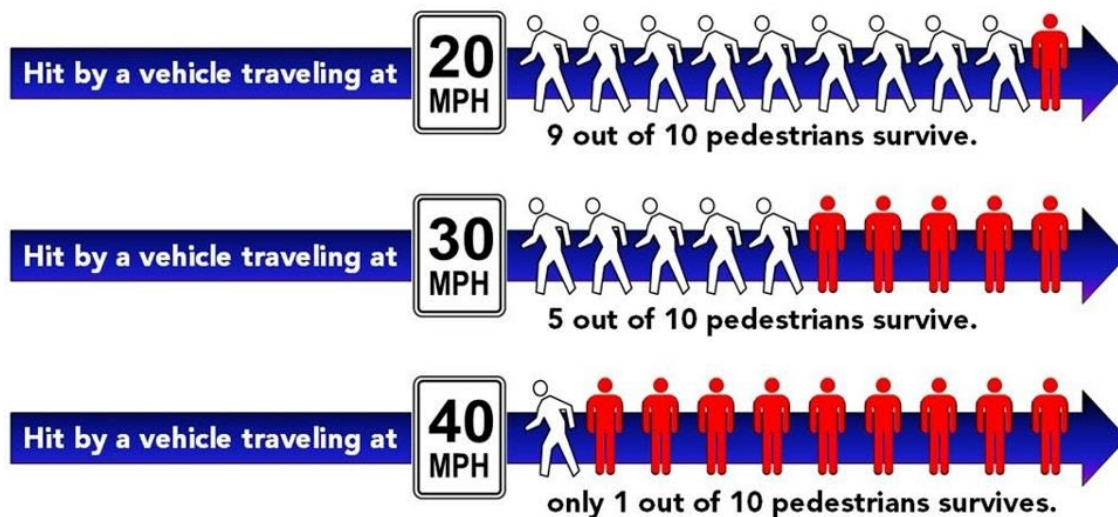
From: Serge Bonte [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 9:18 AM
To: Kamei, Ellen <Ellen.Kamei@mountainview.gov>; Matichak, Lisa <Lisa.Matichak@mountainview.gov>; Hicks, Alison <Alison.Hicks@mountainview.gov>
Cc: Cameron, Dawn <Dawn.Cameron@mountainview.gov>; Whyte, Brandon <Brandon.Whyte@mountainview.gov>; Lo, Ria <Ria.Lo@mountainview.gov>; Lopez, Lorenzo <Lorenzo.Lopez@mountainview.gov>; Ramos, Emily Ann <Emily.Ramos@mountainview.gov>; Showalter, Pat <Pat.Showalter@mountainview.gov>; Ramirez, Lucas <Lucas.Ramirez@mountainview.gov>; Abe-Koga, Margaret <Margaret.abe-koga@mountainview.gov>
Subject: CTC 11/28/23 Meeting - Agenda Item 5.3 Speed Limit Legislation Overview and Implementation Strategy

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Honorable Council Transportation Committee Members:

TLDR: Aggressively Speed up (in any way you can) Posted Speed Limit reductions.

There are mountains of studies showing that reducing vehicle speeds greatly improves safety for all street users, not necessarily by reducing the number of crashes but certainly by reducing their impact: as illustrated by the image below



It's no surprise that many localities implementing Vision Zero have plans to reduce speed on their streets and I want Mountain View to do anything it can to reduce posted speed limits as soon as possible.

The staff report does a good job explaining the recent changes made at the State level (sadly Mountain View is not part of the pilot for Automated Speed Enforcement). The report is also correct in asserting that the best way to reduce speeds is by design (and the City should double down on those: road diets,

traffic calming...). Unfortunately, reducing speed via street design is expensive, very slow (semi-intended ironic pun) and constrained by Staff bandwidth.

Even without funding issues (and the repercussions of the funding shortfalls for many Capital Improvement Projects -see Agenda Item 5.1-), reducing speed by design will not happen throughout Mountain View during my lifetime and quite possibly not during my mid-twenties son's.

I believe there is still value in simply reducing the posted speed limit in advance of street re-designs:

- While some drivers will ignore them, many -like myself- will observe them
- Navigation Applications -some of them embedded in the dashboard- will honor them; i.e. reduced speed will be used to calculate routes and also displayed on the screen (phone or car dashboard)
- On streets where passing is not possible or unpractical, drivers observing the reduced speed limit will set the pace for other drivers and in a way enforce the reduced speed limit.

It's great that the state provides more opportunities to reduce posted speed limits without doing complex (and often unfruitful) speed tables.

The staff report identifies two avenues:

- Safety Corridors
- Business District

However, I feel that the proposed implementation is too timid (more studies, incremental roll-up...)

Instead, I would like you to direct City Staff to be far more aggressive in reducing posted speed limits in safety corridors and streets qualifying as part of a business district.

Streets qualifying as part of the business district rule should be known by now: most of them are probably downtown, portions of some like California Street between Showers and San Antonio might qualify. Let's reduce posted speed limits by 5mph on ALL of them in early 2024. Implementation cost is minimal, why spend time and money on further studies?

Streets qualifying under Safety Corridors will be known early next Year before June 2024 when reductions will be possible., why the incremental process? Implement posted reduced speed limits on ALL of them by July 2024.

For both sets of streets, order the signs asap.

Finally, the staff report noted that Palo Alto reduced posted speed limits on many streets without waiting for state law changes. While it might result in speed limits being unenforceable in many cases. you should study how frequently speed is enforced in Mountain View. I live on a residential street (25mph posted limit) where we see occasional speeding (typically hurried cut through traffic) but have never seen any enforcement. Even if MVPD decided to enforce speed limits on my street for say 4 hours, it would be inefficient and unfruitful (not a lot of traffic in general). In light of this, maybe Mountain View should consider reducing speed limits (to 20mph) on most residential streets. This wouldn't really not make a difference in enforcement but as noted above it might get navigation apps to stop recommending cut throughs on residential streets and speed to be reduced by pace set by drivers observing the posted speed limit.

Sincerely

Serge Bonte

██████████ - a 25 mph street where 20 would be more than plenty :) -