



DATE: January 14, 2014

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Reduce 15 Mile Per Hour and Extend 25 Mile Per Hour Speed Limits in School Zones**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve establishing 15 mile per hour (mph) speed zone near schools and extend 25 mph speed limit zones at all the schools in the City that qualify for reduced school speed limit zones.
2. Approve a midyear capital improvement project, School Zone Speed Limit–15 mph Sign Installation, and transfer \$137,000 from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Reserve to the new project. (Five votes required)

BACKGROUND

The issue of reduced speed limits in school zones from 25 mph down to 15 mph has come up during Council Neighborhoods Committee (CNC) meetings and has been raised by both members of the public as well as Councilmembers.

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) governs establishment of posted speed limits on various types of streets and highways. The CVC establishes a prima facie (default, apparent, and self-evident) speed limit of 25 mph in school zones or in any residential or business district. For the Police Department to use radar for speed enforcement, the CVC requires posting of a speed limit based on the Engineering and Traffic Surveys (ETS), which are used to determine the appropriate speed based on roadway and traffic conditions, accident history, and other factors such as pedestrian and bicycle use. Residential streets and school zones are exempt so radar enforcement can be performed without an ETS.

Changes to the CVC in January 2008 allow local agencies to extend the 25 mph prima facie speed limit up to 1,000' from school grounds and to establish a 15 mph speed limit in school zones (up to 500' from the school grounds) under certain conditions.

On June 3, 2013, the Council Transportation Committee (CTC) considered implementation of 15 mph and extended 25 mph school zone speeds (Attachment 1). After public input and discussion, the CTC supported establishing these limits at all the schools that qualify for reduced school speed zones.

ANALYSIS

There are 21 public and private schools in the City. Fifteen (15) of these schools could qualify for reduced or extended school speed zones. The other six schools are located along four-lane streets and/or on streets posted with 35 mph speed limits and do not meet CVC criteria for reduced speed zones near schools. Posting reduced 15 mph or extended 25 mph school speed limit signs would require the following:

1. Conduct an engineering study for each of the 15 locations consistent with CVC requirements.
2. Council action and passage of a resolution for implementation as required by the CVC.
3. Prepare plans and bid documents for posting of signs and bid the project.
4. Install signs.

The estimated project cost is as follows:

Construction	\$ 80,000
Construction Contingencies	8,000
Engineering Study	20,000
Plans and Specifications	12,000
Inspection	<u>8,000</u>
Subtotal	\$128,000
Administration (6.5%)	<u>8,500</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	<u>\$137,000</u> (rounded)

If Council approves the recommended action, construction is expected to begin in June 2014 and be completed during the 2014 school summer break.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this project has been determined to be categorically exempt under Section 15301 as it involves minor alterations to existing public facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are sufficient funds available (\$339,000 as of June 30, 2013) in the CIP Reserve for the recommended \$137,000 transfer while still maintaining the \$5.0 million reserve balance.

ALTERNATIVE

1. Do not direct staff to implement establishing reduced/extended school speed limit zones.
2. Adopt a resolution allowing establishment of the new school speed zones but defer consideration of a capital improvement project until the full CIP is considered by Council in spring 2014.

PUBLIC NOTICING

Notices were sent to superintendents of Mountain View Whisman School District and Mountain View Los Altos High School District for distribution to schools and Parent Teacher Associations as well as to representatives of the neighborhood associations.

Prepared by:

Sayed Fakhry
City Traffic Engineer

Approved by:

Michael A. Fuller
Public Works Director

Daniel H. Rich
City Manager

SF/7/CAM/902-01-14-14CR-E

- Attachment: 1. [Council Transportation Committee Minutes – June 3, 2013](#)
2. [Item 6.3 – Memorandum to the Council Transportation Committee – June 3, 2013](#)