



Memorandum Engineering Division

April 16, 2014

To: Planning Commission
From: Thomas Frank, Transportation Engineering Manager *TF*
Subject: Establishment of Citywide Posted Speed Limits
Copies: William E. Cameron, Public Works Director / City Engineer
Thomas Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer
Werner W. Hartman, Police Services Sergeant

ISSUE:

Should the Planning Commission forward to the City Council a recommendation to approve and certify Engineering and Traffic surveys establishing Citywide Posted Speed Limits?

BACKGROUND:

Speed limits in California are governed by the California Vehicle Code (CVC) Sections 22348 through 22413. The CVC statutes establish or provide the means for establishing speed limits by:

1. Blanket regulations set by statutes that apply on a Statewide basis for special areas.
2. Prima-facie speed limits established by the State or local authorities within their respective jurisdictions on the basis of an engineering and traffic survey. Prima-facie speed limits are considered safe and prudent under normal conditions.

The blanket regulations provide that no person shall drive upon a highway at a speed greater than 65 miles per hour (mph), with some exceptions for certain rural highways that have 70 mph speed limits. All other speed limits are called prima-facie and certain CVC sections establish some of those prima-facie speed limits:

- A. Fifteen (15) mph at blind railroad crossings, blind uncontrolled highway crossing and on alleys.
- B. Twenty-five (25) mph on streets within business and residential districts and school zone areas.

These speeds are not always posted, yet all California motorists are required to know these basic speed limit laws. Intermediate speed limits between twenty-five and sixty-five miles per hour, may be established by local authorities on the basis of a traffic engineering survey. For speed limits to be valid and enforceable, these surveys must be made once every five years. These surveys include analysis of roadway conditions, accidents records and the prevailing speed of drivers.

The composite character of a street may change in such a way as to make the existing speed limit unenforceable. It is therefore necessary to establish and update the posted speed limit for these streets.

In order to determine the appropriate, reasonable and safe speed limits that will facilitate the orderly movement of traffic, factors such as prevailing speeds, unexpected conditions and accidents records are considered. Speed limits should be established at or near the 85th percentile speed, which is defined as, at or below, the speed at which 85 percent of the measured motorists drive. Speed limits higher than the 85th percentile are not generally considered reasonable or safe. Speed limits established substantially below the 85th percentile do not facilitate the orderly movement of traffic and have been generally held to be unenforceable by the courts. Speed limits established at the first five (5) miles per hour increment below the 85th percentile speeds have proven to be enforceable and provide law enforcement with the means to control drivers who do not conform to the measured consensus of reasonable and prudent speed. Engineering judgment regarding existing conditions which may not be readily apparent may indicate the need for a further reduction of the speed limit established by five (5) miles per hour.

Staff has conducted speed surveys for City Streets with intermediate speed limits between 25 mph and 65 mph. The attached exhibit summarizes the speed survey results and the recommended speed for each roadway. Based on the City's Engineering and Traffic Survey, the only recommended changes from existing speed limits are:

- A. Avenida Vista Hermosa (from Interstate 5 to Camino Vera Cruz) – reduce from 45 mph to 40 mph; and
- B. Calle Frontera (from Avenida Vista Hermosa to 600 feet south of Calle Cuadra) – increase from 30 mph to 35 mph.

RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the Planning Commission forward to the City Council a recommendation to approve and certify the posted speed limits based on speed surveys summarized as set forth in Speed Summary Exhibit.

Attachment: Summary of Engineering and Traffic Survey

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
2014 CITYWIDE SPEED LIMIT UPDATE

SUMMARY OF ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC SURVEY

No.	Location	ADT¹	Accident Rate²	Expected Accident Rate³	Posted⁴ Speed Limit	Date of Survey	Average Speed	85th Percentile Speed	Recommended Speed Limit
1	Acapulco, Avenida Avenida San Pablo to Avenida San Pablo	1,300	0.66	1.32	35 mph	1/17/2014	34 mph	38 mph	35 mph
2	Aguila, Calle Avenida Vista Montana to Calle Pastadero	1,200	2.51	1.32	30 mph	1/16/2014	28 mph	28 mph	30 mph
3	Altea, Calle Camino La Pedriza to Terminus	900	0	1.32	35 mph	1/13/2014	34 mph	39 mph	35 mph
4	Amanecer, Calle Avenida Pico to Avenida La Pata	7,300	0.25	1.32	35 mph	1/16/2014	36 mph	41 mph	35 mph
5	Califia, Avenida Avenida Del Presidente to terminus	1,400	4.59	1.32	25 mph	1/21/2014	23 mph	25 mph	25 mph
6	Capistrano, Camino El Camino Real (Pacific Coast Highway) to North City Limit	8,200	1.51	1.32	35 mph	1/14/2014	30 mph	33 mph	35 mph
7	Cerro, Del Calle Avenida Pico to Avenida Vista Montana (west)	14,000	1.34	1.81	40 mph	1/16/2014	34 mph	40 mph	40 mph
8	Cerro, Del Calle Avenida Vista Montana to Avenida La Pata	5,000	3.01	1.81	35 mph	1/16/2014	33 mph	38 mph	35 mph
9	Del Rio, Camino Camino de Los Mares to Easterly terminus	4,000	0.82	3.97	40 mph	1/7/2014	37 mph	42 mph	40 mph
10	El Portal, East El Camino Real to Avenida de La Estrella	12,000	0.42	1.32	25 mph	1/14/2014	27 mph	25 mph	25 mph
11	Estrella, Avenida De La Avenida Presidio to East El Portal	7,000	1.55	1.32	25 mph	1/14/2014	27 mph	31 mph	25 mph
12	Estrella, Camino de Interstate 5 to West City Limit	10,000	3.53	3.97	35 mph	1/6/2014	30 mph	35 mph	35 mph

¹ADT - Average Daily Traffic from 2010 to 2014

²Accident Rate - Orange County Sheriff data from 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2013

³Expected Accident Rate - 2010 Caltrans Collision Data for District 12 (Orange County)

⁴Posted Speed Limit - Current speed limit posted since 2009

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
2014 CITYWIDE SPEED LIMIT UPDATE

SUMMARY OF ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC SURVEY

No.	Location	ADT ¹	Accident Rate ²	Expected Accident Rate ³	Posted ⁴ Speed Limit	Date of Survey	Average Speed	85th Percentile Speed	Recommended Speed Limit
13	Faro, Camino Calle Frontera to Avenida Vista Hermosa	1,500	4.07	1.32	25 mph	1/15/2014	24 mph	27 mph	25 mph
14	Fresas, Avenida (Private Street) Calle Saluda to Calle Gaulteria	1,500	1.28	1.32	35 mph	1/8/2014	30 mph	35 mph	35 mph
15	Frontera, Calle Avenida Pico to Avenida Vista Hermosa Avenida Vista Hermosa to 600' s/o Cuadra	6,000	1.21 1.09	1.32 1.32	30 mph	1/15/2014 2/18/2014	34 mph 35 mph	37 mph 39 mph	35 mph
16	Frontera, Calle ~600' S. of Calle Cuadra to Calle Vallarta	7,000	0.51	1.32	25 mph	1/15/2014	28 mph	30 mph	25 mph
17	Fuerte, Camino Viento (Private Street) Avenida Talega west to Via Agradar Via Agradar to Avenida Talega east	1,700	0 0	1.32 1.32	35 mph	1/13/2014	36 mph 33 mph	40 mph 36 mph	35 mph
18	Grande, Camino Tierra (Private Street) Avenida Talega to Via Timon Via Timon to Camino Viento Fuerte	2,700	0 0	1.32 1.32	35 mph	1/21/2014	33 mph 32 mph	36 mph 36 mph	35 mph
19	Guadalajara, Calle Calle Nuevo to Avenida Vaquero	1,500	0.91	1.32	25 mph	1/14/2014	26 mph	30 mph	25 mph
20	Hermosa, Avenida Vista Interstate 5 to Calle Frontera Calle Frontera to Via Turqueza Via Turqueza to Camino Vera Cruz	29,000 25,500 25,000	2.68 1.51 0.63	1.81	45 mph	2/18/2014 2/18/2014 1/7/2014	31 mph 40 mph 41 mph	38 mph 45 mph 46 mph	40 mph
21	Hermosa, Avenida Vista Camino Vera Cruz to Avenida La Pata Avenida La Pata to Avenida Pico	19,000 9,000	0.46 1.71	1.81	45 mph	1/7/2014	44 mph 38 mph	49 mph 44 mph	45 mph
22	La Pata, Avenida Calle Saluda to East Avenida Pico Avenida Pico to Calle Del Cerro Calle Del Cerro to South City Limit	5,500 9,000 9,000	1.18 1.05 0.85	1.81	45 mph	1/8/2014	45 mph 42 mph 43 mph	50 mph 48 mph 47 mph	45 mph
23	La Pedriza, Camino Avenida Vista Hermosa to Via Amor Via Amor to Avenida Pico	2,000	2.32 1.10	1.32	40 mph	1/13/2014	38 mph 37 mph	43 mph 42 mph	40 mph
24	Mares, Camino De Los Interstate 5 to Avenida Vaquero	31,000	3.74	1.81	35 mph	1/6/2014	29 mph	33 mph	35 mph

¹ADT - Average Daily Traffic from 2010 to 2014

²Accident Rate - Orange County Sheriff data from 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2013

³Expected Accident Rate - 2010 Caltrans Collision Data for District 12 (Orange County)

⁴Posted Speed Limit - Current speed limit posted since 2009

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
2014 CITYWIDE SPEED LIMIT UPDATE

SUMMARY OF ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC SURVEY

No.	Location	ADT ¹	Accident Rate ²	Expected Accident Rate ³	Posted ⁴ Speed Limit	Date of Survey	Average Speed	85th Percentile Speed	Recommended Speed Limit
25	Mares, Camino De Los Avenida Vaquero to Camino Vera Cruz Camino Vera Cruz to East City Limit	16,000 7,000	0.94 2.16	3.97	45 mph	1/6/2014	46 mph 40 mph	49 mph 45 mph	45 mph
26	Mira Costa, Camino Camino Capistrano to Camino De Estrella	9,000	1.16	3.97	35 mph	1/14/2014	38 mph	42 mph	35 mph
27	Montana, Avenida Vista Calle Del Cerro to Calle Del Cerro	5,000	0.85	1.32	35 mph	1/16/2014	37 mph	41 mph	35 mph
28	Negocio, Calle Calle Amanecer to its terminus	3,100	1.87	1.32	35 mph	1/16/2014	33 mph	36 mph	35 mph
29	Ola Vista, South Avenida Del Mar to Avenida Valencia Avenida Valencia to Avenida Califia	3,000 1,800	4.87 5.71	1.32	25 mph	1/22/2014	25 mph 25 mph	27 mph 29 mph	25 mph
30	Pastadero, Calle Avenida Vista Montana to its terminus	500	0	1.32	30 mph	1/16/2014	28 mph	31 mph	30 mph
31	Pico, Avenida El Camino Real to Calle De Los Molinos Calle De Los Molinos to CI Frontera/Av Presidio	12,000	1.23 3.40	1.81	35 mph	1/9/2014	37 mph 28 mph	41 mph 32 mph	35 mph
32	Pico, Avenida Calle Frontera / Avenida Presidio to Amanecer Calle Amanecer to Avenida La Pata	37,000 24,000	0.63 2.09	1.81	45 mph	1/9/2014	45 mph 38 mph	49 mph 45 mph	45 mph
33	Pico, Avenida Avenida La Pata to Avenida Vista Hermosa Avenida Vista Hermosa to East City Limit	14,000 8,000	0.84	1.81	50 mph	1/9/2014	45 mph 43 mph	51 mph 49 mph	50 mph
34	Portico Del Sur / Norte Camino de Los Mares to Camino de Los Mares	6,500	3.54	1.32	35 mph	1/14/2014	36 mph	40 mph	35 mph
35	Presidente, Avenida Del Avenida Valencia to Avenida Califia Avenida Califia to Cristianitos Road	1,350 3,500	3.57 3.01	1.32	30 mph	1/21/2014	32 mph 27 mph	35 mph 30 mph	30 mph
36	Presidio, Avenida El Camino Real to Calle Escuela Calle Escuela to Avenida Pico	7,800 5,800	1.79 2.86	1.32	25 mph	3/25/2014 3/24/2014	28 mph 27 mph	31 mph 30 mph	25 mph

¹ADT - Average Daily Traffic from 2010 to 2014

²Accident Rate - Orange County Sheriff data from 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2013

³Expected Accident Rate - 2010 Caltrans Collision Data for District 12 (Orange County)

⁴Posted Speed Limit - Current speed limit posted since 2009

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
2014 CITYWIDE SPEED LIMIT UPDATE

SUMMARY OF ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC SURVEY

No.	Location	ADT ¹	Accident Rate ²	Expected Accident Rate ³	Posted ⁴ Speed Limit	Date of Survey	Average Speed	85th Percentile Speed	Recommended Speed Limit
37	Puerta del Sol / Hermosa, Avenida Vista Avenida Pico to Avenida Pico	2,000	0	1.32	30 mph	1/13/2014	28 mph	31 mph	30 mph
38	Real, El Camino (Pacific Coast Highway) Camino Capistrano to Avenida Estacion	16,000	1.09	1.32	45 mph	1/10/2014	46 mph	50 mph	45 mph
39	Real, El Camino Avenida Estacion to Calle De Los Molinos Calle De Los Molinos to El Portal	14,000 15,500	4.13 3.14	3.97	35 mph	1/10/2014	31 mph 33 mph	35 mph 36 mph	35 mph
40	Real, El Camino El Portal to Avenida Palizada Avenida Palizada to Avenida Presidio Avenida Presidio to Avenida Valencia	17,000 18,500 16,000	8.35 7.03 5.71	3.97	30 mph	1/10/2014	28 mph 24 mph 29 mph	31 mph 27 mph 33 mph	30 mph
41	Real, El Camino Avenida Valencia to Del Comercio Del Comercio to South City Limit	12,500 6,000	3.65 3.42	3.97	35 mph	1/10/2014	33 mph 38 mph	37 mph 42 mph	35 mph
42	Saluda, Calle Avenida La Pata to Avenida Fresas Avenida Fresas to Avenida Talega	5,000 4,900	0 0.56	1.32	35 mph	1/8/2014	35 mph 35 mph	39 mph 39 mph	35 mph
43	Salvador, Avenida Avenida Presidio to Avenida San Pablo	2,000	1.77	1.32	25 mph	3/25/2014	27 mph	31 mph	25 mph
44	San Pablo, Avenida (WB one-way) San Gabriel to El Camino Real	1,500	0	1.32	25 mph	1/17/2014	20 mph	23 mph	25 mph
45	San Pablo, Avenida San Gabriel to Avenida Acapulco	2,000	6.94	1.32	25 mph	1/17/2014	27 mph	31 mph	25 mph
46	San Pablo, Avenida Avenida Acapulco to northerly terminus	1,500	0.85	1.32	35 mph	1/17/2014	35 mph	41 mph	35 mph
47	Sarmentoso Camino Vera Cruz to Camino Del Rio	2,000	1.09	1.32	30 mph	2/19/2014	26 mph	29 mph	30 mph
48	Talega, Avenida Avenida Vista Hermosa to Calle Saluda	10,000	0.79	1.81	35 mph	2/19/2014	34 mph	39 mph	35 mph

¹ADT - Average Daily Traffic from 2010 to 2014

²Accident Rate - Orange County Sheriff data from 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2013

³Expected Accident Rate - 2010 Caltrans Collision Data for District 12 (Orange County)

⁴Posted Speed Limit - Current speed limit posted since 2009

**CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
2014 CITYWIDE SPEED LIMIT UPDATE**

SUMMARY OF ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC SURVEY

No.	Location	ADT ¹	Accident Rate²	Expected Accident Rate³	Posted⁴ Speed Limit	Date of Survey	Average Speed	85th Percentile Speed	Recommended Speed Limit
49	Talega, Avenida Calle Saluda to East City Limit	8,000	0.37	1.81	40 mph	1/7/2014	38 mph	44 mph	40 mph
50	Vaquero, Avenida Camino De Los Mares to Calle Guadalajara Calle Guadalajara to Calle Vista Torito Calle Vista Torito to Camino Capistrano	6,500 4,200 5,100	2.23 1.79 0.98	1.32	30 mph	1/6/2014	32 mph 33 mph 31 mph	35 mph 36 mph 34 mph	30 mph
51	Vera Cruz, Camino Avenida Pico to Avenida Vista Hermosa Avenida Vista Hermosa to Via Blanco	10,500 17,000	1.19 0.87	1.81	40 mph	1/9/2014	39 mph 39 mph	43 mph 44 mph	40 mph
52	Vera Cruz, Camino Via Blanco to Camino De Los Mares	10,500	0.55	1.81	35 mph	1/9/2014	36 mph	41 mph	35 mph

¹**ADT** - Average Daily Traffic from 2010 to 2014

²**Accident Rate** - Orange County Sheriff data from 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2013

³**Expected Accident Rate** - 2010 Caltrans Collision Data for District 12 (Orange County)

⁴**Posted Speed Limit** - Current speed limit posted since 2009