



AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting Date: August 17, 2021

Agenda Item 6I
Approvals:
City Manager ES NG
Dept. Head NG
Attorney _____
Finance JR

Department: Public Works / Engineering
Prepared By: Saeedeh Farivar, Senior Civil Engineer - Traffic
Ziad Mazboudi, Deputy Public Works Director

Subject: *APPROVAL OF SPEED CUSHIONS ON WEST EL PORTAL, WEST ESPLANADE AND AVENIDA LA CUESTA.*

Fiscal Impact: Yes. The estimated cost for the proposed speed cushions is \$85,230. Funding is available in the Traffic Calming Project, CIP No. 39087. If approved, the Traffic Calming Project account will have a remaining available budget balance of \$34,770.

Summary: The Planning Commission and staff recommend City Council approval for the use of speed cushion traffic calming treatments on the 100 block of West Esplanade, the 200 block of West El Portal and on Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente and Avenida Caballeros.

Discussion: The City's adopted Traffic Calming Policy and Resource Manual outlines a procedure for consideration of traffic calming measures on residential streets. To be eligible for consideration, a location must satisfy a minimum required point score based on criteria outlined in the Traffic Calming Manual or receive a minimum of 67% support from the residents in the study area.

Petitions for speed cushions were received and processed by staff in accordance with the City's adopted Traffic Calming Policy and Resource Manual at the following three locations shown in Attachment 1:

100 Block of West Esplanade

A petition was received in February 2020 requesting an evaluation for traffic calming on the 100 block of West Esplanade. This location did not satisfy the minimum required point score to qualify for the traffic calming treatments but satisfied the 67% support requirements.

The item was considered by the Planning Commission on January 20, 2021 (refer to Attachment 2) and the Planning Commission recommended the use of speed cushions on the 100 block Esplanade.

Subsequent to the Planning Commission meeting, staff prepared an exhibit showing proposed speed cushion locations for the 100 block of West Esplanade. The exhibit was shared with residents, particularly with those that had a speed cushion proposed

to be located on their frontage. All adjacent residents have indicated support for the speed cushion locations as shown on Attachment 3.

200 Block of West El Portal

A petition was received in January 2019 requesting an evaluation for traffic calming on the 200 block of West El Portal. This location did not satisfy the minimum required point score to qualify for traffic calming treatments but satisfied the 67% support requirements.

The item was considered by the Planning Commission on October 16, 2019 (refer to Attachment 4) and the Planning Commission recommended the use of speed cushions on the 200 block West El Portal.

Subsequent to the Planning Commission meeting, staff prepared an exhibit showing proposed speed cushion locations for the 200 block of West El Portal. The exhibit was shared with residents, particularly with those that had a speed cushion proposed to be located on their frontage. All adjacent residents have indicated support for the speed cushion locations as shown on Attachment 5.

Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente and Avenida Caballeros

A petition was received in April 2015 requesting an evaluation for traffic calming on the Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente and Avenida Caballeros. Various meetings with the neighborhood took place and alternate traffic calming measures were implemented. In September 2018, a second petition was received specifically requesting the installation of speed cushions. These locations satisfied the minimum required point score to qualify for traffic calming treatments and satisfied the 67% support requirements.

The item was considered by the Planning Commission on February 19, 2020 (refer to Attachment 6) and the Planning Commission recommended the use of speed cushions on Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente and Avenida Caballeros.

Subsequent to the Planning Commission meeting, staff prepared an exhibit showing proposed speed cushion locations for Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente and Avenida Caballeros. The exhibit was shared with residents, particularly with those that had a speed cushion proposed to be located on their frontage. All adjacent residents have indicated support for the speed cushion locations on East El Oriente and Avenida Caballeros shown on Attachment 7. The speed cushion location on Avenida La Cuesta was selected to address concerns voiced by one resident objecting to having a speed cushion placed on their frontage.

If the City Council approves the proposed speed cushion installations, staff will prepare the necessary construction plans for installation of the proposed speed cushions using the previously approved funding available from the Traffic Calming Project, CIP No. 39087.

**Recommended
Action:**

STAFF AND THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEND THAT:

1. The City Council approve the use of speed cushion traffic calming treatments on the 200 block of West El Portal and authorize the use of funding from the Traffic Calming Project, CIP No. 39087 to complete the installations;
2. The City Council approve the use of speed cushion traffic calming treatments on the 100 block of West Esplanade and authorize the use of funding from the Traffic Calming Project, CIP No. 39087 to complete the installations; and
3. The City Council approve the use of speed cushion traffic calming treatments on Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente and Avenida Caballeros and authorize the use of funding from the Traffic Calming Project, CIP No. 39087 to complete the installations.

Attachments:

1. Location Map
2. January 20, 2021 Planning Commission Report
3. 100 block Esplanade Proposed Speed Cushion Locations
4. October 16, 2019 Planning Commission Report
5. 200 W. El Portal Block Proposed Speed Cushion Locations
6. February 19, 2020 Planning Commission Report
7. Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente and Avenida Caballeros Proposed Speed Cushion Locations

Notification:

A notice of intention to consider the staff recommendation was distributed to parcels on the 100 block of West Esplanade, the 200 block of West El Portal and on Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente and Avenida Caballeros.

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LEGEND:

 - SUBJECT LOCATION

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LOCATION MAP

**SPEED CUSHIONS
 ON ESPLANADE, W. EL PORTAL,
 LA CUESTA, CABALLEROS & EL ORIENTE**



Memorandum Engineering Division

January 20, 2021

To: Planning Commission
From: Nestor Mangohig, Senior Civil Engineer - Traffic
Subject: **Speed Cushions on Esplanade, 100 Block**
Copies: Tom Bonigut, Public Works Director/City Engineer
Ziad Mazboudi, Deputy Public Works Director
Paul Ketcham, Orange County Sherriff's Department, Administrative Sergeant

ISSUE:

Should the Planning Commission forward a recommendation to the City Council to implement speed cushions on the 100 block of Esplanade?

BACKGROUND:

A petition was received in February 2020 requesting an evaluation for traffic calming on the 100 block of Esplanade. The petition cited high traffic volumes and speeds that often exceed the speed limit. Based on the City's traffic calming program, the street did not qualify to proceed with the general traffic calming process since it did not meet the minimum point score requirement. However, the data did indicate notable volume (2,274 vehicles per day) and 85th percentile speed (30 miles per hour (mph)) on the street.

The City's more specific speed hump/cushion policy indicates that a street can move forward for Planning Commission recommendation after first following the initial traffic calming evaluation (above) if residents continue to be in favor of installation. Esplanade meets the basic criteria for speed cushion installation, with the exception that the 85th percentile speed is slightly lower than 32mph and that the street is considered a residential collector rather than a residential local. It should be noted that although Esplanade is classified as a residential collector rather than residential local, the street provides direct driveway access at a density similar to the other parallel streets in the area that are considered residential local. In general, Esplanade volumes are higher than other parallel residential local streets in the area.

When all basic speed cushion criteria are met, a street can move forward for recommendation if a majority (greater than 50%) are in favor of installation. If any criteria are not met, a street can still move forward for Planning Commission recommendation if at least 67% are in favor of installation. The City received a petition in September 2020 indicating that 39 of 43 parcels fronting the 100 block of

Esplanade are in favor of installing speed cushions. This response translates to 91% in favor of installation, exceeding the minimum 67% requirement. Based on discussion with the City's neighborhood contact, the remaining parcels that did not sign the petition for speed cushions were vacant or otherwise unable to be reached.

Specific locations have not been determined for speed cushion placement. Should the Planning Commission approve the use of speed cushions on the 100 block of Esplanade, staff will work with the neighborhood contact to gain resident concurrence on specific speed cushion locations prior to taking the item for City Council consideration. Locations will be based on general spacing and grade considerations, and the willingness of residents to have a treatment adjacent to their parcel.

If the Planning Commission moves the project forward for City Council consideration, staff will recommend that City Council appropriate required funds from the Traffic Calming budget.

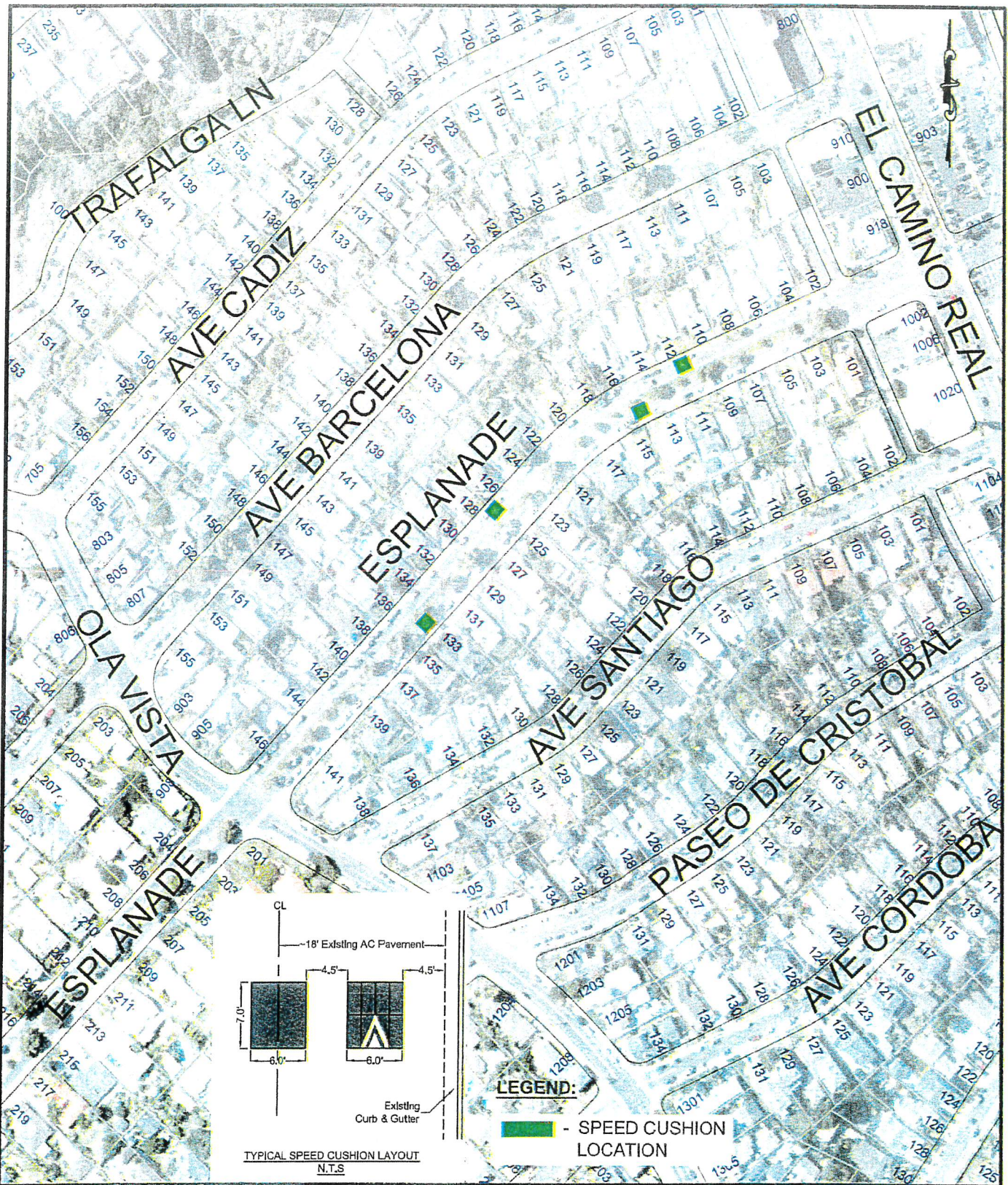
Notices were distributed to parcels on and adjacent to the 100 block of Esplanade to inform that the subject would be considered at this meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT Planning Commission forward to the City Council a recommendation to approve the use of speed cushion traffic calming treatments on the 100 block of Esplanade.

Attachments: 1. Vicinity Map

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LOCATION MAP

**SPEED CUSHIONS
 ON ESPLANADE (100 BLOCK)**



Memorandum Engineering Division

October 16, 2019

To: Planning Commission
From: Nestor Mangohig, Senior Civil Engineer - Traffic
Subject: Consideration of Speed Cushions on West El Portal, 200 Block
Copies: Tom Bonigut, Public Works Director/City Engineer
 Paul Ketcham, Orange County Sheriff's Department, Administrative Sergeant

ISSUE:

Should the Planning Commission forward a recommendation to the City Council to implement speed cushions on the 200 block of West El Portal?

BACKGROUND:

A petition was received in January 2019 requesting an evaluation for traffic calming on the 200 block of West El Portal (see location on Attachment 1). West El Portal is a residential street with a 25 mph posted speed limit. The street is 40 feet from curb to curb with on-street parking permitted on both sides. West El Portal connects with Calle Oso at a ninety degree bend. Calle Oso is 30 feet from curb to curb. Data was collected on West El Portal in March and April of 2019 while the adjacent Las Palmas Elementary School was both in and out of session.

The 85th percentile speeds were surveyed to be 25 miles per hour (mph) when school was in session and 23 mph when school was not in session, both in line with the 25 mph residential speed limit. The average speed when school was in session was 17 mph, and 15 mph when school was not in session. Attachment 2 shows the surveyed speed and volume summary on West El Portal as well as the data collection point. Data was collected in the mid-block area where speeds were observed to be fastest. Vehicle speeds are slower directly adjacent to the school where the street bends and connects with Calle Oso.

Based on the criteria outlined in the City's Traffic Calming Policy and Resource Manual, West El Portal does not qualify for traffic calming treatments. More specifically, the minimum required point score is not met which is based on prevailing speed, volume, Sheriff-recorded accident history, proximity to pedestrian generators, and presence/lack of sidewalks. West El Portal scored 30 of 51 minimum points required to qualify (on a scale of 100). No points were assigned based on speed, volume, or accident history. All 30 points were assigned based on street location and characteristics (i.e. proximity to pedestrian generators and lack

of continuous sidewalk). Attachment 3 shows the individual data elements and the corresponding assigned points.

Since the resident request was specific to speed cushions, the basic criteria for installation was also evaluated per the City's Speed Hump/Cushion Policy. West El Portal does not meet the speed criteria which requires an 85th percentile speed of 32 mph. The street marginally meets the volume criteria when school is in session. 504 vehicles per day (vpd) were surveyed, and a minimum of 500 vpd are required as a basic criteria. However, the street was not found to meet the volume criteria when school was not in session (361 vpd).

Although West El Portal did not meet thresholds for either the Traffic Calming Policy or all the basic installation criteria per the Speed Hump/Cushion Policy, there is a provision contained in the Speed Hump/Cushion Policy that indicates that a street can move forward for Planning Commission consideration if 67% of residents are in favor of installation. The resident contact provided a follow-up petition in July 2019 that satisfied the 67% support requirement.

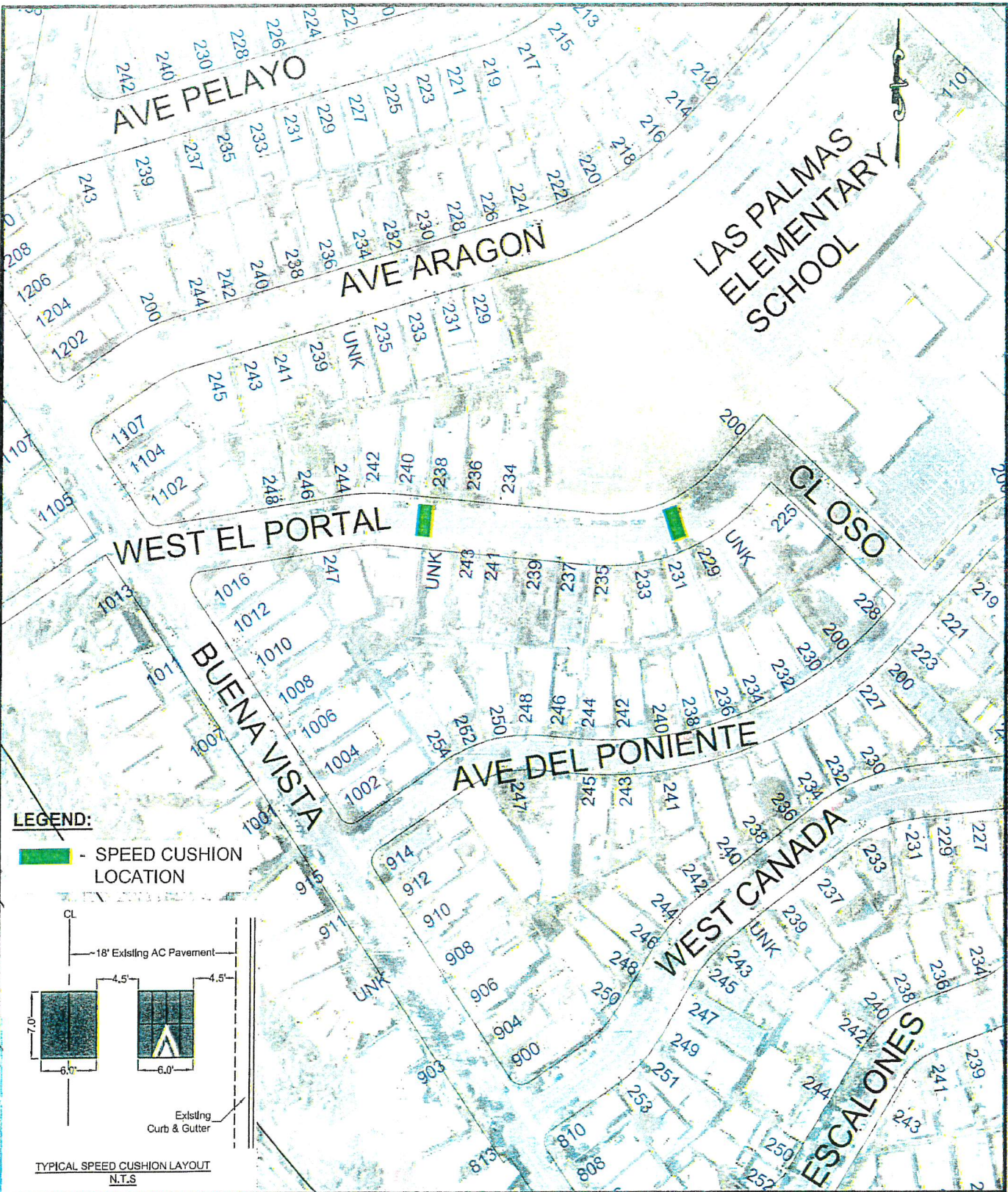
Staff does not recommend installation of speed cushions on the 200 block of West El Portal based on its non-qualifying point score, as well as the prevailing speed and volume on the roadway.

Notices were distributed to parcels on the 200 block of West El Portal and adjacent Calle Oso to inform that the subject would be considered at this meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT Planning Commission discuss and provide direction regarding the use of speed cushion traffic calming treatments on the 200 block of West El Portal and other roadways that do not qualify for traffic calming per the City Traffic Calming Policy and do not satisfy the City Speed Hump/Cushion Policy basic installation criteria.

- Attachments: 1. Vicinity Map
2. Speed and Volume Map
3. Traffic Calming Point Assignment



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LOCATION MAP
SPEED CUSHIONS
ON WEST EL PORTAL



Memorandum Engineering Division

February 19, 2020

To: Planning Commission
From: Nestor Mangohig, Senior Civil Engineer - Traffic
Subject: **Speed Cushions on Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente, and Avenida Caballeros**
Copies: Tom Bonigut, Public Works Director/City Engineer
Ziad Mazboudi, Deputy Public Works Director
Paul Ketcham, Orange County Sherriff's Department, Administrative Sergeant

ISSUE:

Should the Planning Commission forward a recommendation to the City Council to implement speed cushions on Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente, and Avenida Caballeros?

BACKGROUND:

A petition was received in April 2015 requesting an evaluation for traffic calming leading to the upper campus parking lot of San Clemente High School in the vicinity of Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente, and Avenida Caballeros (see location on Attachment 1). Based on the criteria outlined in the City's Traffic Calming Policy and Resource Manual, the area exceeded the minimum required point score (51 points are required on a scale of 100) to qualify for traffic calming treatments. Attachment 2 shows the individual data elements and the corresponding assigned points. Neighborhood meetings were conducted in June 2016 and April 2017 to develop a resident plan moving forward. However, based on limited feedback received in response to the April 2017 meeting (4 total responses, 3 in support of speed humps, 1 not in support of speed humps), the City redirected focus to another traffic calming area that had more resident support.

The neighborhood contact for the area changed and a new petition specifically requesting speed humps/cushions was submitted in September 2018 shortly after the City's first speed cushion project was implemented on Riachuelo in June 2018. As part of the renewed effort, the neighborhood assembled a petition indicating greater than 67% support for speed cushions, exceeding the support thresholds outlined in the City's Speed Hump/Cushion Policy guidelines. The policy states that if 67% of residents of the streets are in favor of installation, the item will be presented for consideration by the Planning Commission. However as indicated previously, it had already been determined that the area qualified for traffic calming treatments.

The local residential streets leading to the San Clemente High School upper campus parking lot from Avenida Palizada experience relatively high traffic volumes with notable 85th percentile speeds. Volumes peak at and around school start and end times but also remain constant throughout the day due to the proximity to Interstate 5 and the El Camino Real commercial corridor via Avenida Palizada. Attachment 3 shows the speed and volume summary for the subject streets. The petition contact also submitted a collision report describing considerable damage caused to her property related to speeding traffic along this route.

Specific locations have not been determined for speed cushion placement. Should the Planning Commission approve the use of speed cushions on the subject streets, staff will work with the neighborhood contact to gain resident concurrence on specific speed cushion locations prior to taking the item for City Council consideration. Locations will be based on general spacing recommendations and the willingness of residents to have a treatment adjacent to their parcel.

If the Planning Commission moves the project forward for City Council consideration, staff will recommend that City Council appropriate required funds from the Traffic Calming budget.

Notices were distributed to parcels within the traffic calming study area on Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente, and Avenida Caballeros to inform the residents that the subject would be considered at this meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT Planning Commission forward to the City Council a recommendation to approve the use of speed cushion traffic calming treatments on Avenida La Cuesta, East El Oriente, and Avenida Caballeros.

- Attachments: 1. Vicinity Map
2. Traffic Calming Point Assignment
3. Volume and Speed Map



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LOCATION MAP
 SPEED CUSHIONS
 ON AVE LA CUESTA, E. EL ORIENTE,
 AND AVE CABALLEROS - OPTION 2
 8-17-21 / 6L-13