



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: April 7, 2020
Placement: Administrative – Set
Hearing (April 7, 2020);
Departmental (May 5,
2020: First Reading);
Administrative (May 19,
2020: Second Reading)
Estimated Tme: 20 Minutes May 5, 2020
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Department, 568-3010
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064
SUBJECT: Amendment of Speed Limits Specified in County Code Sections 23-15.4, 23-15.5, 23-15.6, 23-15.7 and 23-15.8; First, Third & Fourth Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

On April 7, 2020 set a hearing for May 5, 2020 to consider the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance amending speed limits on various roads, effective 30 days after adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

On May 5, 2020:

- a) Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance amending Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 23, Sections 23-15.4, 23-15.5, 23-15.6, 23-15.7 and 23-15.8, pertaining to speed limits on Romero Canyon Road and Jameson Lane South in the unincorporated Montecito area of the First Supervisorial District; Refugio Road in the unincorporated Santa Ynez area of the Third Supervisorial District; Clark Avenue and Rice Ranch Road in the unincorporated Orcutt area of the Fourth Supervisorial District;
- b) Read the title of the Ordinance and waive further reading of the Ordinance in full; and
- c) Continue the item to the Administrative Agenda of May 19, 2020 to consider the adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance amending speed limits on various roads.

d) On May 19, 2020:

- i) Adopt the attached Ordinance (Second Reading) amending Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 23, Sections 23-15.4, 23-15.5, 23-15.6, 23-15.7 and 23-15.8, pertaining to speed limits on Romero Canyon Road and Jameson Lane South in the unincorporated Montecito area of the First Supervisorial District; Refugio Road in the unincorporated Santa Ynez area of the Third Supervisorial District; Clark Avenue and Rice Ranch Road in the unincorporated Orcutt area of the Fourth Supervisorial District; and
- ii) Find that the proposed actions are for the operation and maintenance of an existing public facility, involving negligible, or no expansion of use beyond that which presently exists, that the proposed action is therefore exempt from California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 CCR 15301, and approve and direct staff to file the attached Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to update the speed limits on several roads within the County. In accordance with the California Vehicle Code (CVC), the Public Works Department reviewed and prepared, where necessary, Engineering and Traffic Surveys (E&TS) for Romero Canyon Road and Jameson Lane South in the unincorporated Montecito area; Refugio Road in the unincorporated Santa Ynez area; and Clark Avenue and Rice Ranch Road in the Orcutt area.

The Santa Barbara County Traffic Engineering Committee (TEC) reviewed the speed zones requiring an E&TS update at their meeting on November 20, 2019. Attachment C is the summary of that meeting and the following are the Committee's recommendations:

FIRST DISTRICT

- Remove the existing speed limit of 30 mph on Romero Canyon Road and allow for the application of the 25 mph prima facie speed limit in residence districts from State Route 192 to Camino Del Rosario and the Basic Speed Law from Camino Del Rosario to Lilac Drive.
- Establish a speed limit of 30 mph on Jameson Lane South from Eucalyptus Lane to Posilipo Lane.

THIRD DISTRICT

- Raise the speed limit from 35 mph to 40 mph on Refugio Road from State Route 246 to Deer Trail Lane (south).
- Extend the existing 45 mph speed limit on Refugio Road to the north establishing the speed limit of 45 mph on Refugio Road from Country Road to Fancy Hill Court.

FOURTH DISTRICT

- Raise the speed limit from 40 mph to 45 mph on Clark Avenue from State Route 1 to a point 1000 feet west of Broadway.
- Lower the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph on Clark Avenue from a point 1000 feet west of Broadway to a point 350 feet west of Broadway.
- Establish a speed limit of 50 mph on Rice Ranch Road from Orcutt Rd to Lorraine Avenue.

Background:

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) requires that non-statutory speed limits on roadways be established based on the findings of an Engineering and Traffic Survey (E&TS), and shall include consideration of the prevailing (85th-percentile) speed, collision history, and conditions that are not readily apparent to the driver. Per CVC § 627, local authorities may also consider residential density, pedestrian safety and bicycle safety.

More specifically, the CVC also requires, under Section 21400(b), that speed limits be rounded to the nearest five miles per hour increment of the 85th-percentile speed of free-flowing traffic. However, in cases in which the nearest 5 mph increment of the 85th-percentile speed would require a rounding up, then the speed limit may be rounded down to the nearest 5 mph increment below the 85th-percentile speed with no further reductions used.

California law prohibits the use of radar speed enforcement along such roadways where the speed limits have not been set in accordance with the findings of an E&TS within the last five to ten years, or where significant changes in the roadway or traffic conditions have occurred. (CVC § 40802.) Attached is a detailed summary of the E&TS and the TEC recommendations. Approval of the attached changes to the County Code will allow the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to use radar enforcement on these roads, which is preferred as the more efficient, effective, and safest method.

The TEC is a professional advisory committee to the County Board of Supervisors. The TEC was established to investigate and make recommendations to your Board regarding technical transportation issues involving regulations or control of traffic within the unincorporated areas of the County. The voting members of the TEC include a representative from the following agencies; Automobile Club of Southern California, CHP Goleta, CHP Buellton, CHP Santa Maria, Caltrans, Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition, Santa Barbara Education Office, Santa Barbara Sheriff, County Public Works, South Coast Transit Advisory Committee, Vandenberg Air Force Base, and local Public Transit Operator.

Where the TEC recommendations include removing the existing speed limit or leaving a roadway un-posted, then the application of the Basic Speed Law shall prevail.

The Basic Speed Law states: “No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the highway, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property. (CVC Sec. 22350.)

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total One-Time Project Cost
Road Fund	\$8,000
Total	\$8,000

Narrative:

Approximately \$8,000 will be required for sign installation and pavement marking. These funds are available in Department 054, Program 2340, Org 0200, Account 7121.

Special Instructions:

After the Set Hearing on April 7, 2020, direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the attached Notice of Public Hearing (Attachment E) pursuant to Section 25124 of the Government Code in the Santa Barbara News Press, Santa Ynez Valley News, and Santa Maria Times newspapers, five (5) days prior to the first reading.

After the second reading on May 19, 2020, direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. Send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the Transportation Division of the Department of Public Works, 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
 - a. attn. Bert Johnson, ext. 38787.
 - b. attn. Gail Ocheltree, ext. 83094.
2. Publish a copy of the Ordinance or summary thereof, with names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for or against the approval/non approval in the Santa Barbara News Press, Lompoc Record, and Santa Maria Times newspapers, within 15 days after adoption.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Vicinity Maps (5)

Attachment B: Ordinance

Attachment C: Summary of Engineering and Traffic Survey and Traffic Engineering Committee Recommendations 11-20-2019

Attachment D: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Attachment E: Notice of Public Hearing

Authored by:

Bert Johnson, Traffic Engineer, Public Works Department, ext. 38787

CC:

PW Accounting
PW Traffic