



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: June 15, 2018
Placement: Administrative – Set Hearing (June 15, 2021); Departmental (July 13, 2021: First Reading); Administrative (August 17, 2021: Second Reading)
Estimated Tme: 20 Minutes on July 13, 2021
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, 15.7 and 23-15.8; First & Third Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) On June 15, 2021, set a hearing for July 13, 2021 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.
- b) On July 13, 2021:
 - 1) 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 Ortega Ridge Road in the Summerland area of the First Supervisorial District; and Burton Mesa Boulevard and St. Andrews Way in the Vandenberg Village area and Onstott Road and Rucker Road in the Mission Hills area of the Third Supervisorial District;
 - 2) Read the title of the Ordinance and waive further reading of the Ordinance in full; and
 - 3) Continue the item to the Administrative Agenda of August 17, 2021 to consider the adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance amending speed limits on various roads.

c) On August 17, 2021:

- 1) 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 Ortega Ridge Road in the Summerland area of the First Supervisorial District; and Burton Mesa Boulevard and St. Andrews Way in the Vandenberg Village area and Onstott Road and Rucker Road in the Mission Hills area of the Third Supervisorial District; and
- 2) Determine that 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, is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to 14 CCR § 15378(b)(2), since the recommended actions are administrative activities of the County that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and is general policy and procedure making.

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 Ortega Ridge Road in the Summerland area; Burton Mesa Boulevard and St. Andrews Way in the Vandenberg Village area, and Onstott Road and Rucker Road in the Mission Hills area.

The Santa Barbara County Traffic Engineering Committee (TEC) reviewed the speed zones requiring an E&TS update at their meeting on April 14, 2021. Attachment C is the summary of that meeting and the following are the Committee's recommendations:

FIRST DISTRICT

- Raise the speed limit from 35 mph to 40 mph on Ortega Ridge Road from Ortega Hill Road to State Route 192.

THIRD DISTRICT

- Remove the existing speed limit of 50 mph and allow for the application of the 55 mph Maximum Speed Limit on Burton Mesa Boulevard from a point 800' east of Arneb Avenue to Harris Grade Road.
- Establish a speed limit of 35 mph on St. Andrews Way from Club House Road to Oak Hill Drive.
- Remove the existing speed limit of 30 mph and allow for the application of the 25 mph Prima Facie Speed Limit on Onstott Road from Harris Grade Road to a point 215' west of Pellham Drive (west).

In 1976 when the 45 mph speed limit was established on Rucker Road its southern terminus was Lompoc-Casmalia Road. Since that time, Lompoc-Casmalia Road changed to Purisima Road. The following item is a street name change correction to keep the County Code up to date with the existing current conditions.

THIRD DISTRICT

- Change the existing southern terminus of the Rucker Road speed zone from Lompoc-Casmalia Road to Purisima Road for the 45 mph speed limit on Rucker Road between Lompoc-Casmalia Road and a point 200' south of Calle Primera.

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; Santa Barbara County Fire Department, 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 unless it meets a Prima Facie speed Limit.

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	\$3,000
Total	\$3,000

Narrative:

Approximately \$3,000 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 hearing on June 15, 2021, direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the attached Notice of Public Hearing (Attachment D) pursuant to Section 25124 of the Government Code in the Santa Barbara News Press, Santa Maria Times, and Lompoc Record five (5) days prior to the First Reading.

After the Second Reading on August 17, 2021, direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. Send a copy of the Minute Order of these actions to the Transportation Division of 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. Clerk of the Board will publish a copy of the Ordinance or summary thereof, with the names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for or against the approval in the Santa Barbara News Press, Santa Maria times and Lompoc Record newspapers within 15 days after adoption.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Ordinance

Attachment B: Vicinity Maps (5)

Attachment C: Summary of Engineering and Traffic Survey and Traffic Engineering Committee Recommendations 4-14-2021

Attachment D: Notice of Public Hearing

Authored by:

Bert Johnson, Traffic Engineer, Public Works Department, ext. 8787

cc:

PW Accounting

PW Traffic