



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

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

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: Set Hearing: April 7, 2026
Departmental: May 5, 2026
Second Reading: May 12, 2026
Placement: Set-Hearing
Estimated Time: 15 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director ^{DS}CS
Contact: Mostafa Estaji, Deputy Director, Transportation ^{DS}ME
SUBJECT: Amendment of Speed Limits Specified in County Code Sections 23-15.4, 23-15.5, 23-15.6, and 23-15.9; First and 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:

Set a hearing to consider recommendations regarding the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance amending speed limits specified in County Code Sections 23-15.4, 23-15.5, 23-15.6, and 23-15.9; First & Fourth Supervisorial Districts, as follows: (Set a hearing for May 5, 2026. Time estimate: 15 minutes)

- a) Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance amending County Code Sections 23-15.4, 23-15.5, 23-15.6, and 23-15.9, pertaining to speed limits on various roadways in the First and Fourth Districts; and
- 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 12, 2026 to consider the adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance amending speed limits on various roads, as follows:
 - i) Adopt the Ordinance (Second Reading) amending County Code Sections 23-15.4, 23-15.5, 23-15.6, and 23-15.9, pertaining to speed limits on various roadways in the First and Fourth Districts; and
 - ii) Determine that amending County Code Sections 23-15.4, 23-15.5, 23-15.6, and 23-15.9, pertaining to speed limits, are for the operation and maintenance of an existing

public facility, involving negligible, or no expansion of use beyond that which presently exists, and are therefore exempt from California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 CCR 15301(c), 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 various roads within the County.

FIRST DISTRICT

- Santa Claus Lane - Public Works recommends your Board approve a new 30 mph speed limit from Padaro Lane to a point one thousand three hundred sixty-three feet southeast of Padaro Lane. This section of Santa Claus Lane has an unposted speed limit. With phase one of the Santa Claus Lane Streetscape construction completed, Public Works has created an Engineering and Traffic Survey and found that 30 mph is an appropriate speed limit for this section of the roadway. The section of Santa Clause Lane to the east has a posted 25 mph speed limit for the business district. Once phase two of the project is completed, the roadway will be re-surveyed.
- San Antonio Creek Road – Public Works recommends your Board remove the existing 40 mph speed limit and approve a new 35 mph speed limit from Via Los Santos to State Route 154. San Antonio Creek Road currently has a posted 40 mph speed limit. Public Works has been working with residents to calm traffic on the road with signage, pavement markings, and other efforts. In a recent survey of the roadway, Public Works staff found that the critical measured speed was reduced enough to warrant a speed limit of 35 mph. This speed limit will match Via Los Santos to the south of San Antonio Creek Road.

FOURTH DISTRICT

- California Boulevard - Public Works recommends your Board remove the existing 30 mph speed limit and a new speed limit of 25 mph will be posted from Broadway to the Santa Maria City Limits based on the prima facie speed limit law. This section of California Boulevard currently has a posted 30 mph speed limit. With changes to the laws concerning setting speed limits that Assembly Bill No. 43 created, California Boulevard can now be posted with a 25 mph speed limit for a residential district.

Background:

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) provides statutory or prima facie speed limits. (CVC § 22352.) In addition, the 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. (CVC § 627(b).) Local authorities may also consider residential density, pedestrian safety, and bicycle safety. (CVC § 627(c).)

The CVC also requires that speed limits be rounded to the nearest five miles per hour increment of the 85th percentile speed of free-flowing traffic. (CVC § 22358.6(a).) In cases in which the speed limit needs to be rounded down to the nearest five miles per hour increment of the 85th-percentile speed, a local authority may lower the speed limit by five miles per hour from the nearest five-mile-per-hour increment of the 85th-percentile speed, in compliance with [Sections 627](#) and [22358.5](#) of the CVC and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as it read on March 30, 2021. 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.

A prima facie speed limit of 25 mph applies to roadways that meet the requirements of a residential district as defined in CVC § 515. (CVC 22352(b).) Public Works has studied California Boulevard and determined it meets the requirements for a prima facie residential speed limit of 25 mph and posting a 25 mph speed limit on California Boulevard would improve safety to the users of this roadway.

In accordance with the CVC, the Public Works Department prepared Engineering and Traffic Surveys for Santa Clause Lane and San Antonio Creek Road. After reviewing these surveys, Public Works found the above proposed changes to the speed limits to be in the best interest of the communities and the traveling public. Public Works recommends your Board's approval of the attached Ordinance to implement these speed zones.

The proposed actions are for the operation and maintenance of existing roadways, involving negligible, or no expansion of use beyond that which presently exists, and are therefore exempt from California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 CCR 15301(c). **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Approximately \$3,000.00 will be required for installation of signs and paint. These funds are included in the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget in Fund FD-0015, Cost Center CC54210, Program PG-0542340, Initiative: IN-054032, Spent Category SC-7121.

Special Instructions:

After the April 7th set hearing, 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 Independent, Santa Maria Times, and Lompoc Record five (5) days prior to the First Reading.

After the May 12, 2026, Second Reading, direct the Clerk to:

1. Email a Minute Order and Executed Ordinance to Gary Smart, Public Works Transportation, gsmart@countyofsb.org
2. Publish a copy of each ordinance or summary of with names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for or against the Ordinances in the Santa Barbara Independent, Lompoc Record, and Santa Maria Times 15 days after the adoption of the Ordinance. _

Attachments:

Attachment A – Ordinance to Adopt Various Traffic Controls in the 1st and 4th Supervisorial Districts

Attachment B - Redlined version of Ordinance to Adopt Various Traffic Controls in the 1st and 4th Supervisorial Districts

Attachment C – Vicinity Maps

Attachment D – Notice of Exception

Attachment E – Notice of Public Hearing

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Authored by:

Gary Smart, TE, Public Works Transportation, Engineering Manager