



**CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
AGENDA REPORT**

CONSENT CALENDAR

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:

Ken Stripling

DATE: February 12, 2019

SUBJECT: CITYWIDE ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC SURVEY STUDY

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTER: Gus Pivetti

RECOMMENDED ACTION

City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution establishing prima facie speed limits on each roadway segment included in the Engineering and Traffic Survey Study.
2. Direct the City Clerk to certify the Study.
3. Direct staff to implement the necessary speed limit signage changes brought about by adopting the Study.
4. Request the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to continue the radar enforcement program on City of Santa Clarita streets and highways covered in the Study as soon as the signage changes are complete.

BACKGROUND

A Citywide Engineering and Traffic Survey Study (Study) was completed as defined in Section 627 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC). The Study was performed in accordance with the provisions of the CVC and as recommended by the California Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The last citywide Study was adopted in October 2012. California cities, counties, and other state agencies are required to conduct a Study every five years; however, a Study may be valid up to seven years if certain requirements are met. The Study requirement assures speed limits on roads take into account driver behavior and allow for the continued use of radar and laser enforcement. When adopted, the Study will establish the prima facie speed limits on nearly every major, secondary, and collector roadway within the City of Santa Clarita (City).

The adoption of the Study is vital to the continued use of radar or laser enforcement. Without a

valid Study, the Los Angeles County Superior Court will not uphold a speeding violation issued by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff's Department) in which radar or laser enforcement is utilized. In addition, if radar or laser is not used, the Sheriff's Department must rely on less effective alternatives, such as pacing speeding offenders. Effective radar or laser enforcement will promote the orderly movement of vehicles and reduce collisions.

The engineering and traffic surveys for the Study were conducted in mid-2018. Since completion of the surveys, the Plum Canyon area was annexed into the City, and therefore, not included in the Study. Staff will conduct engineering and traffic surveys for this area within the next few months. Any proposed changes to speed limits will be presented for the City Council's consideration at a later date.

The Study also includes a summary of adjustments to existing posted speed limits. The speed limit adjustments are listed below.

New Established Prima Facie Speed Limits

The following locations did not have an established engineering and traffic survey. Based on the new Study, the appropriate speed limits are outlined below:

Road Segment	Proposed
Canyon Park Blvd. (Jakes Way - Lost Canyon Rd.)	45
Fahren Ct. (Jakes Way - Sandy Dr.)	25

Decreases to Existing Prima Facie Speed Limits

Based on the Study, speed limits on the following sections are decreased as follows:

Road Segment	Posted	Proposed
Copper Hill Dr. (300' n/o Copperstone Dr. - Avenida Rancho Tesoro)	55	50
Copper Hill Dr. (Avenida Rancho Tesoro - McBean Pkwy.)	55	50
Creekside Rd. (McBean Pkwy. - Auto Center Dr.)	35	30
Hercules St. (Kelly Johnson Pkwy. - Constellation Rd.)	45	40
Newhall Ranch Rd. (Bouquet Canyon Rd. - Santa Clarita Pkwy.)	55	50
Newhall Ranch Rd. (Santa Clarita Pkwy. - Golden Valley Rd.)	55	50
Ruether Ave. (Soledad Canyon Rd. - Santa Clara St.)	35	30

Increases to Existing Prima Facie Speed Limits

Based on the Study, speed limits on the following sections are increased as follows:

Road Segment	Posted	Proposed
Alta Vista Ave. (Constellation Rd. - Copper Hill Dr.)	40	45
Ave. Hopkins (Ave. Rockefeller - Ave. Stanford)	35	40
Canyon View Dr. (Calla Way - Discovery Park Driveway)	30	35
Lost Canyon Rd. (Via Princessa - Medley Ridge Dr. (N))	35	45

Nadal St. (Camp Plenty Rd. - Whites Canyon Rd.)	30	35
Nathan Hill Rd. (Shangri-La Dr. (N) - Shangri-La Dr. (S))	30	35
Northpark Dr. (McBean Pkwy. - Copper Hill Dr.)	25	30
Santa Clarita Pkwy. (Newhall Ranch Rd. - Riverrock Way)	30	35
Via Princessa (Lost Canyon Rd. - End of Public Road (Gated Entry))	35	40

Staff recommends the Council approval the adjustments as described above, which are based on the results of the Study, for the continued use of radar and laser. It is not likely these adjustments will result in higher prevailing speeds. Research shows the average driver is influenced by the appearance of the roadway itself and prevailing traffic conditions and chooses to drive at a speed they are comfortable with. These adjustments, when combined with an effective enforcement program, can result in safer operating speeds on roadways. The Sheriff’s Department has reviewed the recommendations of this Study and concurs with its findings. Staff estimates the cost of installing new signage and/or replacing signage for speed limits to be approximately \$5,000.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION

Other action as determined by the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

Adequate Gas Tax Funds (Fund 230) are available in expenditure account 14401-5161.001 for the installation of new signage and/or the replacement of existing signage related to speed limits, as required.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution- Engineering and Traffic Survey
- Location Map of Proposed Speed Limit Changes
- Engineering and Traffic Survey Report (available in the City Clerk's Reading File)