

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: April 14, 2008

THROUGH: Legislative Policy Committee (March 25, 2008)

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT REVISIONS

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve the proposed speed limit revisions on several City streets as detailed in the Background Section of this report;
2. Direct the City Attorney to prepare an amendment to Chapter 10.48 of the Pasadena Municipal Code in order to reflect the proposed revisions and administrative revisions to be presented to the City Council for first reading within 90 days;
3. Acknowledge that the proposed revisions to existing speed limits is categorically exempted from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to section 15301, Existing Facilities, of the CEQA guidelines, and authorize the City Manager to execute and the City Clerk to file a Notice of Exemption therefore with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On January 29, 2008, a special meeting of TAC was held to discuss the proposed speed limit revisions and obtain additional public comment. At this meeting, TAC unanimously supported certifying the speed limit on West Drive and Rosemont Avenue. In addition, a TAC motion was approved recommending the City Council to direct staff to investigate and implement traffic calming and safety measures aimed at reducing speeds and to assess the impact of those measures prior to raising speed limits.

BACKGROUND

At the September 10, 2007 City Council meeting, the Department of Transportation presented an Agenda report to revise speed limits at 29 street segments in the City. Given the City's desire that speed limits ought not to be increased unless there is no

other alternative and the City Council direction, staff discussed the proposed speed limit changes with the Legislative Policy Committee and presented this matter at two TAC special meetings on September 25, 2007 and on January 29, 2008 to receive additional public comments and to further deliberate this matter.

This matter is a result of a statewide change in the regulation that defines the method of determining speed limits. In order for speed to be enforceable through the use of radar or lidar, State law requires speed limits to be set according to the methodology detailed in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Accordingly, City staff has conducted new Engineering and Traffic Surveys on 50 street segments on which speed limits were previously approved dating back to May 24, 2004.

City staff has met with the TAC speed limit sub-committee which was developed to discuss and evaluate the initial speed limit revisions on 29 street segments originally brought before City Council. Transportation staff also met with staff from the Police Department, the City Attorney's office and the City Prosecutor's office to evaluate the proposed speed limit revisions. As a result of these meetings and an evaluation of practices from other local agencies throughout California, Transportation staff revised the Engineering and Traffic Survey methodology, re-surveyed numerous roadway segments and updated some segment limits to better reflect changes in roadway conditions. This effort resulted in eleven roadway segments remaining where Council's action is required to establish or modify the speed limit. The proposed speed limit revisions are consistent with the 2004 Mobility Element of the General Plan in that land use characteristics were reviewed when determining the recommended speed limit.

Modification to the Pasadena Municipal Code:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt an ordinance combining Sections 10.48.010 and 10.48.030 of the Pasadena Municipal Code to one section with changes to revise, or establish, the prima facie speed limits on the following 11 street segments to be consistent with adopted speed zone requirements.

<u>Street</u>	<u>Limits</u>	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Columbia St.	Orange Grove Blvd. to Fair Oaks Ave.	30	35
Glenarm St.	Pasadena Ave. to Arroyo Parkway	25	30
Hill Ave.	North City Limit to Washington Blvd.	30	35
Mountain St.	Hill Ave. to Altadena Dr.	30	35
Pasadena Ave.	Walnut St. to California Blvd.	35	40
Pasadena Ave.	California Blvd. to South City Limit	30	40
Riviera Dr.	Sierra Madre Blvd. to Alegria St.	25	30
Rosemont Ave.	Seco St. to Orange Grove Blvd.	25	25
Villa St.	Altadena Dr. to Eaton Dr.	25	30
Washington Blvd.	East of Del Rey Ave. to Sierra Madre Blvd.	35	40

West Dr. Washington Blvd. to Seco St. 40 35

Revisions to PMC sections 10.48.010 and 10.48.030 are needed to enact the proposed revisions to the speed limits identified above. It is proposed that both sections be combined into one section with modifications to roadway segment limits, including addition of new roadway segments to establish new zones, removal of roadway segments that do not require Engineering and Traffic Surveys and changes to revise the prima facie speed limits on the 11 street segments identified above.


The following attachments are provided for reference:

- Proposed speed limit revisions map (Attachment A)
- Background of procedures used to establish speed limits (Attachment B)
- Summary table of proposed speed limit revisions to ordinance (Attachment C)
- Discussion of specific speed limit revisions (Attachment D)

FISCAL IMPACT

There are minor fiscal impacts to the Department of Transportation's budget due to the systematic replacement of speed limit signs along the roadway sections as described.

Respectfully submitted,


BERNARD K. MELEKIAN
City Manager

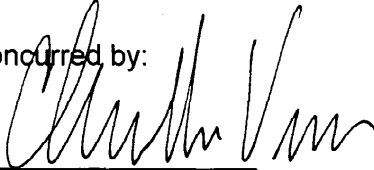
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FREDERICK C. DOCK
Director of Transportation

Concurred by:


CHRISTOPHER VICINO
Acting Chief of Police

Attachment A	Map of Proposed Speed Limit Revisions
Attachment B	Background of Procedures used to Establish Speed Limits
Attachment C	Summary Table of Proposed Speed Limit Revisions
Attachment D	Discussion of Specific Speed Limit Revisions