

CITY COUNCIL

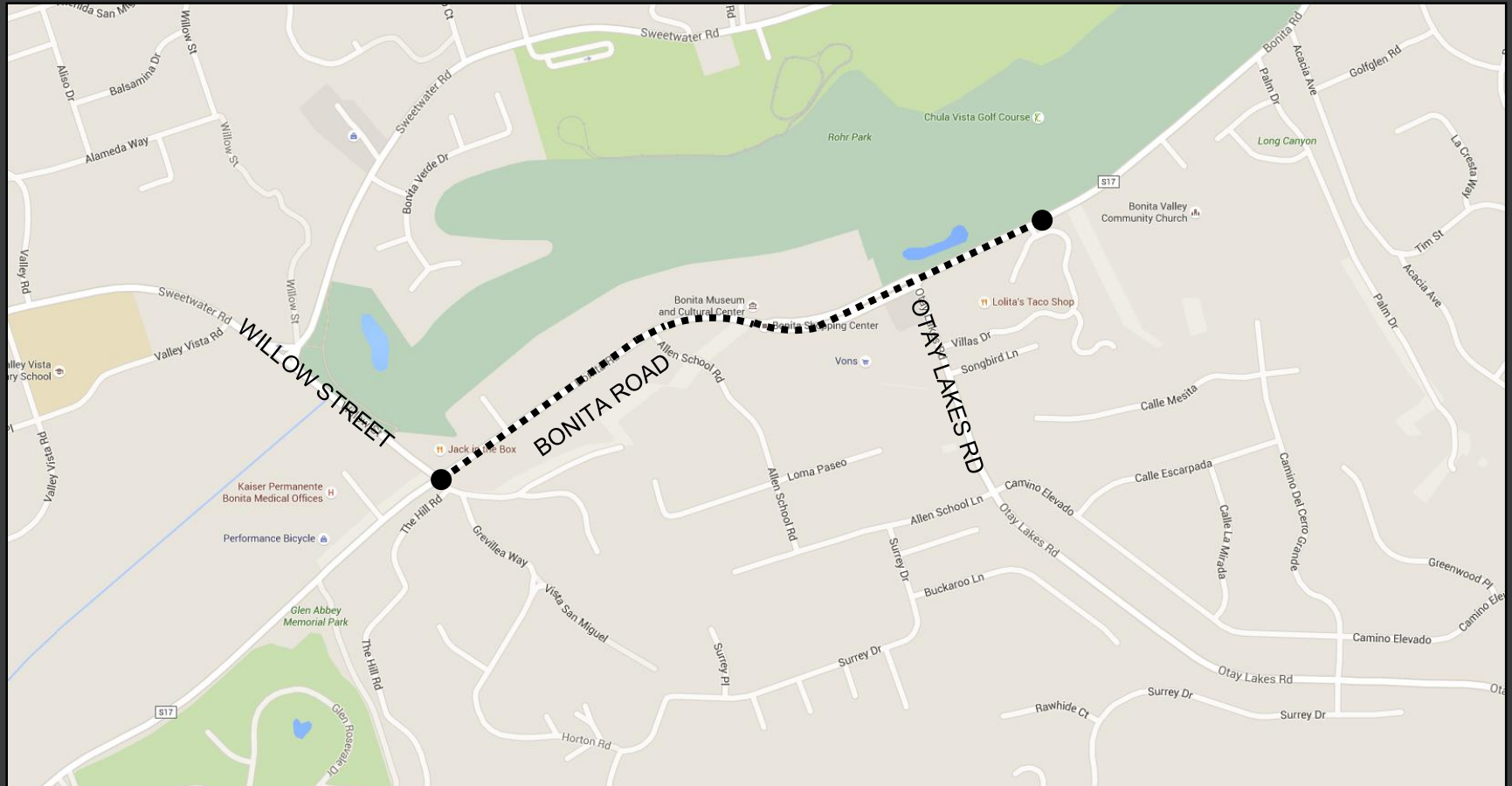
**INCREASE SPEED LIMIT ON BONITA ROAD
BETWEEN WILLOW STREET AND
EASTERLY CITY LIMITS FROM 35 MPH TO
40 MPH**

June 7, 2016





LOCATION MAP





BACKGROUND

- **Bonita Road, between Willow Street and Easterly City Limits has a posted speed limit of 35 mph.**
- **In accordance with the California Vehicle Code (CVC), posted speed limits greater than 25 mph (CVC prima facie speed) must be determined and based upon an Engineering and Traffic Survey (E&TS).**
- **In mid 2015, a declaration from the local Traffic Commissioner stating that this segment of roadway is a “speed trap”.**
- **CVPD has reported that citations for speeding are being routinely dismissed. And this severely impacts their ability to do any speed enforcements.**



BACKGROUND

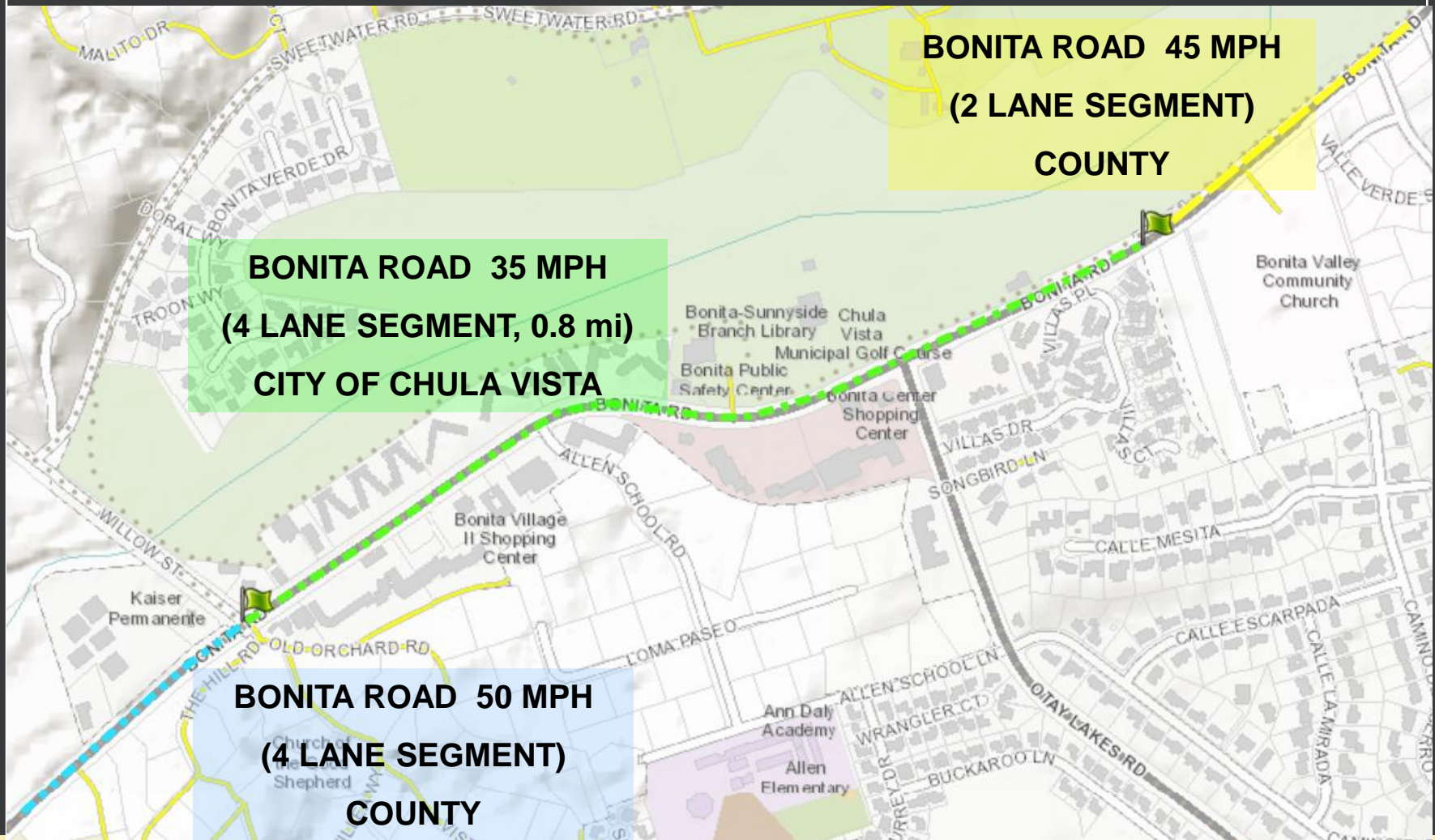
The Traffic Commissioner for Case No. Y483914 stated:

...The Court finds that there are not conditions which justify reducing the speed limit to 35 MPH. The conditions that exist are apparent to drivers, and the accident rate is less than half of the accident rate for similar roadways. The design speed of the roadway is 45 MPH. The 85th percentile is 42 MPH. The statistical data attached shows that 58% of drivers travel faster than 35 MPH on that segment of roadway.

For any and all the above reasons, the Court finds the Defendant, ... not guilty of speeding.



EXISTING SPEED LIMITS





CONDUCT NEW ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC SURVEY

On September 3, 2015, staff completed an E&TS for Bonita Road. Per the California Vehicle Code, the survey included:

- **Review of accident records;**
- **Review of traffic/roadside conditions not readily apparent to the driver;**
- **Observation and measurements of prevailing speeds;**
- **Determination of proper speed limit.**



E&TS

EXISTING ACCIDENT RATE

- **The accident rate at this segment is 0.39 (accidents per million vehicle miles).**
- **The accident rate for similar roadways in the State of California (2012) is 1.70.**
- **The accident rate for this segment of Bonita Road is less than one-fourth of the statewide average.**



E&TS

EXISTING CONDITION

Typical Traffic/Roadside conditions that may not be readily apparent to drivers are:

- **Hidden Driveways, non-visible access;**
- **Collision History;**
- **Roadside Obstructions, etc.**

All Traffic/Roadside conditions on this segment of Bonita Road are readily apparent.



E&TS

**VEHICLE SPEED SURVEY AND
PREVAILING SPEED DETERMINATION (85th
PERCENTILE)**

- **The vehicle speed survey was conducted on August 27, 2015 in accordance with CVC, MUTCD and Caltrans protocols.**
- **Speeds were recorded at three locations along the segment.**
- **The 85th percentile speeds at the three locations were 41 mph, 40 mph, and 42 mph.**
- **The E&TS concluded that the posted speed should be 40 mph.**



SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

On November 4, 2015, staff presented a report to the Safety Commission with a recommendation to increase the existing speed limit on Bonita Road between Willow Street and the Easterly City Limit from 35 mph to 40 mph.

The Commission requested that staff further review the existing conditions (stopping/sight distance) along the route as well as traffic calming measures that could be implemented to retain the 35 mph speed limit.



CALMING MEASURES

- **Portable speed feed back units were placed on Bonita Road in November 2015.**
- **The portable units provide drivers direct feedback on their actual speed in comparison to the posted speed limit.**
- **Bonita Road is a major roadway with high volume of over 31,000 ADT. Therefore, lane reduction is not advisable.**
- **No other typical calming measures were recommended for this Arterial Roadway.**



ADDITIONAL REVIEW OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

SIGHT DISTANCE

- **The stopping sight distance study was re-analyzed for several driveways in the eastbound direction.**
- **It was confirmed that all driveways met the stopping sight distance requirements for a speed limit of 40 mph.**
- **The landscaped area at these driveways has been maintained at a height of 3 feet or lower.**
- **A standard letter to the owners was also sent as a reminder to continue to maintain the 3 foot maximum landscaping height.**



SECOND VEHICLE SPEED SURVEY

- **The second vehicle speed survey was conducted on November 30, 2015.**
- **The 85th percentile speeds at the three locations were 41 mph, 38 mph, and 42 mph.**
- **The E&TS again concluded that the posted speed limit should be 40 mph.**



SECOND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

At the February 3, 2016 Safety Commission Meeting, staff reported on the second E&TS .

The recommendation to increase the existing speed limit on Bonita Road between Willow Street and the Easterly City Limit from 35 mph to 40 mph remained unchanged.

The Commission voted to concur with staff's recommendations.



THIRD VEHICLE SPEED SURVEY

- **In March 2016, in final attempt to calm traffic, the City installed larger 35 mph speed limit signs along Bonita Road to inform the motorists of the current posted speed limit.**
- **On April 21, 2016, City staff conducted third vehicle speed survey.**
- **Again, the 85th percentile speed confirmed revising the speed limit to 40 mph.**



CONCLUSION

Based upon the following findings:

- **Low collision rate;**
- **Lack of roadside conditions not readily apparent to the driver;**
- **The multiple 85th percentile vehicle speed surveys of the roadway;**

It has been determined that the speed limit on Bonita Road between Willow Street and the Easterly City Limits should be increased from 35 mph to 40 mph.

This would allow CVPD to effectively use Radar Enforcement techniques along the segment.



RECOMMENDATION

The City Council adopt an ordinance increasing the speed limit on Bonita Road, between Willow Street and the Easterly City Limits from 35 mph to 40 mph.

And that Schedule X of the Chula Vista Municipal Code 10.48.020, maintained in the Office of the City Engineer, be amended to reflect the established speed limit of 40 mph on Bonita Road, between Willow Street and the Easterly City Limits.



QUESTIONS?



ACCIDENT INVOLVEMENT VS. MOTORIST SPEEDS

