



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



March 3, 2020

File ID: 19-0567

TITLE

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA INCREASING THE SPEED LIMITS AT THE FOLLOWING SEGMENTS: (1) EAST "H" STREET BETWEEN SOUTHWESTERN DRIVE AND OTAY LAKES ROAD FROM 35 MPH TO 45 MPH, (2) TELEGRAPH CANYON ROAD BETWEEN HALECREST DRIVE AND CREST DRIVE/OLEANDER AVENUE FROM 40 MPH TO 45 MPH, AND (3) TELEGRAPH CANYON ROAD BETWEEN PASEO DEL REY AND OLD TELEGRAPH CANYON ROAD FROM 45 MPH TO 50 MPH, AND AMENDING SCHEDULE X OF THE REGISTER MAINTAINED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER TO REFLECT THE ESTABLISHED SPEED LIMITS (FIRST READING)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council place the ordinance on first reading.

SUMMARY

Staff completed Engineering and Traffic Surveys (E&TS) on East "H" Street and Telegraph Canyon Road in accordance with the California Vehicle Code, which indicates that the posting of speed limits that are not the maximum or standard prima facie speed limits be determined by an E&TS for each street with a posted speed limit within the City. Based on the results of the E&TS and by consolidating some short segments, staff has determined that the speed limits increase on: (1) East "H" Street between Southwestern Drive and Otay Lakes Road from 35 mph to 45 mph, (2) Telegraph Canyon Road between Halecrest Drive and Crest Drive/Oleander Avenue from 40 mph to 45 mph, and (3) Telegraph Canyon Road between Paseo Del Rey and Old Telegraph Canyon Road from 45 mph to 50 mph (see Attachments 1 and 2, Location Plats).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Director of Development Services has reviewed the proposed project for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Class 1 (Existing Facilities) and Section 15061(b)(3), because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Thus, no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Safety Commission, at their meeting on October 2, 2019, voted to concur with staff's recommendation to increase the speed limit on East "H" Street between Southwestern Drive and Otay Lakes Road from 35 mph to 45 mph (Attachment 3).

On November 6, 2019, the Safety Commission voted to concur with staff's recommendation to increase the speed limit on Telegraph Canyon Road between Halecrest Drive and Crest Drive/Oleander Avenue from 40

mph to 45 mph and on Telegraph Canyon Road between Paseo Del Rey and Old Telegraph Canyon Road from 45 mph to 50 mph (Attachment 4).

DISCUSSION

Background

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) establishes minimum and maximum prima facie speed limits for all streets in the State. The minimum prima facie speed limit is 25 miles per hour (MPH) for specific roadways and the maximum speed limit is 65 MPH (55 MPH for undivided roads). An E&TS is generally required (see CVC Sections 2235, 22358 etc.) to change the prima facie speed limit from these preset limits for any City roadway.

The California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) recommends that local agencies conduct engineering studies at least once every 5, 7 or 10 years, in compliance with CVC Section 40802, to reevaluate non-statutory speed limits on segments of their roadways that have undergone significant changes since the last review, such as the addition or elimination of parking or driveways, changes in the number of travel lanes, changes in the configuration of bicycle lanes, changes in traffic control signal coordination, or significant changes in traffic volumes. In 2019, staff completed E&TS’s for the following segments and determined which speed limits are to be maintained and which were to have proposed increases.

	Street	Segment	Existing Speed Limit	Proposed Speed Limit
A	East “H” Street	Southwestern Dr to Otay Lakes Road	35 mph	45 mph
B	Telegraph Canyon Road	Halecrest Dr to Crest Dr/Oleander Ave	40 mph	45 mph
C	Telegraph Canyon Road	Paseo Del Rey to Old Telegraph Canyon Road	45 mph	50 mph

Per the CVC, the E&TSs performed by staff included:

- (1) Prevailing speeds as determined by traffic engineering measurements;
- (2) Accident records; and
- (3) Traffic/roadside conditions not readily apparent to the driver.

Segment Consolidation

During routine E&TS updates for East “H” Street and Telegraph Canyon Road, the physical characteristics and traffic patterns of the above roadway segments were nearly identical to their adjacent roadway segments, warranting that they be merged into those segments to reflect the similarities. In addition, all segments were less than or nearly one quarter mile in length, the minimum length recommended by the California MUTCD. This consolidation required that the speeds for the above segments be increased, which was also supported by the data in their respective E&TS’s.

Traffic Calming

Due to the major roadway classification of the subject segments, no traffic calming measures can feasibly be implemented.

Speed Enforceability

If the proposed speed limit supported by an E&TS is approved, police can use RADAR/LiDAR to enforce the approved posted speed limit. If the proposed speed increase supported by an E&TS is not approved, the means of enforcing speeds on the subject segments will be limited to as follows:

- Basic Speed Law: police determine visually that speed of vehicle is greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the highway. Here, such enforcement method is infeasible due to insufficient police availability and the very short segment lengths.
- Maximum Speed Law: use RADAR/LiDAR methods to enforce a speed limit of 65 mph.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the property holdings of the City Council members and has found no property holdings within 1,000 feet of the boundaries of the property which is the subject of this action. Consequently, this item does not present a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under California Code of Regulations Title 2, section 18702.2(a)(7) or (8), for purposes of the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code §87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

The increase of the speed limit would require the posting of new speed limit signs and speed limit legends. This work will be funded by an existing Capital Improvement Project, TRF0332, Signing and Striping Program.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

Regular maintenance of the pavement legends will be needed every 5 to 7 years, and the signage, every 12 to 15 years.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Location Plat – East “H” Street
2. Location Plat – Telegraph Canyon Road
3. Safety Commission Report, October 2, 2019
4. Safety Commission Report, November 6, 2019

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