



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 9, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Transportation Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Introduction Of Ordinance Establishing Prima Facie Speed Limits

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council introduce and subsequently adopt, by reading of title only, An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Amending Section 10.60.015 of the Municipal Code, Establishing the Prima Facie Speed Limit on Alamar Avenue from State Street to Foothill Road at the Current Speed Limit of 35 Miles Per Hour, Reducing the Prima Facie Speed Limit on Micheltorena Street from San Andres Street to California Street from 30 to 25 Miles Per Hour, and Reducing the Prima Facie Speed Limit on Mission Street from Robbins Street to Anacapa Street from 30 to 25 Miles Per Hour.

DISCUSSION:

The Engineering and Traffic Survey for segments of Alamar Avenue, Micheltorena Street and Mission Street has expired, and the Police Department is not able to enforce the speed limit using radar. The State now requires a current Engineering and Traffic Survey to establish a speed limit. The speed limit should be established at the five mile per hour (mph) increment closest to the 85th percentile speed (which is the speed that 85% of the drivers are traveling at or below) unless conditions unforeseen to the driver merit the consideration of a reduction of up to five miles per hour. This methodology is based on the premise that a reasonable speed limit is one that conforms to the actual behavior of the majority of motorists, and that by measuring motorists' speeds, one will be able to select a speed limit that is both reasonable and effective.

Staff recently conducted Engineering and Traffic Surveys on Alamar Avenue, Micheltorena Street, and Mission Street, which have been identified as high priority routes for safety and speed enforcement. By adopting an Ordinance amending Municipal Code 10.60.015, Council will establish the speed limits as described in the "Recommended Posted Speed Limit" table on the next page.

Recommended Posted Speed Limits

Street Name	Segment	Existing Speed Limit	Surveyed Speed Limit	Reduction based on Special Characteristics (-5 mph)	Recommended Posted Speed Limit
Alamar Avenue	State Street to State Highway 192	35	40	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	35
Micheltorena Street	San Andres Street to California Street	30	25	<input type="checkbox"/>	25
Mission Street	Robbins Street to Anacapa Street	30	25	<input type="checkbox"/>	25

The 85th percentile on Alamar Avenue is 40 mph. Engineering judgment indicates a need for reducing the recommended posted speed limit on Alamar Avenue, due to special conditions not foreseen by the driver: pedestrian and bicyclist safety, poor site visibility from cross streets, and residential density. Therefore, the speed limit on Alamar Avenue will remain at 35 mph.

The 85th percentile on Micheltorena Street and Mission Street is 25 mph. The speed limit will be set at 25 mph. No reduction of the speed limit is recommended as this is consistent with the statewide residential speed limit of 25 mph.

The next areas scheduled for speed surveys are segments of Gutierrez Street, Quarantina Street, and Alameda Padre Serra.

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SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office