



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Works



Date: January 10, 2017
Board Meeting Date: January 24, 2017
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works

Subject: Amend a portion of Ordinance Chapter 7.04, to reduce the speed limit on Alpine Road

RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 7.04 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code regarding prima facie speed limits on Alpine Road, previously introduced on January 10, 2017, and waive the reading of the ordinance in its entirety:

- A) Repealing the portion of Section 7.04.045, which reads, "Along Alpine Road beginning at a point approximately 0.38 miles southerly of Junipero Serra Boulevard and extending to a point approximately 200 feet northerly of La Cuesta Drive"; and
- B) Amending Section 7.04.035 - Speed limit thirty-five miles per hour – to add the following language: "Along ALPINE ROAD beginning approximately 200 feet northerly of La Cuesta Drive, to a point approximately 0.38 miles southerly of Junipero Serra Boulevard."

BACKGROUND:

Your Board has adopted similar ordinances designating prima facie speed limits in the County.

Section 22357 and 22358 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) provide that local authorities may establish speed limits other than the prima facie speed limits as listed in the CVC, if said speed limits are based on an engineering or traffic survey, will facilitate the orderly movement of vehicular traffic, and would be reasonable and safe upon the street.

DISCUSSION:

The Department conducted a traffic corridor study in 2016. As part of the study, the consulting team analyzed the Alpine Road Corridor to determine if safety access improvements can be implemented for all users of the Alpine Road corridor.

One of the findings of the study showed that reduced speeds could help minimize collisions and facilitate ingress and egress from the side streets. The consultants reviewed the speed studies recently conducted as part of their work and determined that the existing speed limits of 45 miles per hour (mph) on one portion of the road, could be lowered to a uniform speed limit of 35 mph which would address some of the comments received in community meetings, and better serve the community.

Staff recommends:

- 1) Repealing the existing speed limit of 45 mph for Alpine Road, in Section 7.04.045 "Along Alpine Road beginning at a point approximately 0.38 miles southerly of Junipero Serra Boulevard and extending to a point approximately 200 feet northerly of La Cuesta Drive"; and
- 2) Amending Section 7.04.035 - Speed limit thirty-five miles per hour - as follows: "Along Alpine Road beginning approximately 200 feet northerly of La Cuesta Drive, to a point approximately 0.38 miles southerly of Junipero Serra Boulevard."

Constituents have expressed consensus support for this speed reduction through community meetings and a public input process.

Other findings of the study include installing radar feedback signs along Alpine Road as well as additional pavement markings at intersections, guard rail improvements, and ultimately installation of one or more roundabouts south of I-280, signalization of the Alpine Road/I-280 interchange, and potentially a traffic signal at Piers Lane. Installation of the roundabouts and traffic signals will occur in the future subject to available funding. Installation of the pavement striping and radar feedback signs will occur in the Spring of 2017. The guardrail improvements will be installed this summer as part of the Alpine Trail Improvement Project.

The California Highway Patrol has reviewed and concurs with our recommendations.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the ordinance as to form.

Approval of this ordinance contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Livable Community by allowing the County to provide for the orderly movement of traffic on public right-of-ways.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated cost of changing speed limit signs is \$500 per location. The installation will be funded with Road Funds that have been appropriated this fiscal year to finance small road-related improvements or traffic-related installations.

There is no impact to the General Fund.