



CITY of CALABASAS
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JULY 14, 2022

TO: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: ROBERT YALDA, PE, TE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER
THOMAS MERICLE, CONTRACT TRAFFIC ENGINEERING SERVICES

SUBJECT: SPEED LIMIT UPDATE

MEETING
DATE: JULY 26, 2022

BACKGROUND:

For speed zones to be enforceable, posted speed limits must be determined by the laws contained in the California Vehicle Code (CVC) and requirements from Caltrans published in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD). Recent changes in several sections of the CVC affect how speed limits are determined in the future.

This staff report will inform the Commission of the changes and provide a timeframe for staff updates to the current speed limits.

DISCUSSION:

In January 2022 AB 43 (approved in 2021), the legislation that made changes to the CVC, became effective. These changes to the CVC are summarized as follows:

- Section 627 – Revised the definition of “Engineering and Traffic Survey” (E&TS) to expand language about considerations for vulnerable pedestrian groups.
- Section 21400 – Removes subsection that requires agencies to round speed limits to the nearest 5 mph increment of the 85% speed (measured via a speed survey) and restricted agencies from reducing the limit more than 5 mph from the 85% speed.

- Section 22358 – Now allows local agencies to post a speed limit of 20 mph or 15 mph when an E&TS supports the lowered limit. Previous minimum was 25 mph.
- Section 22358.6 – Revises language to allow a local agency to lower the speed limit as provided for in sections 22358.7 and 22358.8 after rounding down.
- Section 22358.7 – This new section allows local agencies to lower speed limits by an additional 5 mph on streets identified as “safety corridors” or near places where people walking or biking congregate (does not take effect until July 2024).
- Section 22358.8 – This new section allows local agencies to retain the current speed limit if, after completing a new E&TS, the agency determines that the proposed speed limit is more than is safe or reasonable.
- Section 22358.9 – Allows local agencies to set a speed limit of 20 mph or 25 mph on streets contiguous to a “business activity district” under certain conditions.
- Section 40802 – Otherwise known as the “Speed Trap Law” this section defines the length of time that an E&TS, used to set speed limits, is valid. The basic time frame was extended from 5 to 7 years with the ability to extend the E&TS from 10 to 14 years if certain conditions are met and determined by a registered engineer.

Because some of these changes do not go into effect until July 2024 staff will be using the new provisions to extend the existing E&TS from 10 years to 14 years so that the existing speed limits will remain enforceable while waiting for the ability to evaluate the impacts of the new speed limit laws, changes in the General Plan Circulation Element Roadway Classifications, and the recommendations in the Local Roadway Safety Plan. Staff expects the general activities and time frame as follows:

July 2022 – General Plan Update at Planning Commission

October 2022 – General Plan Update at City Council

December 2022 – Staff Submittal to Caltrans for approval of roadway classification changes (required for definition of local roadway in CVC Section 40802)

June – July 2023 – Expected approval of roadway classifications by Caltrans

August 2023 – March 2024 – Evaluation and recommendations for the establishment of “safety corridors,” preparation of new E&TS, and recommendation of new speed limits.

April – June 2024 – Review by Traffic and Transportation Commission and approval by City Council

July 2024 – Posting of new speed limits.

REQUESTED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the Traffic and Transportation Commission receive and file this update.