

# City of Hesperia

## STAFF REPORT



**DATE:** September 17, 2019

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Nils Bentsen, City Manager

**BY:** Michael Blay, Assistant City Manager  
Jamie Carone, Administrative Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Adopt Phase I Speed Surveys to Update Speed Limits

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### RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2019-051 approving an update to speed limits based on updated speed surveys for various thoroughfares throughout the City.

### BACKGROUND

The establishment of appropriate speed zones is an important City function as these surveys provide motorists, police, and traffic courts with clear, understandable guidelines for reasonable and consistent speed limits that facilitate the orderly flow of traffic under typical conditions. Per Municipal Code Sections 10.20.010 and 10.20.020, the City Council is authorized to establish speed limits by Resolution based on an engineering and traffic studies. Furthermore, California Vehicle Code (CVC), Section 627, mandates that City Council certify all speed zones.

In accordance with CVC, Section 627, and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, citywide radar-enforceable speed surveys must be completed every five to seven years. Existing speed surveys for many of the City's main thoroughfares are expiring. As a consequence, local courts are rejecting citations due to outdated surveys.

City Staff has begun the process of updating speed surveys citywide to be completed in three phases. Phase I is presented herein, as Attachment 2, which includes Ranchero Road, Main Street, Arrowhead Lake Road, Rock Springs Road, I Avenue, Smoke Tree Street, and Muscatel Street) divided into 18 segments. Final phases are anticipated to be completed during the remaining calendar year.

### ISSUES/ANALYSIS

In order to update speed surveys, data is collected including spot speed surveys, average daily traffic counts, and collision records for the past three years. City Staff analyzed this data and completed field inspections to verify site conditions.

To determine the appropriate speed limit, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed must be used. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is defined as 85% of traffic traveling at the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed or less. The spot speed surveys include collecting field data to determine the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed, rounded to the nearest 5 miles per hour (mph).

The data is presented in Attachment 2, Table A. The City may reduce the rounded 85<sup>th</sup> speed if it determines that roadway conditions exist that are not readily apparent to the driver. Recommended speed limits are also presented in Attachment 2, Table A. All Engineering analysis is consistent with CVC, Section 627, requirements. Should the City deviate from these requirements, the segments will not be radar-enforceable.

Recommendations outlined in Attachment 2 include increases to the speed limit on sections of Ranchero Road, Rock Springs Road, Arrowhead Lake Road, Main Street, I Avenue, and Muscatel Street. The recommendations also include establishing a 35 mph speed limit where none is posted on Muscatel Street from Coyote Trail to Afton Avenue.

Upon Council approval, City Staff will implement work orders to install signage and related striping along the roadways presented in Attachment 2 and confirm traffic signal timing (yellow and red) are consistent with posted speed limits.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

### **ALTERNATIVE(S)**

1. Provide alternative direction to staff.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Resolution No. 2019-051
2. Table A: Recommendations to Post Speed