



STAFF REPORT

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014
To: Bryan H. Montgomery, City Manager
From: Kevin Rohani, P.E., Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Approved and Forwarded to City Council:


Bryan H. Montgomery, City Manager

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution to Establish Special Speed Zones for Specific City Streets

Background and Analysis

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) requires that all speed limits in excess of 25 miles per hour be established on the basis of an engineering and traffic survey, conducted in accordance with procedures adopted by the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) if they are to be enforceable by the use of radar. These special speed zone surveys are required to be updated every seven (7) years to continue the use of radar enforcement. Some of the engineering and traffic surveys used to establish speed limits throughout the City as listed in the attached resolution were prepared based on speed survey data collected in October 2006, and are about to expire. Speed survey data was collected in October 2013 for preparation of the special speed zone surveys used to establish the speed limits recommended in the attached resolution.

In general, the speed limit of the roadway is set at the nearest five (5) mile per hour interval where eighty-five percent of the vehicles travel at or below the speed, known as the 85th percentile or critical speed. Based on the engineering survey the speed limit can be adjusted downward depending on the physical characteristics of the road, such as abrupt changes in horizontal and/or vertical alignment and pavement width, so as to enhance its safety. In order for speeding violations to be enforceable in court the City must have current speed zone certifications on file at the courthouse.

The recommended speed limits contained in the attached resolution reflect the change in traffic patterns that have occurred during the past seven years and the adjustments needed to provide effective radar enforcement. Speed limits on Main Street were set by Caltrans prior to relinquishment of the State Highway to the City, and construction of improvements in the downtown area in the vicinity of the Civic Center.

The existing speed limits are recommended to be retained for East Cypress Road from Main Street to Bethel Island Road. The existing speed limit from Main Street to the east end of the Cypress Grove Subdivision, 0.5 mile west of Sellers Avenue, is 35 miles per hour, and is recommended to be retained. The speed limit from the east end of the Cypress Grove Subdivision to Bethel Island Road is 50 miles per hour, and is also recommended to be retained. The existing speed limits are also recommended to be retained for Delta Road from Main Street to Sellers Avenue.

The recommended speed limit changes include adjustments on Main Street between O'Hara Avenue and Teakwood Drive. New speed surveys conducted after the completion of the improvements in the vicinity of the Civic Center provide recommendations for a speed limit of 30 miles per hour between O'Hara Avenue and Vintage Parkway, 35 miles per hour between Vintage Parkway and Gardenia Avenue/Miguel Drive, and 40 miles per hour between Gardenia Avenue/Miguel Drive and Teakwood Drive. Signs installed during the recent construction in this area will be replaced to allow for enforcement by the use of radar.

The recommended speed limit changes also include increases in the speed limit of Brown Road between Laurel Road and Carpenter Road from 30 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour, Brownstone Road between Main Street and O'Hara Avenue from 35 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour, West Cypress Road between Main Street and O'Hara Avenue from 30 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour, and O'Hara Avenue from Main Street to West Cypress Road from 25 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour. Adoption of these speed limits will allow enforcement by the use of radar.

The recommended speed limits shown in the attached resolution are based on an analysis of the traffic survey data and engineering and traffic studies. Adoption of the attached resolution will approve the recommendations and traffic order of the City Engineer, establishing the speed limits on the listed streets consistent with the California Vehicle Code and The City's Municipal Code.

All traffic surveys used for development of the traffic order were prepared in accordance with the standards adopted by Caltrans. A copy of the surveys, along with a copy of the approving resolution, will be maintained in the Public Works and Engineering files, with a copy in the Police Department and a copy delivered to the Contra Costa County Traffic Court. Additional signs will be installed as needed to increase awareness of the speed limit.

Fiscal Impact

Adoption of the resolution will maintain the existing signed speed limit on most of the listed streets and establish new speed limits on others. Existing speed limit signs will be replaced for the new speed limits and additional signs will be installed as needed to increase motorist's awareness of the speed limit and to give the Police Department the rights of speed radar enforcement. The cost of the additional signs is included in the current Public Works and Engineering Department operations budget.

Recommendation

In order to establish a speed limit greater than 25 miles per hour and enforce that speed limit by the use of radar by Police Department the City must have certified special speed zone surveys that have been conducted in accordance with procedures adopted by the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans). These special speed zone surveys are required to be updated every seven (7) years to continue the use of radar enforcement. Many of the speed limits established throughout the City are based on speed studies that were conducted in 2006 and which will expire in 2014. In addition, new streets have been constructed that do not have speed limit studies established for radar enforcement.

Staff is recommending that the City Council adopt a resolution to approve the special speed zones being recommended by the City Engineer as a result of the most recent speed studies of streets for which previous speed surveys are about to expire. Additional streets recently completed include the improvement to Main Street between O'Hara Avenue and Teakwood Drive.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the resolution adopting a Traffic Order of the City Engineer establishing the prima facie speed limit on certain city streets.

Attachments

- 1) Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. __-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKLEY

WHEREAS, in October of 2013, the City Engineer had engineering and traffic surveys conducted for purposes of establishing prima facie speed limits on specific City streets; and

WHEREAS, the following listed streets and speed limits were recommended by the City Engineer.

<u>Street</u>	<u>Limits</u>	<u>Speed Limit (mph)</u>	<u>Study Date</u>
Brown Rd	Laurel Rd to Carpenter Rd	40	10/23/2013
Brownstone Rd	O'Hara Ave to Anderson Ln.	40	10/23/2013
Brownstone Rd	Anderson Ln. to Main St.	40	10/24/2013
W. Cypress Rd	Main St to Rose Ave	35	10/25/2013
W. Cypress Rd	Rose Ave to O'Hara Ave	35	10/25/2013
E. Cypress Rd	Main St to 0.5 Mi. W. of Sellers Ave	35	10/25/2013
E. Cypress Rd	0.5 Mi. W. of Sellers Ave to Bethel Isl. Rd	50	10/25/2013
Delta Rd	Main St to Marsh Creek	40	10/24/2013
Delta Rd	Marsh Creek to Sellers Ave	45	10/24/2013
Main St	O'Hara Ave to Vintage Pkwy	30	10/28/2013
Main St	Vintage Pkwy to Gardenia Ave	35	10/28/2013
Main St	Gardenia Ave to Teakwood Dr	40	10/28/2013
O'Hara Ave	Main St to W. Cypress Rd	30	10/28/2013

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED,

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Oakley at a meeting held on the 25th of February, 2014 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Randy Pope, Mayor

Libby Vreonis, City Clerk

Date