

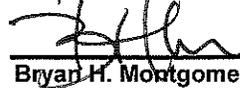


Agenda Date: 06/23/2015  
Agenda Item: 3.6

## STAFF REPORT

**Date:** Tuesday, June 23, 2015  
**To:** Bryan H. Montgomery, City Manager  
**From:** Kevin Rohani, P.E., Public Works Director and City Engineer  
**Subject:** Adoption of a Resolution to Establish Special Speed Zones for Specific City Streets

Approved and Forwarded to  
City Council

  
Bryan H. Montgomery, City Manager

### Summary and Recommendation

In order to enforce speed limits by the use of radar, the Police Department 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. The speed limits established for Laurel Road from the west City Limit near Highway 4 to O'Hara Avenue, were based on speed studies that were conducted in 2008, which will expire in 2015. In addition, the posted speed limit on W. Cypress Road from O'Hara Avenue to Empire Avenue was never established based on a special speed zone survey, and is not enforceable by the use of police radar. The recommended speed limit in the attached resolution will allow radar enforcement of the speed limit on W. Cypress Rd from O'Hara Avenue to Empire Avenue.

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 Laurel Road from the west City Limits to O'Hara Avenue for which previous speed surveys are about to expire, and to add W. Cypress Road from O'Hara Avenue to Empire Avenue to the list of streets on which speeds can be enforced by the use of police radar.

### Fiscal Impact

Adoption of the resolution will maintain the existing signed speed limits on Laurel Road from the west City Limits to O'Hara Avenue, and establish a new speed limit on W. Cypress Road from O'Hara Avenue to Empire Avenue. 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 advise of radar enforcement.

The cost of the additional signs is included in the current Public Works and Engineering budget.

### **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 Caltrans if they are to be enforceable by the use of police radar. These special speed zone surveys are required to be updated every seven (7) years to continue the use of radar enforcement. The engineering and traffic surveys used to establish the speed limits on Laurel Road from the west City Limits to O'Hara Avenue were prepared based on speed survey data collected in April 2008, and are about to expire. Speed survey data was collected in May 2014 and May 2015 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 a roadway is set at the nearest five mile per hour interval where eighty-five percent of the vehicles travel at or below the speed, known as the 85<sup>th</sup> 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 Police Department must have current speed zone certifications on file at the courthouse.

The recommended speed limits contained in the attached resolution reflect the current traffic conditions on Laurel Road from the west City Limits to O'Hara Avenue and on W. Cypress Rd. from O'Hara Avenue to Empire Avenue. The recommended speed limits include maintaining the existing posted speed limits on Laurel Road from the west City Limits to O'Hara Avenue, and increasing the currently posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour on W. Cypress Road between O'Hara Avenue and Empire Avenue to 35 miles per hour. Adoption of these speed limits will allow enforcement by the use of police 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.

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### **Conclusion**

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.

### **Attachment**

- 1) Resolution

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_-15

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKLEY  
ADOPTING A TRAFFIC ORDER OF THE CITY ENGINEER  
ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS**

**WHEREAS**, in May of 2014 and May of 2015 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>
Laurel Rd.	West City Limits to Neroly Rd.	45	5/22/2014
Laurel Rd.	Neroly Rd. to Empire Ave.	45	5/20/2014
Laurel Rd.	Empire Ave. to Brown Rd.	40	5/20/2014
Laurel Rd.	Brown Rd. to O'Hara Ave.	35	5/22/2014
W. Cypress Rd.	O'Hara Ave. to Empire Ave.	35	5/01/2015

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED**, the City Council of the City of Oakley hereby resolves to approve the recommendations and Traffic Order of the City Engineer as listed above.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 23rd day June, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTENTIONS:

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Hardcastle, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Libby Vreonis, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date