



STAFF REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: Regular Meeting of December 12, 2017

TO: The Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBMITTED BY: Mike Roberts, Public Works Director/City Engineer

SUBJECT: Approval of the 2017 Speed Survey and Adoption of an Ordinance to Reduce Speed Limits on Sections of Sycamore Avenue and Refugio Valley Road

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended the City Council:

- 1) Adopt a resolution approving the 2017 Speed Survey; and
- 2) Waive the second reading and adopt an ordinance to amend Hercules Municipal Code Title 3, Chapter 4 to reduce the speed limit on Refugio Valley Road from 40 mph to 35 mph between Redwood Road and Bonaire Avenue and to reduce the speed limit on Sycamore Avenue from 40 mph to 35 mph between Civic Drive and Palm Avenue.

FISCAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION:

There is no additional cost associated with this action. Gas Tax funding to replace regulatory signs including speed limit signs is included in the adopted FY 2017-18 Budget.

DISCUSSION:

Summary

The speed survey and ordinance were introduced at the November 14, 2017 Council meeting. In accordance with the discussion that occurred, the ordinance remains unchanged while the speed survey has been modified to include minor edits and the full appendix. Once the ordinance is in effect, traffic enforcement officers will be given a binder containing all related items including the resolution approving the speed survey that they can take to traffic court and submit into evidence if a speeding ticket is challenged.

Background

The 2017 Speed Survey recommends existing speed limits on all City streets remain the same, except for reductions from 40 mph to 35 mph on sections of Refugio Valley and Sycamore. Per the California Vehicle Code (CVC), speed limit reductions must be adopted by ordinance. The 2017 Speed Survey and ordinance were introduced at the November 14, 2017 Council meeting and are now recommended for approval and adoption, respectively.

Detailed Discussion

The primary purpose of the 2017 Speed Survey is to justify the use of radar for speed limit enforcement as enforcement helps ensure streets are safe for all users. For radar speeding tickets to be valid in traffic court, the California Vehicle Code requires busier or “non-local” roads as defined by the California Road System (*Appendix C of Speed Survey*) undergo a Speed Survey every 5 years (*CVC Section 40802 (a)(2)/Pg. 11 of Speed Survey*). For Hercules, these non-local roads are San Pablo, Willow, Sycamore, and Refugio Valley. The 2017 Speed Survey analyzed these streets and justifies keeping the existing speed limits the same, except for reductions from 40 mph to 35 mph on Refugio between Redwood & Bonaire and on Sycamore between Civic & Palm (*Table 2, Pg. 7 of Speed Survey*).

The remaining streets in Hercules are categorized as local streets under the California Road System and have a default or “prima facie” speed limit of 25 mph per the CVC (*Section 22352 (b)(1) /Pg. 9 of Speed Survey*). The vast majority of streets in Hercules, including residential streets, fall in this category. Local streets are not subject to the 5 year speed survey requirement (*Section 40802 (b)(1)/Pg. 11 of Speed Survey*) and so are not studied in the Speed Survey.

Reducing or increasing speed limits on any City street (i.e. local and non-local) can occur if justified by a speed survey and established by ordinance (*CVC Section 22357/Pg. 10 of Speed Survey*). Once a speed limit is changed, it must also be justified every 5 years through a radar speed survey. The City previously increased speeds on local streets in the Business Park (including Alfred Nobel Drive and Linus Pauling Drive), and sections of Coronado Street and Turquoise Drive. These changed speed limits are codified in Hercules Municipal Code Title 3, Chapter 4 (Attachment 2). The 2017 Speed Survey analyzed these streets and also recommends keeping the existing speed limits (*Table 2/ Pg. 7 of Speed Survey*). As discussed above, the ordinance introduced tonight is to reduce speed limits from 40 mph to 35 mph on sections of Refugio and Sycamore and is justified by the Speed Survey.

Once the ordinance is adopted and the 2017 Speed Survey is approved by City Council resolution, traffic enforcement officers will be given a binder containing all related items that they can take to traffic court and submit into evidence if a speeding ticket is challenged.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Ordinance
3. Attachment 1 –Speed Survey

Financial Impact

Description: Not Applicable

Funding Source:

Budget Recap:

Total Estimated cost:	\$	New Revenue:	\$
Amount Budgeted:	\$	Lost Revenue:	\$
New funding required:	\$	New Personnel:	\$
Council Policy Change:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	