

**Council Meeting: February 28, 2012****SUBJECT: Resolution to Authorize and Establish New School Zone Speed Limits****REPORT IN BRIEF**

State law allows local jurisdictions by ordinance or resolution to establish 15 mile per hour zones during school arrival and departure times within 500 feet of school buildings or grounds on roadways with an established speed limit of 30 miles per hour or less. Sunnyvale's Municipal Code calls for speed limits to be established by resolution. At the suggestion of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC), this report recommends that City Council adopt a resolution (Attachment A) to establish 15 mile per hour school zones at all public schools in Sunnyvale with the exception of Fremont High School.

EXISTING POLICY

Land Use and Transportation Element C3, Attain a transportation system that is effective, safe, pleasant and convenient.

DISCUSSION

State law was modified in 2008 to allow local jurisdictions the authority to establish 15 mile per hour speed zones near schools. Normally enforceable speed limits are set according to requirements of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) and procedures defined by the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA-MUTCD). Establishment of speed limits involves measuring prevailing speeds, reviewing collision records, and identifying any roadway, traffic, or roadside conditions that are not readily apparent to the driver. The CA-MUTCD defines how these factors are considered to establish the posted speed. The CVC contains certain exceptions to the required method for establishing speed limits, including an exception to allow local authorities to adopt 15 mile per hour school area speed zones adjacent to schools in residential areas and on streets where the posted speed limit is 30 miles per hour or less. Reduced speeds can lower the severity of collisions. An ordinance or resolution must be approved in support of creation of the 15 mile per hour zones.

The BPAC considered this as a potential 2012 study issue (Attachment B). Council dropped the issue in accordance with staff's recommendation, which suggested the evaluation of appropriate speed limits was primarily an operational issue that would be accommodated within existing work programs. Thirty-seven locations in Sunnyvale meet the criteria defined by the CVC for 15

mile per hour school speed limit zones (See list of locations in Attachment A). Zones would extend 500 feet from the boundary of the subject school or to the nearest street terminus. Staff is not recommending creating zones near private schools because these facilities do not generate significant bicycle and pedestrian traffic, which is a focus of this initiative.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff estimates the cost of installation at approximately \$30,000. Staff will present a funding recommendation as part of the FY 12/13 budget to utilize new funds added to vehicle registration fees. This new funding source becomes available to Sunnyvale starting July 1, 2012 and is available for roadway safety enhancements such as this.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin boards outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, the City Clerk's office, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center, and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City's Web site; and making the report available at the Office of the City Clerk.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the attached Resolution modifying speed limits to 15 miles per hour at 37 locations near schools in Sunnyvale.
2. Do not take action at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Alternative No. 1: Approve the attached Resolution modifying speed limits to 15 miles per hour at 37 locations near schools in Sunnyvale. Reducing speed limits near schools will encourage cautious driving and potentially reduce the severity of collisions that occur near schools.

Reviewed by:

Kent Steffens, Director of Public Works

Prepared by: Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager

Approved by:

Gary M. Luebbbers, City Manager

Attachments:

- A. Resolution
- B. DPW 12-02 Establishment of 15 Miles Per Hour School Zone and Flashing Warning Signs

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SUNNYVALE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 203-95 TO
AUTHORIZE NEW SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS**

WHEREAS, Title 10 of the Sunnyvale Municipal Code provides that the designation of speed limits is to be accomplished by the City Council by resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE THAT it has been determined it is necessary to amend Sunnyvale Municipal Code Section 10.28.010 by adding the list of "School Zone Speed Limits" as set forth in Exhibit "A."

Adopted by the City Council at a regular meeting held on _____, 2012, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSTAIN:
- ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

City Clerk
(SEAL)

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

David E. Kahn, City Attorney

III. School Zone Speed Limits Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 10.28.010

Name of School	Name of Street Affected	From	To	Speed Limit in Miles per Hour
Fairwood	Sandia	500 ft. southeast of school property line	500 ft. west of school property line	15
	Fairwood	500 ft. north of school property line	500 ft. south of school property line	15
Lakewood	Meadow Lake	Lakebird Drive	500 ft. south of school property line	15
	Lakechime	Silverlake Drive	500 ft. west of school property line	15
Columbia Middle	Morse	Ahwanee Avenue	500 ft. south of school property line	15
	San Diego	Hemlock Avenue	500 ft. south of school property line	15
	Hemlock	San Diego Avenue	500 feet west of San Diego Avenue	15
San Miguel	San Miguel	Alvarado Drive	500 ft. south of school property line	15
	Alvarado	San Juan Drive	San Pablo Avenue	15
Bishop	Maude	500 ft. east of school property line	500 ft. west of school property line	15
	Sunnyvale	Maude Avenue	500 ft. south of school property line	15
	Hazelton Bayview	Sunnyvale Avenue Arbor Drive	Bayview Avenue 500 ft. south of school property line	15 15
Vargas	Leota	500 ft. north of school property line	500 ft. south of school property line	15
Cumberland	Carson	Mary Avenue	Leota Drive	15
	Cumberland	Quetta Avenue	Piper Avenue	15
	Quetta	500 ft. north of school property line	500 ft. south of school property line	15
Ellis	Central	500 ft. north of school property line	Old San Francisco Road	15
	Olive	500 ft. east of school property line	500 ft. west of school property line	15
Braly	Gail	500 ft. north of school property line	500 ft. south of school property line	15
Ponderosa	Iris	500 ft. east of school property line	500 ft. west of school property line	15
	Ponderosa	Foxglove Drive	500 ft. south of school property line	15
Cherry Chase	Grape	500 ft. north of school property line	500 ft. south of school property line	15
	Heatherstone	500 ft. east of school property line	500 ft. west of school property line	15
Sunnyvale Middle	Mango	500 ft. north of school property line	Remington Drive	15
Peterson Middle	Rosalia	Poplar Avenue	Bryant Way	15
	Poplar	500 ft. north of school property line	500 ft. south of school property line	15
	Bryant	500 ft. east of school property line	500 ft. west of school property line	15
Stockmeir	Dunholme	500 ft. east of school property line	500 ft. west of school property line	15
	Condor	Harrow Way	Dunholme Drive	15
Nimitz	Cascade	Yukon Drive	500 ft. west of school	15

	Cheyenne	Valcartier Drive	property line 500 ft. west of school property line	15
Cupertino Middle	Bernardo	500 ft. north of school property line	Homestead Road	15
	Helena	500 ft. east of school property line	Bernardo Avenue	15
West Valley	Belleville	500 ft. north of school property line	500 ft. south of school property line	15
	Barton	500 ft. north of school property line	500 ft. south of school property line	15
	Ecola	Barton Drive	Bedford Drive	15

ATTACHMENT B

2012 Council Study Issue

DPW 12-02 Establishment of 15 Miles Per Hour School Zones and Flashing Warning Signs

Lead Department Public Works

History 1 year ago None 2 years ago None

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?

This issue would consider the establishment of 15 miles per hour zones near schools. The California Vehicle Code allows for the establishment of 15 MPH zones within 500 feet of schools in residential areas if the speed limit of the subject road is 30 MPH. Some jurisdictions have recently announced that they are pursuing uniform 15 MPH restrictions at schools, regardless of the underlying speed limit. Appropriate signs must be installed, and jurisdictions can enhance signs with flashing beacons at their discretion. The study would identify limitations and discuss efforts by other jurisdictions to broadly implement 15 MPH zones and how that would relate to the Vehicle Code and enforceability. It would also identify costs associated with erecting flashing beacon signs at school zones in Sunnyvale.

2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?

Law Enforcement Sub-Element A.5, Facilitate the safe movement of pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles.

3. Origin of issue

Board or Commission Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

4. Staff effort required to conduct study Moderate**Briefly explain the level of staff effort required**

The study will require research into the issue of the City implementing enforceable speed limits beyond those allowed by the California Vehicle Code. It will require an inventory of associated signing needs to change speed zones and install flashing beacons, and associated cost estimating. An ordinance or resolution would be required to be prepared to implement new school zone speeds.

5. Multiple Year Project? No Planned Completion Year 2012**6. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?**

Does Council need to approve a work plan? No
 Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission? Yes
 If so, which? Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory
 Commission
 Is a Council Study Session anticipated? No

7. Briefly explain if a budget modification will be required to study this issue

Amount of budget modification required 0

ATTACHMENT B

Explanation

- 8. Briefly explain potential costs of implementing study results, note estimated capital and operating costs, as well as estimated revenue/savings, include dollar amounts

Are there costs of implementation? Yes

Explanation

Should school zone speeds be approved for change and a flashing beacon project approved, costs would be associated with sign fabrication, beacon procurement, pavement legend striping and installation of signs and beacons. If staff determines that 15 mph speed zones are feasible and enforceable, a budget issue will be developed for consideration in FY2012/13.

- 9. Staff Recommendation

Staff Recommendation Drop

If 'Support', 'Drop' or 'Defer', explain

Staff supports an effort to evaluate 15 MPH zones near schools. The evaluation of appropriate speed limits is primarily an operational issue that can be accomodated within existing work programs. Staff will begin this portion of the Study in 2011. However, staff feels the installation of flashing beacons would be cost prohibitive for the City and recommends this portion of the sudy be dropped.

Reviewed by

Approved by

Kent Steffens

10-25-11

Department Director

Date

[Signature]

10-27-11

City Manager

Date