

July 20, 2005

Honorable Mayor and Members of
The Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
July 26, 2005

CITYWIDE SPEED SURVEY AND POSTED SPEED LIMITS

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve the Citywide Speed Survey prepared by AAE, Inc. with the following exceptions;
2. Amend the Traffic Engineer's recommendations to include an additional 5 mph reduction below the 85th percentile such that Valley Drive, between Gould Avenue to 2nd Street, and Ardmore Avenue, between Pier Avenue and 8th Street, to remain posted at 25 mph; and
3. Waive Full Reading and Introduce the Ordinance establishing citywide posted speed limits.

Summary:

Based on the Engineering and Traffic Surveys conducted in the manner prescribed in the State of California Vehicle Code, it is the recommendation of the staff that the Ordinance (ATTACHMENT 1) be adopted setting the speed limits for all Arterial and Collector roadways.

Background:

The State of California Vehicle Code (CVC) requires that an Engineering and Traffic Survey be conducted every five years, with the survey's results being used to establish or adjust the posted speed limits on streets where radar would be used as an enforcement tool. The surveys, conducted in conjunction with these report recommendations, were conducted in conformance with the CVC requirements.

Other policies, procedures and requirements associated with establishing or adjusting a speed limit include:

- It is a long-standing premise of engineering, enforcement and judicial officials that 85% of all motorists will travel a street segment at a speed that they feel is safe and prudent for the prevailing conditions, and that the posting of a speed limit significantly lower than the 85th percentile speed will have very little effect on the continuing actual speed of traffic on the street. Taking this into account, recommended speed limits are normally set at or near the 85th percentile speed as determined utilizing the Engineering and Traffic Survey.
- The CVC and Municipal Courts recognize that there may be extenuating circumstances or changes in the roadway or traffic characteristics that are not readily apparent to the motorists and may justify a reduction of the speed limit below the 85th percentile level.
- These conditions and circumstances include a high incidence of speed-related accidents, street alignment, narrowing of the roadway, obscured access from cross streets or driveways onto the major roadway, or new or unanticipated pedestrian or bicycle activity. A reduced speed limit based on these conditions is documented in the data submitted to the courts.

Analysis:

The traffic engineering staff conducted traffic counts and segment speed surveys of Arterial and Collector roadways citywide. Staff performed the required fieldwork to collect the vehicular traffic volumes and performed the speed zone surveys. The recommended speed postings are listed in the Ordinance.

Based upon the 85th percentile traffic data collected, it was determined that Prospect Avenue, Valley Drive and Ardmore Avenue need to have posted speed limits of 30 mph, an increase from the existing 25 mph speed limit. However, it is the City's Traffic Engineer's judgment that extenuating circumstances exist on Prospect Avenue and Ardmore Avenue between 2nd and 8th Streets and should remain posted at 25 mph.

The methodology allows for the justified speed limits based on the 85th percentile surveyed to be reduced by an additional 5 mph when the following factors are met:

- Multiple unprotected crossings
- Residential/School zone
- Horizontal Curves
- Vertical Curves
- Restricted Sight Distance
- Pedestrian Walking Corridor
- Multiple Stop-Controlled Crossing Streets
- Multiple Residential Driveways

All of these apply to Prospect Avenue and Ardmore Avenue, between 2nd and 8th Streets, is very narrow with horizontal curves and poor sight distance at side streets, therefore the City Traffic Engineer recommends an additional 5 mph reduction leaving the speed limits currently posted unchanged.

The Public Works Commission heard this item on September 15, 2004. They supported the proposed posted speed limits with the exception of the portion recommending an increase in speed for the segment of Valley Drive between Pier Ave. and 8th Street. The Commission recommended that this segment not have an increased speed limit due to foot traffic and congestion.

This speed survey was presented to City Council on July 12, 2005, and the Council made specific findings amending the City's Traffic Engineer's recommendations such that the speed limits would remain posted at 25 mph for Valley Drive, between Gould Avenue to 2nd Street, and Ardmore Avenue, between Pier Avenue and 8th Street. This additional 5 mph reduction below the 85th percentile speeds is due to the following factors:

- Very narrow streets with multiple stop controlled intersections
- Very heavy pedestrian traffic accessing three parks, a school and Farmer's Market fronting on these streets
- Both streets are designated "Safe Routes To School"

In light of the above findings, the only recommended change to posted speed limits is on Ardmore between Gould Avenue to 21st Street where the speed is recommended to be reduced from 35 mph to 30 mph. All of the rest of the speed postings are to remain unchanged.

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated cost for installing the proposed changes to the speed limits would be in the range of \$250-\$300 per sign. There are sufficient funds in the Street Maintenance budget to purchase the necessary signs.

Attachments:

1. Table 1
2. Table 2
3. Draft Ordinance

Respectfully submitted,

Concur:

Richard D. Morgan, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager

Noted for fiscal impact:

Viki Copeland
Finance Director

Table 1

Street	No.	Location	Dir.	Date	10 mph Pace	% in 10 mph Pace	50 th percent'l (mph)	85 th percent'l (mph)	Posted Speed Limit (mph)	Recom'd Speed Limit (mph)
Ardmore Ave.	1	No. City Limit to Gould Ave.	N/S	7/18/03	28-37	75.0	32.8	36.5	35	35
	5	2 nd St. to 8 th St.	N/S	7/18/03	20-29	79.0	26.3	29.8	25	25
Artesia Blvd.	6	Pacific Coast Hwy. To East City Limit	E/W	7/18/03	27-36	71.7	30.8	36.1	40	40
Aviation Blvd.	7	Pacific Coast Hwy. To East City Limit	E/W	7/21/03	29-38	88.0	35.2	37.1	35	35
Gould Ave.	8	Ardmore Ave. to Manhattan Ave.	E/W	7/18/03	21-30	92.0	25.7	28.4	25	25
Hermosa Ave.	9	27 th St. to 22 nd St.	E/W	7/18/03	27-36	85.0	30.3	33.7	30	30
	10	22 nd St. to 16 th St.	E/W	7/21/03	24-33	80.0	28.6	33.5	30	30
	11	8 th St. to Herondo St.	E/W	7/21/03	24-33	81.0	28.6	31.7	30	30
Herondo St.	12	Valley Dr. to Hermosa Ave.	E/W	7/21/03	27-36	80.0	32.5	36.3	35	35
Longfellow Ave.	13	Valley Dr. to Hermosa Ave.	E/W	7/21/03	18-27	86.0	23.2	25.9	25	25
Manhattan Ave.	14	No. City Limit to Longfellow Ave.	N/S	7/21/03	21-30	79.0	26.0	29.7	30	30
	15	Longfellow Ave. to 27 th St.	N/S	7/21/03	21-30	83.0	24.8	29.5	30	30
	16	Pier Ave. to 1 st St.	N/S	7/21/03	17-26	85.0	22.3	25.5	25	25
Monterey Ave.	17	19 th St. to Pier Ave.	N/S	7/21/03	20-29	87.0	24.6	28.3	25	25
	18	Pier Ave. to Herondo St.	N/S	7/21/03	22-31	77.0	26.5	30.5	25	25
Pacific Coast Hwy.	19	Artesia Blvd. to 15 th St.	N/S	7/21/03	33-42	90.8	37.6	41.2	35	35
	20	15 th St. to South City Limit	N/S	7/21/03	26-35	92.0	30.2	34.0	30	30

Table 1 (cont'd)

Street	No.	Location	Dir.	Date	10 mph Pace	% in 10 mph Pace	50 th percent'l (mph)	85 th percent'l (mph)	Posted Speed Limit (mph)	Recom'd Speed Limit (mph)
Pier Ave.	21	Pacific Coast Hwy. to Ardmore Ave.	E/W	7/22/03	17-26	92.0	19.9	24.4	25	25
	22	Ardmore Ave. to Monterey Blvd.	E/W	7/22/03	19-28	91.0	23.0	26.3	25	25
	23	Monterey Blvd. to Hermosa Ave.	E/W	7/22/03	18-27	97.0	22.6	24.5	25	25
Prospect Ave.	24	Artesia Blvd. to 21 st St.	N/S	7/22/03	18-27	96.0	23.2	25.4	25	25
	25	21 st St. to Aviation Blvd.	N/S	7/22/03	26-35	88.0	29.5	33.6	25	25
	26	Aviation Blvd. to 6 th ST.	N/S	7/22/03	23-32	91.0	27.1	30.3	25	25
	27	6 th St. to South City Limit	N/S	7/22/03	22-31	95.0	25.3	28.5	25	25
Valley Dr.	28	North City Limit to Gould Ave.	N/S	7/23/03	23-32	82.0	26.3	31.0	30	30
Second St.	33	Pacific Coast Hwy. to Valley Dr	E/W	7/23/03	17-26	89.0	21.8	25.0	25	25
	34	Valley Dr. to Hermosa Ave.	E/W	7/23/03	20-29	90.0	23.8	27.0	25	25
Eighth St.	35	East City Limit to Pacific Coast Hwy.	E/W	7/25/03	16-25	84.0	20.0	23.9	25	25
	36	Pacific Coast Hwy. to Ardmore Ave.	E/W	7/23/03	17-26	90.0	21.6	24.9	25	25
Thirtieth St.	37	Pacific Coast Hwy. to Ardmore Ave.	E/W	7/23/03	16-25	84.0	19.9	25.2	25	25

Table 2

Street	No.	Location	Dir.	Date	10 mph Pace	% in 10 mph Pace	50 th percent'l (mph)	85 th percent'l (mph)	Posted Speed Limit (mph)	Recom'd Speed Limit (mph)
Ardmore Ave.	2	Gould Ave. to 21 st St.	N/S	7/18/03	23-32	82.0	29.2	31.9	35	30
	4	Pier Ave. to 8 th St.	N/S	7/18/03	20-29	67.0	26.9	32.0	25	30
Valley Dr.	29	Gould Ave. to 21 st St.	N/S	7/23/03	20-29	81.0	25.5	29.6	25	30
	30	21 st St. to Pier Ave.	N/S	7/23/03	24-33	90.0	26.6	29.8	25	30
	31	Pier Ave. to 8 th St.	N/S	7/23/03	22-31	88.0	25.4	29.7	25	30
	32	8 th St. to 2 nd St.	N/S	7/23/03	25-34	85.0	29.8	33.5	25	30