

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

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

Kurt Steffens

Department Director

10-25-11

Date

Approved by

[Signature]

City Manager

10-27-11

Date