



MEMO

January 6, 2016

To: Traffic Safety Commission
From: William J. Silva, P. E., Traffic Engineer 
Subject: **Speed Studies, Engineering and Traffic Surveys**

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) requires that speed limits be established on the basis of an "Engineering and Traffic Survey" conducted in accordance with procedures adopted by the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) if they are to be enforceable by the use of radar. These special speed zone surveys, Engineering and Traffic Surveys, are required to be updated every seven (7) years to continue the use of radar enforcement, and can be extended an additional three (3) years, for a total of ten (10) years, if conditions within a community remain relatively unchanged. The speed limits adopted by City of Pacific Grove Ordinance No. 06-005 on April 19, 2006, and enacted as Section 16.52.010 and Section 16.52.020 of the Pacific Grove Municipal Code were extended to April 19, 2016 in a Speed Zone Survey Evaluation Report dated April 19, 2013. The current speed surveys will expire on April 19, 2016.

The Engineering and Traffic Surveys used to establish the speed limits contained in the current Municipal Code were based on data collected in 2005. Speed survey data was collected in November, 2015 for preparation of the special speed zone surveys used to establish the speed limits recommended in this report. Adoption of the speed limits recommended in this report, as listed on the attached Table, will allow the Police Department to use radar for the enforcement of speed limits on the listed streets.

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 85th percentile or critical speed. Based on the engineering survey the speed limit can be adjusted downward depending on special conditions, 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 City must have current speed zone certifications on file at the traffic court.

The recommended speed limits contained in the attached table reflect the current traffic conditions on the various streets listed. The recommended speed limits include maintaining the existing posted speed limits except for the three street segments shown in bold type in the attached table. The speed limit for Central Avenue from the east City Limit Line, Monterey City Limit, to 4th Street is recommended to be reduced to the nearest 5 MPH speed below the 85th percentile based on the special conditions of the street, and to maintain consistency with the 25 MPH speed limit established in the City of Monterey on Lighthouse Avenue entering the City of Pacific Grove where Lighthouse Avenue becomes Central Avenue. In addition, the short length of the street segment of Central Avenue between the east City Limit and 4th Street, 0.31 mile, is less than the 0.5 mile length recommended for establishing a reasonable speed limit where the adjacent segments have lower speed limits.

The speed limit for Sinex Avenue from Congress Avenue to 17 Mile Drive is also recommended to be reduced to the nearest 5 MPH speed below the 85 percentile based on the special conditions of the residential street with its numerous obscured driveway entrances, and to maintain consistency with the 25 MPH speed limit on the adjacent segments of roadway to the east and to the west. This short segment of roadway, 0.44 mile, is also less than the 0.5 mile length recommended for establishing a reasonable speed limit where the adjacent segments have lower speed limits.

The speed limit on the segment of Lighthouse Avenue from Asilomar Drive to 17 Mile Drive is recommended to be reduced to 25 MPH based on the 85th percentile speed in the combined eastbound and westbound directions of 27 MPH. This speed limit will also provide consistency for the entire combined length of Lighthouse Avenue from Asilomar Avenue to Lobos Avenue, a distance of 0.87 mile (greater than 0.50 mile).

The recommended speed limits shown in the attached Table are based on an analysis of the traffic survey data and engineering and traffic studies. Adoption of an Ordinance by the City Council consistent with the recommendations of the Traffic Engineer will establish speed limits on the listed streets consistent with the California Vehicle Code and the City's Municipal Code, and will allow for enforcement by the use of radar

All traffic surveys used for development of the recommended speed limits shown in the attached table were prepared in accordance with the standards adopted by Caltrans. A copy of the surveys, along with a copy of the approving Ordinance, will be maintained in the files of the Department of Public Works, the Police Department, and a copy will be delivered to the Monterey County Traffic Court.

It is recommended that the Traffic Safety Commission approve the Traffic Engineer's report of Engineering and Traffic Surveys and that the report be forwarded to the City Council for adoption of an enabling Ordinance and enactment of revisions to the appropriate sections of the Municipal Code.

cc: Daniel Gho, Public Works Director
Commander Lakind

Attachments: Speed Survey Locations Table

City of Pacific Grove Speed Survey Locations

Location No.	Street	From	To	Posted Speed Limit	Survey Date	85th Percentile Speed			Recommended Speed Limit
						N/B E/B	S/B W/B	Combined	
001	Asilomar Ave	Sinex Ave	Ocean View Blvd	25	11/12/2015	26.80	28.25	27.29	25
002	Central Ave	East City Limits	4th St	25	11/10/2015	28.23	29.18	28.62	25
003	Central Ave	4th St	Forest Ave	25	11/10/2015	27.81	28.46	28.08	25
004	Congress Ave	David Ave	Sunset Dr	25	11/19/2015	31.32	31.76	31.68	25
005	Congress Ave	Sunset Dr	Lighthouse Ave	25	11/20/2015	26.50	26.77	26.63	25
006	David Ave	Devisadero Ave	Congress Ave	30	11/19/2015	33.83	34.60	34.36	30
007	David Ave	Congress Ave	Buena Vista Ave	25	11/19/2015	27.52	28.32	27.96	25
008	Eardley Ave	Lighthouse Ave	Sinex Ave	25	11/20/2015	27.48	27.45	27.47	25
009	Forest Ave	Sunset Dr	Hillcrest Ave.	30	11/20/2015	33.95	34.71	34.32	30
010	Forest Ave	Hillcrest Ave.	Ocean View Blvd	25	11/13/2015	26.34	26.95	26.65	25
011	Jewell Ave	Pacific Ave	Del Monte Blvd	30	11/11/2015	28.90	31.55	30.70	30
012	Lighthouse Ave	Asilomar Ave	17 Mile Dr	30	11/12/2015	27.00	27.13	27.08	25
013	Lighthouse Ave	17 Mile Dr	Lobos Ave	25	11/11/2015	27.42	28.48	27.84	25
014	Lighthouse Ave	Lobos Ave	13th St	15	11/10/2015	16.23	17.19	16.70	15
015	Lighthouse Ave	13th St	Eardley Ave	25	11/10/2015	28.33	27.34	27.77	25
016	Ocean View Blvd	Asilomar Ave	Jewell Ave	25	11/13/2015	26.68	27.58	27.32	25
017	Ocean View Blvd	17th St	Eardley Ave	25	11/10/2015	25.81	24.69	25.53	25
018	Patterson Ln	Funston Ave	David Ave	30	11/19/2015	30.77	30.76	30.76	30
019	Pine Ave	Eardley Ave	Alder St	30	11/13/2015	33.34	32.76	33.11	30
020	Sinex Ave	2nd St	Congress Ave	25	11/13/2015	29.44	28.63	29.22	25
021	Sinex Ave	Congress Ave	17 Mile Dr	30	11/11/2015	29.93	31.59	30.99	25
022	17 Mile Dr	Sunset Dr	Lighthouse Ave	30	11/11/2015	31.53	34.28	32.84	30
023	17 Mile Dr	Lighthouse Ave	Del Monte Blvd	25	11/12/2015	27.00	26.85	26.94	25