



STAFF REPORT

January 24, 2024
File Number 1020-05

SUBJECT

ESTABLISH SPEED LIMITS FOR CENTRE CITY PARKWAY

DEPARTMENT

Development Services/Engineering

RECOMMENDATION

Request that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2024-05 amending the traffic schedule establishing speed zones on Centre City Parkway.

Staff Recommendation: Approval (Development Services, Christopher W. McKinney, Deputy City Manager and Julie Procopio, City Engineer)

Presenter: Edd Alberto, City Traffic Engineer

FISCAL ANALYSIS

There will be an approximate cost of \$2,000 associated with establishing speed limits for Centre City Parkway to install ten (10) new speed limit signs. The funds for these signs are budgeted in the Traffic Infrastructure fund.

BACKGROUND

Speed plays a critical role in the cause and severity of crashes. In a collision between a vehicle and a pedestrian, for instance, speed influences the severity of injury and fatality risk of a pedestrian. Studies have shown that the severity of the injury and likelihood of fatality to the pedestrian increases as speed increases. According to the 1999 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) "Literature Review on Vehicle Travel Speeds and Pedestrian Injuries" study, fatality and serious injury rates increase substantially when travel speeds rise.

In October 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 43. The bill allows the City to maintain and enforce existing speed limits and roll back speed limit increases that happened several years ago, if the increase was not based on any physical changes to the design of the street. AB 43 took effect on January 1, 2022 and made a number of additions and modifications to the California Vehicle Code (CVC) that authorize local jurisdictions to set lower speed limits on certain streets.

CVC Section 40802 requires that Engineering and Traffic Surveys (E&TS) are conducted to establish speed limits and to enforce those speed limits using radar or other speed measuring devices. These surveys must



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be updated periodically (every five, seven, or 14 years, depending upon specific criteria), to ensure the speed limits reflect current conditions as dictated by the 2022 CVC. These surveys must be conducted in accordance with applicable provisions of Section 627 “Engineering and Traffic Survey” of the CVC.

CVC Section 22358.6 requires local authorities to round speed limits to the nearest five (5) miles per hour of the 85th percentile of the free-flowing traffic. CVC Section 22358.6(c) also provides guidance that when a speed limit needs to be rounded up to the nearest five miles per hour increment of the 85th-percentile speed, the local authority may decide to round down to the lower increment of the 85th-percentile speed.

The Centre City Parkway corridor is a prime arterial that is approximately 6.5 miles long within the City Limits. This corridor was once US Highway 395 and ownership was transferred to the City in 1978. In the time that Centre City Parkway has been part of the City of Escondido, posted speed limits have not been established. The prima facie speed limit of 65-mph applies to Centre City Parkway per the California Vehicle Code (CVC). Centre City Parkway varies from four to six lanes along the corridor and is divided by a variable width median. There is direct access to Interstate 15 at the northern and southern ends of Centre City Parkway.

The characteristics of Centre City Parkway vary throughout the corridor. The northern portion from the city limits north of Nutmeg Street to El Norte Parkway has long stretches between signalized intersections with little development fronting the roadway. The middle portion of the corridor between Mission Avenue and Towne Centre Driveway has signalized intersections more closely spaced. The traffic signals are coordinated based on a 45-mph travel speed. The land uses along this section of the corridor are primarily commercial and residential. The southern portion of the corridor from Towne Centre Driveway to the city limits south of Citracado Parkway runs parallel to frontage roads with a mix of residential, commercial, and undeveloped lots.

To establish speed limits on Centre City Parkway, the requirements of Section 40802 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), Engineering and Traffic Surveys are required by the State of California to enforce those limits using radar or other speed measuring devices. The surveys must be conducted in accordance with applicable provisions of Section 627 “Engineering and Traffic Survey” of the CVC.

I. Posting Speed Limits

The Centre City Parkway Corridor has been divided into the following five (5) roadway segments:

1. Northern City Limits to El Norte Parkway; 2.1 miles
2. El Norte Parkway to Mission Avenue; 0.8 mile
3. Mission Avenue to 5th Avenue; 1 mile
4. 5th Avenue to Towne Centre Driveway; 1.2 miles
5. Town Centre Driveway to Southern City Limits; 1 mile



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E&TS were conducted at these five (5) roadway segments along Centre City Parkway in accordance with the CVC. **Table 1** shows the results of the five surveys.

Segment No.	Segment		85 th Percentile Speed (MPH)	Rounded Speed (MPH)
1	North City Limits	El Norte Parkway	56	55
2	El Norte Parkway	Mission Avenue	51	50
3	Mission Avenue	5 th Avenue	47	45
4	5 th Avenue	Towne Centre Driveway	46	45
5	Towne Centre Driveway	South City Limits	54	50

The result of the E&TS for the segments show that the prevailing speeds are 46-56 miles per hour (MPH), Segments 1-4 show the 85th percentile speeds support rounding down to the nearest five mile per hour increment and the rounded speeds are appropriate for the surrounding land use and roadway geometry. Segment 5 in the southern portion of the corridor has an 85th percentile speed of 54 miles per hour; the E&TS recommended that this speed be rounded down to 50 MPH rather than up to 55 MPH due to conditions not readily apparent to the driver including the presence of pedestrians with no improved sidewalks, a pace speed of 45-54 mph, uncontrolled movements from side streets, and an accident rate higher than the Districtwide average for four lane divided roads.

IV. Recommendation

The results of the surveys were presented to the Transportation and Community Safety Commission on January 11, 2024. The Transportation and Community Safety Commission voted to recommend approval to establish speed limits on the Centre City Parkway corridor and approval of the Engineering and Traffic Studies for the five segments through the City of Escondido as summarized in **Table 2**.

The new speed limits shall be effective when new speed limit signage has been erected upon the street. The Police Department will issue warnings to drivers for the first two weeks of the speed limit signage being in place.



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Table 2 Summary of Speed Limit Actions

Street Name	Segment		Action
	From	To	
Centre City Parkway	City Limits North of Nutmeg Street	El Norte Parkway	Establish 55 MPH by City Council approval
Centre City Parkway	El Norte Parkway	Mission Avenue	Establish 50 MPH by City Council approval
Centre City Parkway	Mission Avenue	5th Avenue	Establish 45 MPH by City Council approval
Centre City Parkway	5th Avenue	Towne Centre Driveway	Establish 45 MPH by City Council approval
Centre City Parkway	Towne Centre Driveway	City Limits South of Citracado Parkway	Establish 50 MPH by City Council approval

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution No. 2024-05