



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 11/19/2024

ITEM NO: 10

DATE: November 14, 2024
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Chris Constantin, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Consider the Following Actions Related to Certain Sections of Blossom Hill Road:
a) Accept the 2023 Engineering and Traffic Survey Update; and
b) Introduce an Ordinance Amending Section 15.30.235 of the Town Code Establishing Speed Limits
Ordinance Title: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Los Gatos Amending Section 15.30.235, "Establishing Speed Limits on Certain Streets," of the Town Code Establishing Speed Limits

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider the following actions related to Certain Sections of Blossom Hill Road:
a) Accept the 2023 Engineering and Traffic Survey Update; and
b) Introduce an Ordinance Amending Section 15.30.235 of the Town Code Establishing Speed Limits (Attachment 2).

BACKGROUND:

Speed zones (other than statutory speed limits) are established by an engineering and traffic survey (E&TS) that has been performed in accordance with standard traffic engineering practices and in compliance with the California Vehicle Code (CVC) and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD). The CVC requires engineering and traffic surveys to be completed at least once every five, seven, or fourteen years to support radar enforcement of prima facie speed limits (e.g., speed limits that are not statutory as noted above). Attachment 3 is a detailed description of the methods by which speed limits are set and the associated legal standards.

PREPARED BY: Mike Vroman
Senior Traffic Engineer

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, PPW Director, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

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SUBJECT: Accept Engineering and Traffic Survey Update and Introduce an Ordinance Amending Section 15.30.235 of the Town Code to Modify Speed Limit on Certain Sections of Blossom Hill Road

DATE: November 14, 2024

DISCUSSION:

A summary table of the current speed limits and updates proposed as part of this action is in Attachment 4. During the latest E&TS, the speed on three road segments along Blossom Hill Road resulted in a recommendation for a lower speed limit as described below.

Blossom Hill Road from Camino Del Cerro to the East Town Limits – Recent changes to CVC Section 40802 allow an E&TS to be extended from ten years to fourteen years if no significant change has occurred to the character of the roadway. Therefore, the 2013 E&TS for this segment is valid through 2027. It is recommended that this segment of Blossom Hill Road remain posted at 35 mph (Attachment 5).

Blossom Hill Road – North Santa Cruz Avenue/Winchester Boulevard to Camino Del Cerro – This segment is currently posted at 35 mph. Recent bikeway improvements as well as lane reductions along this section of Blossom Hill Road (BHR) are considered a significant change and necessitated new engineering and traffic surveys for the following street segments:

- BHR from Santa Cruz Avenue/Winchester Boulevard to Highway 17 (Attachment 6),
- BHR from Los Gatos Boulevard to State Route 17 (Attachment 7), and
- BHR from Los Gatos Boulevard to Camino Del Cerro (Attachment 8).

These sections of Blossom Hill Road are adjacent to facilities that generate high concentrations of bicyclists or pedestrians, especially those from vulnerable groups such as children and seniors. The attached engineering and traffic surveys justify the reduction of the posted speed limit from 35 mph to 30 mph in accordance with CVC 627, 22358.7, and 22358.8. This recommendation requires a modification to Section 15.30.235 of the Town Code as proposed in Attachment 2.

Staff believes that based on the results of the engineering and traffic surveys, these speed limits will facilitate the orderly movement of vehicular traffic and are reasonable and safe. The California Vehicle Code specifies prima facie speed limits which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof, as necessary, are erected upon the street.

Council approval of the current Engineering and Traffic Survey Update is required before the document can be sent to the Municipal and Juvenile Courts for “Judicial Notice.” Judicial Notice is where the court recognizes the engineering and traffic surveys as containing facts that are self-evident, and no additional speed limit study evidence is necessary in a particular speed violation case.

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SUBJECT: Accept Engineering and Traffic Survey Update and Introduce an Ordinance Amending Section 15.30.235 of the Town Code to Modify Speed Limit on Certain Sections of Blossom Hill Road

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CONCLUSION:

The speed limits along Blossom Hill Road between Santa Cruz Avenue/Winchester Boulevard and Camino Del Cerro should be approved at 30 mph based on the attached Engineering and Traffic Surveys. Staff recommends Town Council introduce an Ordinance Amending Section 15.30.235 of the Town Code Establishing Speed Limits to reduce the speed limit along the identified sections of Blossom Hill Road from 35 mph to 30 mph. Should the Council approve the introduction of the ordinance, staff will bring an item back to the Town Council at the December 3, 2024, Town Council meeting for a second reading of the ordinance. Following the second reading, appropriate signs will be posted and the Police Department may legally enforce the revised speed limits using radar.

COORDINATION:

This report was coordinated with the Town Attorney's Office and Police Department.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Changing the speed limit on Blossom Hill Road would require the posting of new speed limit signage. There is a need to replace eight (8) 35-mile-per-hour (mph) signs with 30 mph signs. The cost to replace the signs is approximately \$300 per sign for a total cost of \$2,400 and the Adopted Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/25 Parks and Public Works Operating Budget (Streets) includes sufficient funds to cover the cost.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

Attachments:

1. Revised Town Ordinance Amending Section 15.30.235 of the Town Code Establishing Speed Limits – Redline
2. Revised Town Ordinance Amending Section 15.30.235 of the Town Code Establishing Speed Limits – Clean
3. Engineering and Regulatory Framework for Setting Speed Limits
4. Current Engineering and Traffic Survey Update Summary Table
5. E&TS for Blossom Hill Road from Camino Del Cerro to the East Town Limits
6. E&TS for Blossom Hill Road from Santa Cruz Ave/Winchester Boulevard to Highway 17
7. E&TS for Blossom Hill Road from Los Gatos Boulevard to State Route 17
8. E&TS for Blossom Hill Road from Los Gatos Boulevard to Camino Del Cerro