



**Contra
Costa
County**

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Brian M. Balbas, Public Works Director/Chief Engineer
Date: September 25, 2018

Subject: Establish school zone speed limit on Highland Boulevard (Road No. 1655BE) Kensington area.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

DETERMINE that, based on the results of an engineering and traffic survey, a 25-mile-per-hour speed limit on a portion of Highland Boulevard, approaching Kensington Hilltop Elementary School, is more than is reasonable or safe, and a 20-mile-per-hour prima facie speed limit is justified as the appropriate speed limit during school hours.

ADOPT Traffic Resolution No. 2018/4478 to establish a school zone speed limit of 20 miles per hour for a portion of Highland Boulevard (Road No. 1655BE), as recommended by the Public Works Director, Kensington area.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **09/25/2018** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS

AYE: John Gioia, District I
Supervisor
Candace Andersen, District II
Supervisor
Karen Mitchoff, District IV
Supervisor

ABSENT: Diane Burgis, District III
Supervisor
Federal D. Glover, District V
Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: September 25, 2018

David Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Stacey M. Boyd, Deputy

Contact: Monish Sen,
925.313.2187

cc:

BACKGROUND:

A resident requested lowering the existing speed limits approaching Kensington Hilltop Elementary School. The Traffic Safety Investigator conducted an investigation which included a site visit, observation of vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian activity. This area features few formal sidewalks, and the roadways are narrow. It was determined an Engineering and Traffic Survey (E&TS) was required to support any reduction in the existing speed limit.

On January 1, 2008, California Assembly Bill (AB) 321 went into effect allowing local jurisdictions, through an ordinance or resolution, to extend the 25 miles per hour prima facie speed limit in school zones from 500 feet to 1,000 feet from the school grounds and to reduce the speed limit to 15 to 20 miles per hour up to 500 feet from the school grounds, under certain conditions.

California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 22358.4 states the Board of Supervisors through adopted resolution, may reduce the speed limit on roads within 500 feet of a school to 15 or 20 miles per hour based on an E&TS. CVC Section 627 provisions justifying the reduced speed limit must be documented in an engineering study with the following: crash records, highway conditions not readily apparent to the driver, residential density, and safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. When established, the 20 miles per hour school zone speed limit is in effect when children are present; which is generally during the periods when children are arriving at, or departing from school.

An E&TS was subsequently conducted according to established traffic engineering standards. The factual findings of the survey determined this section of roadway had multiple unusual conditions; there is a high number of pedestrians, students and bicyclist traveling within the roadway during school hours. There are no sidewalks at this location. The crosswalk is unmonitored and used by elementary school aged children. There is no parking on the northeast side of Highland Boulevard due to the roadway width. The critical speed (85th percentile) was found to be 16 miles per hour. Based on the results of the E&TS, Public Works recommends the establishment of a school zone speed limit of 20 miles per hour for a portion of Highland Boulevard near Kensington Hilltop Elementary School. This speed limit is also consistent with proposed 20 miles per hour school zone speed limits on two other roadways (Kenyon Ave. and Arlmont Drive) bordering Kensington Hilltop Elementary School boundaries. This action will allow Kensington Police Department to enforce the 20 mile per hour school zone speed limit on portions of Highland Avenue.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The existing 25 mile per hour speed limit will remain.

CHILDREN'S IMPACT STATEMENT:

A 20 mile per hour school zone speed limit (when children are present) will alert motorists they are in a school zone.

ATTACHMENTS

TR4478