



Ron Snow

199 Stanford Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6325

1.650.949.6658 RonSnow@GeoRecover.org

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

RE: BPAC - Meeting 4/17 — Alameda Speed Limit

San Mateo County BPAC

Dear BPAC members,

For many years, decades, county citizens have requested San Mateo County reduce the speed limit along a few southern portions of Alameda de Las Pulgas. DPW has recommended a reduction of speed and it is most welcome news. I support the reduction of speed; however, the reason for doing so is to address safety and this reduction in speed is failing to address the safety needs at two locations:

- Alameda de las Pulgas in front of the Woodside High School, southbound from Woodside Rd to Stockbridge,
- Alameda de las Puglas along the West Menlo Park business district - between Harkens and Ashton

Both of these locations are used by a very large number of students. Consider that at the **Woodside HS location**, there are several key points::

- High number of young drivers and parents and a high amount of commuter traffic
- Hundreds of students use this location, even during off hours
- The speed limit on the northbound direction of Alameda is 5 MPH slower
- Only the Southbound direction, next to school , is 5 MPH higher
- It seems absurd that the only place on Alameda for miles and miles that is 35 MPH is only this short section in front of Woodside high school. No where else.

On the **business district in West Menlo Park**, there are also a number of key points to consider:

- 3 Schools within just a few hundred feet of area plus a major school route to a 4th elementary school (Las Lomas)
- Large numbers of elementary - middle school students swarm the area before/after school
- Avy Ave intersects the Alameda and has a posted 15 mph speed limit, plus additional school zone signage reinforcing the 15 mph
- Business district has an unorganized mangle of various parking orientations making it chaotic and unsafe due to distractions and impaired sight lines.
- High rate of traffic accidents, many of which involve cyclists
- Merchants have complained for years about safety and the extremely high number of near misses. This affects not only kids, but the significant number seniors using the area
- Other Menlo Park business districts have been reduced to 20 mph, so 20 mph here would be consistent for the area

Rational for a 20 MPH in West MP Business District

Implementing a 20 mph speed limit in small business districts, especially in areas where multiple elementary schools are located and accident rates are high, is a smart, safety-focused move. Lower speed limits in these kinds of environments are proven to reduce both the number and severity of crashes, especially when pedestrians are involved.

With three elementary schools nearby and a major school route to a 4th, you've got a high likelihood of kids walking or biking to/from school, often with limited understanding of traffic dangers. Children can be unpredictable near roads, and a slower speed gives drivers more time to react and stop in time if needed. The difference between a collision at 20 mph and one at 25 or 30 mph is massive—studies show that pedestrians struck at 20 mph are far more likely to survive and with less severe injuries.

Business districts also tend to have higher foot traffic in general, with people crossing streets to shop, dine, or run errands. A lower speed makes the area safer and more welcoming for everyone—not just kids. And since this area already has a high accident rate, the need for action is even more urgent. Slowing down traffic is one of the most effective ways to improve safety without major infrastructure changes.

In short, a 20 mph limit strikes a balance between traffic flow and community safety. It protects the most vulnerable road users—especially kids—and helps create a more walkable, livable neighborhood.

Summary:

Safety is the main reason for this speed reduction. It is important to do our best effort to achieve this and not settle for compromised action. The children in the county deserve our best efforts, not a partial attempt. In short, a 20 mph limit strikes a balance between traffic flow and community safety. It protects the most vulnerable road users—especially kids and seniors—and helps create a more walkable, livable neighborhood.

1. Please reduce the West Menlo Park Alameda business district to 20 mph, between Harkens and Ashton.
2. Please, reduce the southbound Alameda section in front of the Woodside HS to be the same as the northbound speed.
3. There is a total lack of signage along Alameda to make motorists aware of the high number of school children, especially preceding the business district. Please improve motorist awareness for the school children that travel this route to/from their schools.

Below are references to a few area cities that have already reduced their speed limits in business districts to 15 mph or 20 mph.

Sincerely,



Ronald G. Snow

Menlo Park¹

13.01.040 Speed limits in business activity districts.

The city council may determine and declare speed limits of 20 or 25 miles per hour in "business activity districts," as defined by California Vehicle Code (CVC) [22358.9](#).

Accordingly, no person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than the declared speed limit for the street segment:

Street or Roadway Segment	CVC Section	Declared Speed Limit
Menlo Avenue—University Dr to El Camino Real	22358.9	20 mph
Santa Cruz Avenue—Johnson St to El Camino Real	22358.9	20 mph
Santa Cruz Avenue—El Camino Real to Merrill St	22358.9	20 mph
Oak Grove Avenue—University Dr to Alma St	22358.9	20 mph

Town of Los Gatos²

SECTION I. Section 15.30.235, "Establishing Speed Limits on Certain Streets," of the Town Code is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 15.30.235. - Establishing speed limits on certain streets.

It is hereby determined upon the basis of an engineering and traffic survey that the following speed limits will facilitate the orderly movement of vehicular traffic and are reasonable and safe and are declared the prima facie speed limits and shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected upon the street.

Prima Facie Speed Limit Declared 15 mph

Charles Street, from Bella Vista Avenue to Los Gatos Boulevard

Marchmont Drive, from Hilow Road to east end

North Santa Cruz Avenue, from Main Street to Los Gatos-Saratoga Road

Prima Facie Speed Limit Declared 20 mph

Bella Vista Avenue, from New York Avenue to Caldwell Avenue

Cleland Avenue, from Reservoir Road to Kimble Avenue

College Avenue, from East Main Street to Prospect Avenue

Cypress Way, from Spring Street to east end

Foster Road, from Johnson Avenue to south Town limits

Jackson Street, from Oak Hill Way to Central Avenue

Kennedy Road, from one thousand nine hundred (1,900) feet east of Forrester Road to east

Town limits

Kimble Avenue, from Cleland Avenue to Prospect Avenue

Phillips Avenue, from Cypress Way to South Kennedy Road

Reservoir Road, from Cleland Avenue to Prospect Avenue

University Avenue from Main Street to Mullen Avenue

Draft Ordinance Adoption Date Villa Avenue, from Jackson Street to Fiesta Way

San Francisco³

(Examiner 8/3/2023) The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency will reduce speed limits **from 25 mph to 20 mph** on nearly two dozen streets throughout the busiest parts of The City.

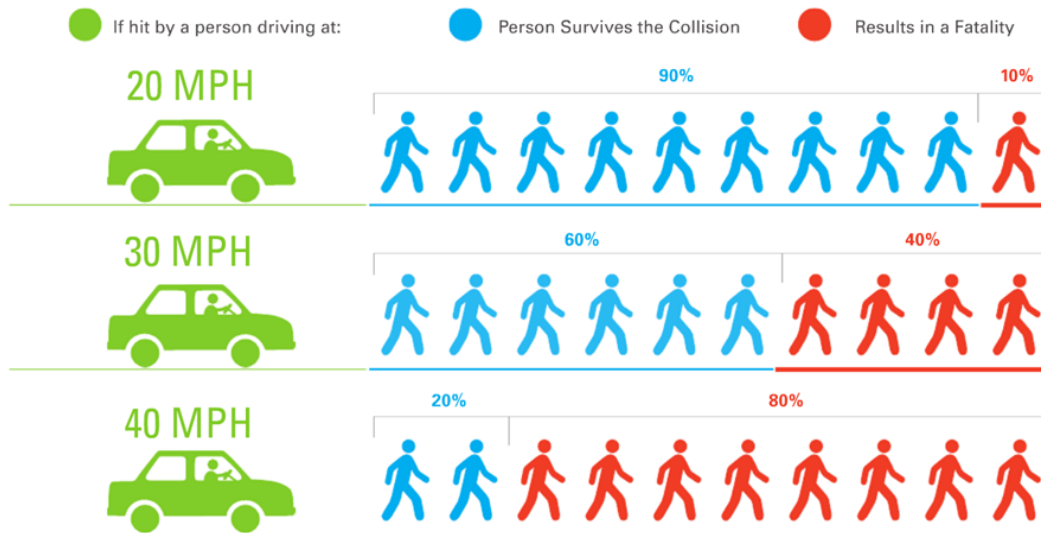
On Tuesday, the agency's board voted to enforce slower speeds on 23 streets that crisscross Fisherman's Wharf, Union Square, Chinatown and North Beach. The SFMTA will begin installing updated signs in September and finish by October of 2024, agency spokesperson Stephen Chun told The Examiner.

The City, as part of its efforts to slow vehicle traffic and enhance street safety, plans to lower speed limits from 25 mph to 20 mph on nearly two dozen segments of San Francisco streets

From SFMTA:

With the passage of California [Assembly Bill 43](#) (Friedman)—which allows local jurisdictions to reduce speed limits in key areas—San Francisco is poised to make major progress toward our goal of [achieving Vision Zero](#) – eliminating traffic-related fatalities.

Because speed is the leading cause of serious and fatal crashes in San Francisco, reducing speeds is the single most effective tool for achieving Vision Zero. Before AB43, cities across California—including San Francisco—were limited in their ability to adjust local speed limits. Even slowing traffic down by 5 mph can make a difference of whether or not someone survives a crash, and AB43 will enable SFMTA to set speeds that promote safer streets for all along key corridors.



The SFMTA will implement the changes authorized through AB43 in two phases. First, under the provision that goes into effect in January 2022, the SFMTA will move to lower speed limits by 5 mph (from 25 mph to 20 mph, or 30 mph to 25 mph) in key business activity districts (streets where at least half of the property uses are dining or retail).

We have mapped out key corridors where these speed reductions will come into effect next year—including Haight, Polk, and Valencia streets—as well as other areas for future consideration. These speed limit changes still require SFMTA Board approval, and staff will be bringing them a proposal with an implementation plan for the first seven corridors in December. These first seven corridors for speed limit reductions from 25 to 20 mph include:

- 24th Street, from Diamond to Chattanooga streets and from Valencia to San Bruno Avenue;
- Fillmore Street, from Chestnut to Union streets and from Jackson to McAllister streets;
- Haight Street, from Stanyan Street to Central Avenue and from Webster to Steiner streets;
- Polk Street, from Filbert to Sutter streets;
- Ocean Avenue, from Geneva Avenue to Victoria Street and from Junipero Serra Boulevard to 19th Avenue;
- San Bruno Avenue, from Silver to Paul avenues; and
- Valencia Street, from Cesar Chavez to Market streets

End Note References:

¹ Menlo Park - <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/MenloPark/html/MenloPark13/MenloPark1301.html>

² Los Gatos - <https://mccmeetingspublic.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/losgatos-meet-9a0592ec9bc1477b820efdc5fe04ac4/ITEM-Attachment-002-d69c4cd14ea143589505c53d5554756d.pdf>

³ San Francisco - https://www.sfxaminer.com/news/transit/sf-speed-limit-map-see-which-city-streets-are-now-20-mph/article_f35344e2-3247-11ee-8156-1796e9bdf05.html



Ron Snow

199 Stanford Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6325

1.650.949.6658 RonSnow@GeoRecover.org

Thursday, April 17, 2025

RE: BPAC - Meeting 4/17 — Alameda Speed Limit — Addendum

San Mateo BPAC

Dear BPAC Members

Yesterday I provided information on the need to fully implement safe speed limits for two locations on the southern stretch of Alameda de las Pulgas. This addendum provides photo support for lowering the speed limit in the West Menlo business district on Alameda. These show 15 mph and 20 mph speed limits posted in nearby peninsula communities and SFBay area, including Menlo Park. Note that the 15 mph speed limit on Avy Ave directly intersection with Alameda at the Dutch Goose.

There are no photos of Alameda street signage in Menlo Park that alerts drivers to the large number of school children that use this roadway for a school route for school. There are 3 schools within a few hundred feet of the business district. No photos because there are no signs.



Menlo Park Downtown - Menlo Ave — 20 mph
cc:



Los Gatos - Santa Cruz Ave — 15 mph



Menlo Park Business Dist - Santa Cruz Ave - 20 mph



Unincorporated Menlo Park - Ave Ave — 15 mph



San Jose - Jackson St — 20 mph



San Francisco - Fillmore St — 20 mph



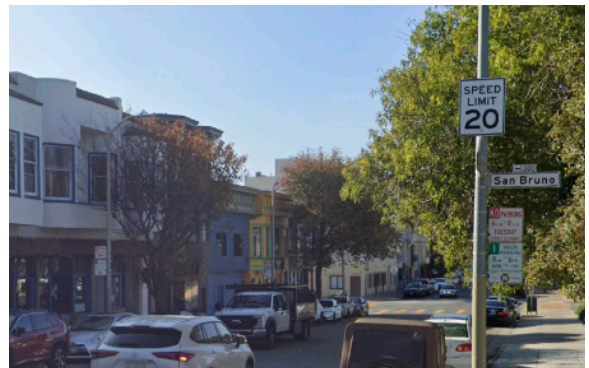
Los Gatos - University Ave 20 mph



Sausalito — 20 mph



San Francisco - Ocean Ave — 20 mph



San Francisco - 24 st —20 mph

There are scores of other locations between San Francisco and San Jose where towns and cities have put safety first and lowered the speed limit. There are even more here in Menlo Park.

Lets put safety first. Lets put the well being of our kids and seniors first. Please lower the speed limit on Alameda in the West Menlo Park business district to 20 mph.

Thank you,

Ron

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ann Stillman <>

Subject: RE: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again

Date: January 24, 2025 at 4:15:19 PM PST

To: "X.F. Li"

Cc: "Chen, Kevin" <>, Nate Gardner <>, Gregory Faris <>, "Mitch, Azalea A" <>, SMC_SupMueller <>, >, "Nash, Betsy"

<>, Khoa Vo <>, Ron Snow ,

"Nagaya, Nicole H" <>, Michael Callagy <>, Tim Cheng <>,

Xiaofan and others,

Thank you for continuing to follow up on the speed limit on the County of San Mateo's (County) portion of Santa Cruz Avenue from the "Y" to the County/City of Menlo Park limit. We understand that you have requested and are proponents of a 25 mph speed limit in the County's portion of Santa Cruz Avenue defined above.

The County of San Mateo Department of Public Works (DPW) completed an Engineering and Traffic Study (ETS) and based on existing traffic speeds, the ETS did not support reducing the speed to 25mph.

Subsequently, DPW met with the City of Menlo Park (City) to discuss the process and regulations the City leveraged to reduce the speed in their segment of Santa Cruz Avenue (from the County/City boundary to Avy Avenue). Based on our discussion with the City and further evaluation of AB 43 processes and designations, we tentatively plan to recommend to the County Board of Supervisors (Board) at a regularly scheduled Board meeting that the County segment of Santa Cruz Avenue defined above be designated as a "residential district". This designation will allow us to establish a 25 mph speed limit and post appropriate signage.

We will keep this group informed of the timing for our recommendation to the Board.

Thanks,
Ann

Ann M. Stillman, P.E. (she/her)
Director
Department of Public Works
County of San Mateo
555 County Center, 5th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
Phone: (650) 363-4100
Fax: (650) 361-8220
Email: astillman@smcgov.org

From: X.F. Li <>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 12:39 PM
To: Gregory Faris <>
Cc: Chen, Kevin; [Nate Gardner](#); [Mitch, Azalea A](#); [SMC_SupMueller](#); [Qi Chen](#); [Nash, Betsy](#) <; [Ann Stillman](#); [Khoa Vo](#); [Ron Snow](#) <ronsnow@univpark.org>; [Nagaya, Nicole H](#); [Michael Callagy](#); [Tim Cheng](#)
Subject: [Re: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Hi Greg and neighbors,

Thank you for all your support on this issue.

Today I submitted 3 requests to improve road safety on Santa Cruz Ave on <https://sanmateo.maintstar.co/>:

- https://sanmateo.maintstar.co/portal/#/details?wo_no=WR00002288
- https://sanmateo.maintstar.co/portal/#/details?wo_no=WR00002287
- https://sanmateo.maintstar.co/portal/#/details?wo_no=WR00002286

Let's see if the county is going to do its job and solve this problem.

Recently I have known more neighbors in the area. Literally every single person I have known and talked to shares the same concern over road safety.

If you have a minute, please also file separate requests and write to county staff on this problem.

I hope the county will not keep ignoring us, and I will keep mobilizing all the residents I know to report this issue.

Thank you,
Xiaofan

On Tue, Jan 14, 2025 at 10:07 AM Gregory Faris < wrote:

We just had some out-of-town guests visiting. They walked from near Burgess Park to the triangle. They enjoyed the 2 mile long walk through downtown Menlo Park and up Santa Cruz, but were horrified by the pedestrian hazards on the short stretch of Santa Cruz between Avy and the Y. Unfortunately, there is no alternative for pedestrians to avoid this section.

I am adding Menlo Park City Councilmember Jennifer Wise because Menlo Park residents live on these blocks as well.

Greg Faris

2024 Santa Cruz Avenue

On Jan 14, 2025, at 9:22 AM, X.F. Li <|> wrote:

Today a car almost hit me when making a right turn from Santa Cruz to Oakdell, because there is no safety measure there.

Also the road was unusable with many cars and garbage bins everywhere. See picture.



I'll post a weekly update from this point onward, until someone tells me how we can make this safer.

Thanks,

Xiaofan

On Fri, Dec 20, 2024 at 3:51 PM X.F. Li <> wrote:

Any update on this?

On Sat, Dec 7, 2024 at 5:16 PM X.F. Li <|> wrote:

Hi, is the county ready to improve safety? :)

On Tue, Nov 19, 2024 at 4:53 PM Chen, Kevin > wrote:

Hi Nate,

The City is conducting some spot traffic counts to help gauge trends citywide (*including the location you mentioned*). This is not related to the County's effort.

Thank you,



Kevin Chen, P.E. (*he/him*)
Senior Transportation Engineer
City Hall - 1st Floor
701 Laurel St.
tel 650-330-6748
menlopark.gov

See www.pronouns.org to learn more about why I share my pronouns.

From: Nate Gardner <npgardner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 8:46 AM
To: Tim Cheng
Subject: Re: [Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again](#)

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email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.

Hi Tim,

There are traffic sensing cables in front of our house (on SCA) which is in MP city limits (across the street is county). Is this for the report you mention or something else?

I was prompted to send this email by a school bus that just drove by at 40-45 mph. Quite frankly, I would love someone to explain why AB 47 doesn't apply to our street and speed limits aren't already an enforced 25 mph. NACTO recommendations/guidelines justify even lower limits on SCA.

tx,
Nate

On Nov 13, 2024, at 1:17 PM, Tim Cheng <> wrote: Hi Xiaofan,

I'm finalizing the ETS and sharing the study with my managers. I will share the results with this group when the study is signed and approved.

Thanks,
Tim

Tim Cheng, PE, TE
Senior Civil Engineer | Road Operations
Public Works Dept | County of San Mateo

From: X.F. Li <>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 12:34 PM
To: Mitch, Azalea A
Cc: Tim Cheng <; [SMC_SupMueller](#)
<>; [Qi Chen](#) <>; [Nash, Betsy](#) <>; [Ann Stillman](#) >; [Khoa Vo](#)
<>; [Chen, Kevin](#) <>; [Nate Gardner](#)
<>; [Ron Snow](#)
<r>; [Nagaya, Nicole H](#)
>
Subject: Re: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Hi Tim, has there been any update?

On Tue, Nov 5, 2024 at 12:19 PM X.F. Li <> wrote:

Hi Tim,
Has there been any update on the ETS?
It has been over two months since it started.

Recently there's a huge sign right outside of Cardinal Ct which has unfortunately made safety worse for pedestrians.

Thanks,
Xiaofan

On Fri, Sep 13, 2024 at 1:17 PM Mitch, Azalea A > wrote:

Hello Everyone,
We apologize for the confusion and error on our part. We typically approach changes on our jurisdictional boundaries in coordination with the neighboring agencies. Unfortunately, our crew received the wrong instructions and changed the speed limit signs on both the City and County limits. While the error was corrected, we understand that our two agencies are on different timelines with

this effort. Although this is a short segment, we will change the City's speed limits signs back to 25 mph. The County will follow once their surveys are completed.

We will issue a work order now and schedule the change for Monday. Again, we apologize for the error and the confusion.

Thank you,
Azalea



Azalea A. Mitch, P.E. (*she/her*)

Public Works Director
City Hall - 1st Floor
701 Laurel St.
tel 650-330-6692

menlopark.gov

See www.pronouns.org to learn more about why I share my pronouns.

From: X.F. Li <

Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 5:48 PM

To: Gregory Faris <>

Cc: Tim Cheng <>; SMC_SupMueller

<>; [Qi Chen](mailto:QiChen) <>; [Nash, Betsy](mailto:NashBetsy) <>; [Ann Stillman](mailto:AnnStillman) <>; [Khoa Vo](mailto:KhoaVo)

<>; [Chen, Kevin](mailto:ChenKevin) <>; [Nate Gardner](mailto:NateGardner)

<>; [Ron Snow](mailto:RonSnow) >

Subject: [Re: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again](#)

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+1 to Greg's question. We should figure out what happened and fix it.

Tim - thank you for the clarity in your recent email. We should follow the rules and processes, without question. We are only requesting the staff to consider this dire situation, which has already been posing a real safety risk to the residents, and help us remedy it as soon as possible. For example, today there were multiple cars parked on this road and we had no choice but to walk on the vehicles' roads (with an elderly, a stroller and a dog!), while all the cars were still speeding even above 30mph. I attached a picture to illustrate this:



Please definitely let us know if there's any update on the ETS and remaining processes, and whether there is anything we can do to help us all do the right thing.

Thanks,
Xiaofan

On Thu, Sep 12, 2024 at 5:30 PM Gregory Faris <> wrote:

Hello Tim,
Thanks for the reply.

The City's signs between Sharon and Avy were also reverted to 30 mph at the same time as the County's signs between Sharon and the "Y". Are we to understand that the City accidentally changed the County's signs to 25 mph, and then, when reverting the County's signs to 30 mph, the City also accidentally

reverted their own 25 mph signs to 30 mph as well? Or, is it possible that the County reverted the City's signs to 30 mph by accident? Whichever case, the City's signs were also changed to 30 mph. As far as I know, they are supposed to be 25 mph.

Any idea what is happening with the City's signs?

Greg Faris

[2042 Santa Cruz Avenue](#)

On Sep 12, 2024, at 4:35 PM, Tim Cheng <> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I had confirmed with Menlo Park staff that the two speed limit signs in the County was mistakenly swapped out by their crew. They were promptly reverted back to the original speed limit upon my request. Kevin Chen, Senior Transportation Engineer, from the City of Menlo Park is included in this thread and can confirm for the two signs in Menlo Park as well.

As I have mentioned before, the State governs how speed limits are set in California. The County is conducting an Engineering and Traffic Survey (ETS) for the County's section of Santa Cruz. Once the ETS is completed and if the speed limit can be lowered, the County will need Board of Supervisor Approval for the new speed limit sign to be posted and enforced. Posted speed limits without a valid ETS are not enforceable, which is why the two signs in the County had to be reverted back to the original posted speed limit of 30 mph. I anticipate that it will take one to two months for the ETS to be completed, and can provide an update then.

Thanks,
Tim

Tim Cheng, PE, TE
Senior Civil Engineer | Road Operations
Department of Public Works

From: X.F. Li >

Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 3:44 PM

To: Gregory Faris <>

Cc: Tim Cheng <>; [SMC_SupMueller](#)

[<S>; DPW_info](#)

[<DPW_info@smcgov.org>; Qi Chen <>; Nash, Betsy <>](#)

Subject: Re: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again

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Hope everyone had a great week.

Tim - has there been any update on the ETS, superintendent approval and again, any way for residents to stay informed without emailing this thread every week?

+Mrs Nash from the Menlo Park city council also noticed the speed limit signs were changed without the city knowing. Adding her in case it was changed by the county by mistake.

Tim - could you please check and revert back according to city's conclusion?

Thanks,
Xiaofan

On Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 12:23 PM Gregory Faris
<> wrote:

Hello Tim,
Thank you for the prompt response.
I do hope the County can expedite this change to 25 mph. I can't imagine any reasonable argument to support the present case, that is, having the speed limit increase to 30 mph for a single block. By the time a car actually accelerated from 25 to 30 mph to reach the posted limit, it would have to immediately decelerate to get back to 25 mph again for the lower limit.
I am puzzled by all four signs being changed back to 30 mph at the same time. Is it possible that the County accidentally changed Menlo Park's two signs to 30 mph by mistake?
Greg

On Sep 6, 2024, at 9:14 AM, X.F. Li
<> wrote:

+ Supervisor Mueller for District 3.

Hi Supervisor Mueller,
The residents of the unincorporated areas of Menlo Park have been requesting the DPW to help with reducing the speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave **between Sharon Rd and Alameda.**

many neighbors are concerned about is with respect to the **irregular speed limit** for this section of the road - the limit is 25mph for everywhere else in Santa Cruz Ave, except this one section which is 30mph. The increase in speed limit for this one block can cause vehicles to suddenly speed up. Without any side walk, speed bump, crosswalk or any other safety measure on this section of the road, this creates a significant risk for pedestrians. To make things more urgent, this section of the road is on school routes for Oak Knoll, which puts our children at increased risk.

Moreover, the City of Menlo Park recently improved this situation by reducing the speed limit on a nearby section of the road (between Sharon Rd and Avy Rd) - See this meeting minutes (<https://menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/>)

As you have already known during the recent Menlo Park Council meeting, this part of the Santa Cruz Ave has been left out on numerous safety improvements over the years. It is unfortunately in a state that is dangerous for both the pedestrians and everyone who uses this road (and there are a lot of users).

I understand there needs to be a process which involves Engineering and Traffic Survey and Board of Supervisor approval. I'm hoping this simple request to reduce the speed by 5 miles an hour can be supported by the supervisors and the needed survey can be conducted with priority and transparency to the residents. This improvement is long overdue.

If there is any chance we can discuss this issue further or get updates, please let us know and I'll be happy to discuss over the phone or in person.

Thank you,
Xiaofan

On Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 8:33 AM Tim Cheng <> wrote:

Good morning All,

The two signs in the County were swapped to 25 mph by mistake by City of Menlo Park staff, so they signs have been reverted back to the original 30 mph signs.

I need to reiterate that the County follows state regulations – we cannot simply change the speed limit signs on the street without a valid Engineering and Traffic Survey and Board of Supervisor approval. Posted speed limits signs without an ETS are not enforceable.

Thank you,
Tim

Tim Cheng, PE, TE
Senior Civil Engineer | Road Operations
Public Works Dept | County of San Mateo
Office: (650) 599-1414

From: Gregory Faris <> **Sent:** Friday, September 6, 2024 8:00 AM
To: Li Xiaofan <[mailto:lixiaofan@sanmateo.gov](#)>
Subject: Re: [Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph](#) again

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the

sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Hello All,

Well the signs have been changed back to 30 mph again. The two County signs have been changed back to 30 mph and the two City signs have been changed back to 30 mph. For a few days, we actually had speed limits that made sense. Now we are back to the crazy situation where the speed limit increases for only two blocks. Santa Cruz is around 2.5 miles and all the rest is 25 mph.

Can anyone explain what is happening?

Thank you,

Greg Faris
2042 Santa Cruz

On Sep 2, 2024, at 10:02 AM, X.F. Li wrote:

Thanks for sharing the great news Greg!
Big THANK YOU to Tim and everyone who helped push this through so quickly!
I am working with Google Maps to update this in their systems now.

Have a good Labor Day weekend!
Xiaofan

On Mon, Sep 2, 2024 at 7:54 AM Gregory Faris wrote:

Hello All,

I am excited to report that the 30 mph signs have been replaced by 25 mph signs between Sharon and the "Y" (Alameda) on Santa Cruz Avenue.

Suggesting that cars go faster for a single block has sent a bad message about traffic safety and has been a big frustration for our neighborhood.. The reset of Santa Cruz Avenue is 25 mph on both the County and City of Menlo Park sides.

It is great that this has finally been fixed!

Best Regards,
Greg Faris

<IMG_2211.jpeg><IMG_2212.jpg>

On Aug 23, 2024, at 5:29 PM, X.F.

Li

wrote:

Hi Tim,
It's great to hear that the county is taking this request seriously and working on this. The request is to simply reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 25mph to match other sections of the road because it is a residential street and literally only this one block is higher speed with **zero safety measure**. If not 1-2 weeks, can we do this in some reasonable timeframe like 1-2 months?

There is overwhelming support from the neighbors based on a recent neighborhood meeting. + [@Gregory Faris](#) who has been working with the county and Menlo Park city on this issue in the past. I am not sure why the Santa Cruz/Alameda Project excluded this dangerous section of Santa Cruz Ave, but it would be a shame if this simple request gets delayed

due to the project, which should have included this section to begin with.

Without this adjustment, the speed control devices would not be considered - "The department will not recommend that speed control devices be installed on any road where the posted speed limit is 30 miles per hour (mph) or more."

Please let us know if we can do anything at all to help push this through, or a way to monitor progress periodically. As always, appreciate your efforts and understanding!

Thanks,
Xiaofan

On Fri, Aug 23, 2024 at 4:58 PM Tim Cheng

wrote:

Hi Xiaofan,

Thank you for following up. We have received your concern.

The County follows regulations by the State

that governs how speed limits are set in California. The effort to re-evaluate the current speed limits is something that the County takes very seriously and is not something that will take one or two weeks. As you mentioned, the Santa Cruz/Alameda Project will begin construction shortly. The project includes various pedestrian and bicycle improvements to enhance safety, and will impact traffic patterns during and following construction. In order for an ETS to be properly conducted, the traffic patterns must be normalized. I am working collaboratively with our Public Works team to prioritize the safety of our community through the construction phase of our project and as we conduct our evaluation of the posted speed limits to ensure they are appropriate, consistent,

and contribute to the safety of all that travel through this area.

If you are interested in other traffic calming improvements such as speed humps, you can review the guidelines and submit a request here: <https://www.smcgov.org/publicworks/residential-speed-control>

Thank you,
Tim

Tim
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Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 3:14 PM
To: Tim Cheng <tcheng@smcgov.org>
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