



City of La Quinta

CITY / SA / HA / FA MEETING DATE: November 18, 2014

ITEM TITLE: ADOPT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING SPEED LIMITS FOR CERTAIN STREETS

AGENDA CATEGORY:

BUSINESS SESSION: 2

CONSENT CALENDAR:

STUDY SESSION:

PUBLIC HEARING:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt a resolution approving designation of legal speed limits on certain local streets, as recommended in the "Engineering and Traffic Survey for the City of La Quinta" dated November 2014, prepared by Willdan Engineering.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- State law requires that, in order for a police department to use radar enforcement on city streets, the city's speed limits must be updated every five years via an engineering and speed survey.
- The engineering and speed survey takes into account: 1) measurement of prevailing speed, 2) accident history, and 3) roadway characteristics not readily apparent to the motorist.
- The survey designated five intersections for speed limit adjustments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of signs to implement the new speed limits is roughly \$2,500 and is available within the current sign budget.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Speed limits must be set in accordance with the California Vehicle Code (CVC) to be enforceable. The CVC relies on the behavior of the majority of drivers to determine safe driving speeds under normal driving conditions. State anti-speed trap laws prohibit jurisdictions from arbitrarily setting lower speed limits by making them unenforceable in court.

A speed limit is intended to establish a maximum safe speed under normal conditions. The CVC requires engineering and traffic surveys that verify the speed limit before enforcement can be done using radar. The law specifies that these surveys be conducted every five years. The surveys may be extended up to ten years if a traffic engineer certifies that no changes in roadway or traffic conditions have occurred.

On November 20, 2007, the City Council adopted a resolution establishing speed limits for 56 street segments within the City. The speed limits for the segments that had no changes in roadway or traffic conditions (e.g., no added lanes, medians, curb and gutter) had been extended to November 20, 2014. These speed limits were recently further extended by a registered engineer to November 20, 2017 as allowed by the CVC.

The November 2014 Speed Limit Study, prepared by Willdan Engineering and available for review in the Public Works Department, addresses the 17 street segments where a new engineering and speed survey was performed due to changes in the roadway configuration from the last survey.

Per direction of the City Council, Avenida Bermudas from Avenue 52 to Calle Arroba was surveyed and found to have approximately the same average speed as was measured in 2011, when the speed limit was lowered to 40 mph. Since State law requires the speed be set at the prevailing speed of most drivers, staff does not recommend a change at this time; however, striping options to encourage slower driving speeds could be investigated. Upon completion of any striping improvements, a new speed survey would be necessary in order to post a lower speed limit.

All speed limits are proposed to remain the same with the exception of the following:

| Street | Segment | Posted | Proposed |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Blackhawk Way | Adams St. to Dune Palms Road | 30 ** | 35 ** |
| Calle Tampico | Eisenhower Dr. to Washington St. | 40 | 45 |
| Highway 111 | West City Limit to Adams Street | 50 | 45 |
| Highway 111 | Adams Street to East City Limit | 50 | 45 |
| Monroe Street | Avenue 60 to Avenue 62 | 60 | 50 |

** Blackhawk Way is already posted “25 mph When Children Are Present”

As with Avenida Bermudas, if there is a desire to lower posted speed limits, physical changes must first be implemented in order to slow traffic. New speed surveys would then be commissioned and if the speeds supported the lower speed limit, then the new lower speed limits could become the posted limit.

ALTERNATIVES:

Since the City’s Police Department uses radar to enforce speed limits for streets, and a traffic survey is required by State law in order for the speed limits to be enforced by radar, no alternative is recommended.

Report prepared by: Ed Wimmer, P.E., Principal Engineer
Report approved for submission by: Timothy R. Jonasson, P.E.
Public Works Director/City Engineer

Attachment: 1. Speed Limit Map

RESOLUTION NO. 2014 -

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF LA QUINTA, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATING SPEED
LIMITS FOR CERTAIN LOCAL STREETS**

WHEREAS, the California Vehicle Code authorizes cities to designate and regulate speed zones within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it appropriate to designate speed limits on the following local streets to facilitate safe and orderly traffic flow; and

WHEREAS, said designation shall be made by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 2007-108 on November 20, 2007 designating speed limits for 56 street segments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 2009-067 on August 4, 2009 designating speed limits for 16 additional street segments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 2010-003 on January 5, 2010 designating speed limits for two street segments within the Village Area; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 2011-020 on March 15, 2011 designating speed limits for eight additional street segments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it appropriate to re-designate speed limits for five additional street segments; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Title 12.20.020 of the La Quinta Municipal Code, an engineering and traffic survey has been performed on certain specified streets; and

WHEREAS, the following designated prima facie speed limits are based on the results of the engineering and traffic survey; and

| Street | Segment | Posted | Proposed |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Blackhawk Way | Adams St to Dune Palms Road | 30 | 35 |
| Calle Tampico | Eisenhower Dr. to Washington St. | 40 | 45 |
| Highway 111 | West City Limit to Adams Street | 50 | 45 |
| Highway 111 | Adams Street to East City Limit | 50 | 45 |
| Monroe Street | Avenue 60 to Avenue 62 | 60 | 50 |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Quinta, California, as follows: the aforementioned prima facie speed limits are most appropriate to facilitate the orderly movement of traffic and to be reasonably safe.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the La Quinta City Council held on this 18th day of November_ 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

DON ADOLPH, Mayor
City of La Quinta, California

ATTEST:

SUSAN MAYSELS, City Clerk
City of La Quinta, California

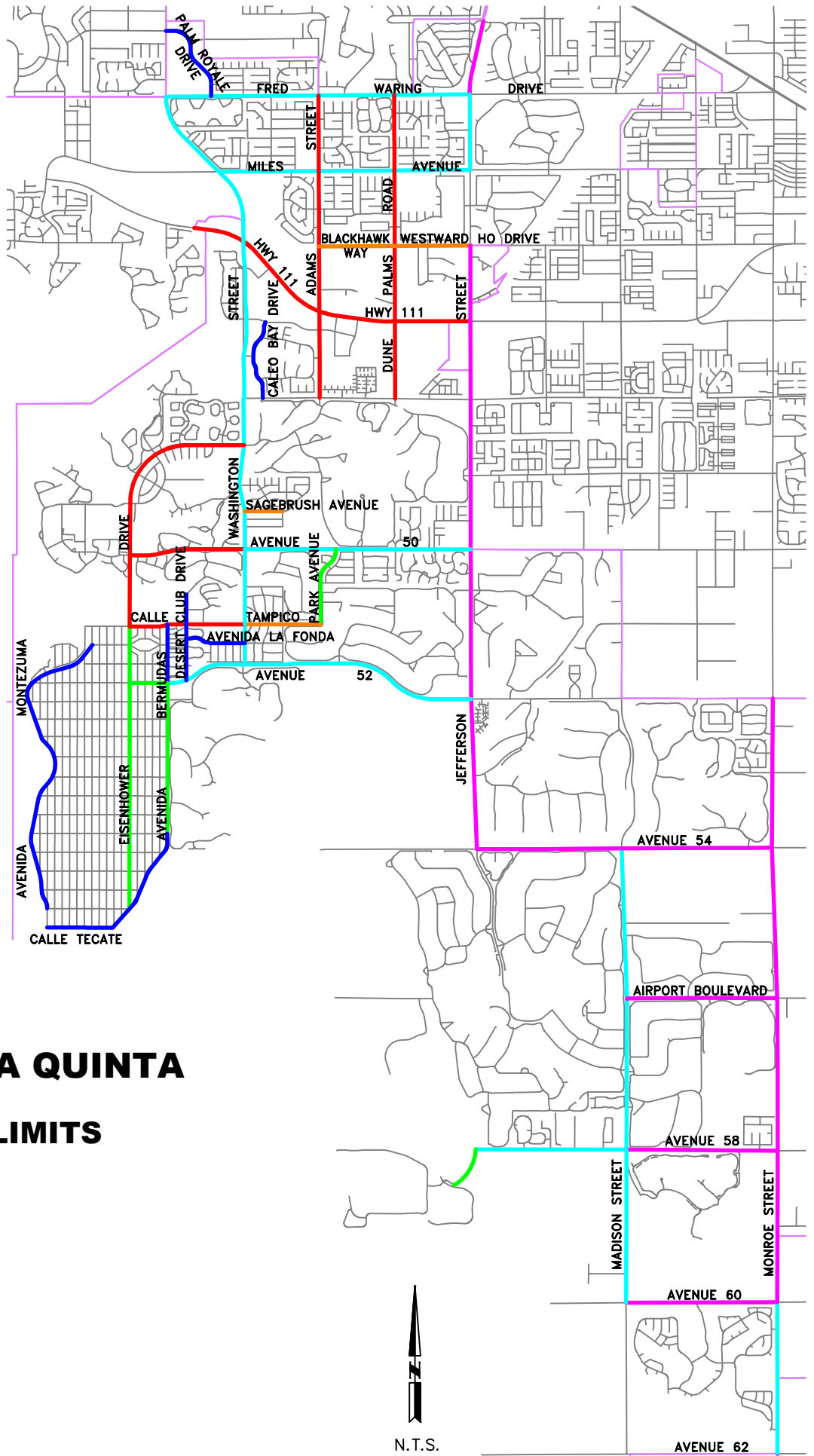
(CITY SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WILLIAM H. IHRKE, City Attorney
City of La Quinta, California

LEGEND:

- SPEED LIMIT MPH
- 30
 - 35
 - 40
 - 45
 - 50
 - 55
 - 60
 - = CITY LIMITS



CITY OF LA QUINTA
SPEED LIMITS

