

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

October 30, 2009

To: June Lagmay, City Clerk
City Clerk's Office

From: Patricia Sanchez, Commission Executive Assistant
Board of Transportation Commissioners

Subject: ORDINANCE APPROVAL – RECOMMENDED SPEED LIMIT
REVISION FOR CHANDLER BOULEVARD BETWEEN VINELAND
AVENUE AND COLDWATER CANYON AVENUE

At its regular meeting of September 24, 2009, the Board of Transportation Commissioners considered the evidence presented at the public hearing and approved the Ordinance referenced above. A copy of the Board's action, along with the Ordinance is attached for your information.

After your office reviews the Board Report, please forward it to City Council for consideration.

If you need further information, please contact Alan Willis, Principal Transportation Engineer, at (213) 972-8430.

PS

Attachments

c: John Fisher
Alan Willis
Jasmin San Luis

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**BOARD REPORT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

02, 04, 05 – East Valley #09-3411
Chandler Bl bet. Vineland Av & Coldwater
Canyon Av

DATE: *September 24*
August 27, 2009

TO: Board of Transportation Commissioners

**SUBJECT: ORDINANCE APPROVAL - RECOMMENDED SPEED LIMIT REVISION
AND ESTABLISHMENT FOR CHANDLER BOULEVARD BETWEEN
VINELAND AVENUE AND COLDWATER CANYON AVENUE**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That your Board approve revising the speed limit on Chandler Boulevard Lankershim Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Avenue from 35 to 45 miles per hour, so as to be able to retain radar enforcement.
2. That your Board approve establishing a prima facie speed limit of 40 miles per hour on Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Vineland Avenue, so as to be able to conduct radar enforcement.
3. That your Board recommend to the City Council that they approve the attached City Attorney's draft ordinance amending Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (L.A.M.C.) establishing the recommended speed limits.
4. That two copies of this report and the draft ordinance be forwarded to the City Clerk for assignment of a council file number and transmittal to the City Council.

INITIATED BY:

A speed study was initiated by a request from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to determine the appropriate speed limit and to permit enforcement by the use of radar.

DISCUSSION:

In order for jurisdictions to legally use radar enforcement, the California Vehicle Code requires that the speed limits be re-established every seven years (or ten years following a one-time three year extension) using factual and impartial criteria. These factors include prevailing critical speeds, collision history and the existence of any conditions not readily apparent to motorists. These criteria are intended to provide an objective basis for setting speed limits and precluding speed traps. Speed limits set

September 4,
~~August 27, 2009~~

according to these criteria ensure that the greater majority of reasonable motorists will not be subject to arbitrary citations.

An engineering and traffic survey has been completed for Chandler Boulevard between Vineland Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Avenue as required by California Vehicle Code Section 40802(b), in order to justify enforcement of the speed limit by radar. The attached Engineering Report summarizes the findings of the engineering and traffic survey and the basis for the recommended speed limit. The survey indicated that speed limits of 45 miles per hour for Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Avenue, and 40 miles per hour for Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Vineland Avenue are consistent with traffic conditions and roadway characteristics and will facilitate the safe and orderly movement of traffic.

The average critical speed for Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Avenue is 45.25 miles per hour. If the current 35 miles per hour speed limit for Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Avenue were to be retained, then 78.37 percent of the motorists would be considered as speed violators. The average critical speed for Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Vineland Avenue is 38 miles per hour. There are no significant roadway conditions that could be considered as not readily apparent to motorists, or that create special problems for bicyclists or pedestrians. The combination of striped bike lanes, median islands with fences, protected-only left-turn signals at all signalized intersections, signals for all pedestrian crossings, and right-turn only unsignalized side streets eliminate many of the conflicting uncontrolled traffic movements along Chandler Boulevard. The injury accident rate of 2.83 accidents per million vehicle miles for Chandler Boulevard between Vineland Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Avenue is within the normal range, and substantiates the safety level of the roadway operation within 5 miles per hour of the critical speeds.

COORDINATION:

LAPD has reviewed the information supporting the proposed speed limit revision and has no objections as stated in their March 16, 2009 response to a Department of Transportation memo dated February 17, 2009. The Department of Transportation sent letters to Councilmember Greuel (2nd District), Councilmember LaBonge (4th District), and Councilmember Weiss (5th District), on February 17, 2009, notifying them of the proposed speed limit revisions and the reasons for the changes.

On February 17, 2009, the Department sent letters to the Valley Village Neighborhood Council and the Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council notifying them of the proposed speed limit revisions and the reasons for the changes. On May 15, 2009, the Department of Transportation sent an e-mail follow up to those letters to the Valley Village Neighborhood Council and the Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council. The Department of Transportation met with the Valley Village Neighborhood

Sept. 24,
~~August 27,~~ 2009

Council on March 25, 2009, and discussed the laws concerning speed limits and enforcement, discussed the proposed speed limit changes, and advised them that this matter is to be heard by the Board of Transportation Commissioners. The Department of Transportation gave a follow up call to Tony Braswell, President, Valley Village Neighborhood Council, on July 20, 2009. The Department of Transportation also called Cary Adams, President, Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council, on June 24, 2009, and discussed the proposed speed limit changes, advised him that this matter is to be heard by the Board of Transportation Commissioners, and offered to meet with the Neighborhood Council or its Planning and Land Use Committee.

Approved by:

John E. Fisher

for RITA L. ROBINSON
General Manager
Department of Transportation

Date Signed: August 19, 2009

RLR:brg

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- c: 2nd Council District
- Councilmember Tom LaBonge, 4th Council District
- Councilmember Paul Koretz, 5th Council District
- City Clerk (2)
- City Attorney
- Board of Transportation Commissioners (7)
- Captain Phillip Trotter, LAPD
- Survey Section, LADOT
- Carolyn Jackson, LADOT

Attachments

Approved: September 24, 2009
 Board of Transportation Commissioners
Patricia Smith
 Communication Executive Assistant



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO
CITY ATTORNEY

June 1, 2009

The Honorable Board of
Transportation Commissioners
City of Los Angeles
100 S. Main Street, 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: A Draft Ordinance Amending Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles
Municipal Code to Change the Speed Limit on Chandler Boulevard in the
City of Los Angeles

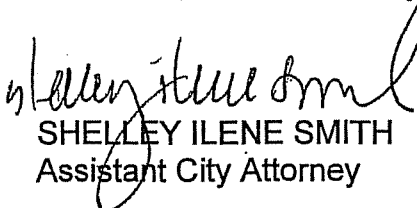
Honorable Members:

Pursuant to standing instructions from the City Council and the request of the Department of Transportation, this office has prepared and transmits with this letter, approved as to form and legality, a draft of ordinance amending Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 80.81 to establish the speed limit on portions of Chandler Boulevard in Council Districts 2, 4, and 5, at 40 and 45 miles per hour, in order to ensure radar enforcement. This draft ordinance has been approved by the Los Angeles Police Department as well as by the affected Council Office, completing all requirements of City Council Rule 38.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (213) 978-8147.

Sincerely,

ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO, City Attorney

By 
SHELLEY ILENE SMITH
Assistant City Attorney

Transmittal

M:GC:SS: Speed Limit on Chatsworth Dr Ltr

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to change the speed limit on Chandler Boulevard in the City of Los Angeles.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Subdivision C of Subsection (2) of Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by deleting the following:

On Chandler Boulevard between the westerly line of Lankershim Boulevard and easterly line of Van Nuys Boulevard.

Sec. 2. Subdivision C of Subsection (2) of Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by adding the following in alphabetical order:

Chandler Boulevard between Coldwater Canyon Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard.

Sec. 3. Subdivision C of Subsection (3) of Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by adding the following in alphabetical order:

Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Vineland Avenue.

Sec. 4. Subdivision C of Subsection (4) of Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by adding the following in alphabetical order:

Chandler Boulevard between Coldwater Canyon Avenue and Lankershim Boulevard.

Sec. 5. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of _____.

JUNE LAGMAY, City Clerk

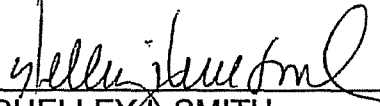
By _____ Deputy

Approved _____

Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO, City Attorney

By 
SHELLEY I. SMITH
Assistant City Attorney

Date 6/1/09

File No. _____

ENGINEERING REPORT

Engineering and Traffic Survey for

Chandler Boulevard between Vineland Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Avenue

Chandler Boulevard between Vineland Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Avenue is designated as a "Major Highway". Currently, Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Avenue is posted with a 35 miles per hour speed limit, and Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Vineland Avenue does not have a posted speed limit. There is an existing speed zone for Chandler Boulevard between Coldwater Canyon Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard, west of this speed zone, that is posted with a 35 miles per hour speed limit.

Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Avenue:

Chandler Boulevard is a divided roadway between Lankershim Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Avenue, with a raised median or a regular city block separating eastbound and westbound traffic. The MTA Orange Line Busway runs in the median of Chandler Boulevard between Coldwater Canyon Avenue and Tujunga Avenue, and there is commercial development separating eastbound and westbound traffic on Chandler Avenue between Camellia Avenue and Lankershim Avenue. As a result, Chandler Boulevard functions as a one-way street except at signalized locations.

All traffic exiting driveways and unsignalized intersections must turn right. There are fences all along the MTA Orange Line Busway, except at signalized intersections, resulting in signal control for all pedestrian crossings. At all locations where the cross streets can drive across Chandler Boulevard, signal control is provided. For both eastbound and westbound Chandler Boulevard, protected-only left-turn phasing is provided for each signalized intersection, except at the east boundary, at Lankershim Boulevard where the two roadways converge, where protected/permissive left-turn phasing is provided.

Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Avenue has a roadway width varying from 30 to 39 feet, with striping as follows:

- Coldwater Canyon Avenue to Tujunga Avenue, north roadway and south roadway, have two lanes direction with a bike lane
- Tujunga Avenue to Lankershim Boulevard, north roadway has two lanes westbound and a bike lane
- Tujunga Avenue to Lankershim Boulevard, south roadway has two lanes for eastbound with a bike lane, and two lanes westbound, with two-way left-turn channelization

The developments along the frontage of this segment of Chandler Boulevard are apartment buildings, single-family residential and commercial buildings. North Hollywood Park is located south of the south Chandler Boulevard roadway between the Hollywood Freeway and Tujunga Avenue. On-street parking is prohibited on the left side of the roadway for both directions of Chandler Boulevard, except across the street from the park, where parallel parking is

allowed adjacent to the businesses with frontage on the north side of the south roadway.

There are striped bike lanes for both directions on Chandler Boulevard, and there are sidewalks adjacent to the right side of the roadway for pedestrians. The fenced median islands deter pedestrians from crossing Chandler Boulevard between Coldwater Canyon Boulevard and the Hollywood Freeway, except at signalized intersections. The diagonal parking on the south side of the south roadway adjacent to the park, east of the Hollywood Freeway, is beneficial to pedestrians that want to cross eastbound Chandler Boulevard, because it orients pedestrians to face oncoming traffic as they enter the roadway as they are forced to walk between the diagonally parked vehicles.

Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Avenue is a distance of approximately 1.7 miles, with observed critical speeds between 42 and 47 miles per hour, and an average critical speed of 45.25 miles per hour. The average lower limit of pace is 36.5 miles per hour, and the average median speed is 39.1 miles per hour. According to the requirements for setting speed limits described in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (California MUTCD), effective September 26, 2006, the speed limit on this segment of Chandler Boulevard should be set at 45 miles per hour, unless there are roadway characteristics that are unexpected to drivers that can justify a 5 miles per hour reduction. A review of field conditions and accident records indicates that there are no observed conditions that objectively could be considered as not readily apparent to motorists. The bike lanes, fenced median, one-way traffic flow, signalized pedestrian crossings, protected only left-turn signals, and right-turn only side streets are all elements which reduce the potential for traffic conflicts and add to the safety level of this segment. Accordingly, any speed limit reduction below the proposed 45 miles per hour speed limit would not be justified.

If the current 35 miles per hour speed limit were to be retained, then 78.37 percent of the motorists would be considered as speed violators. In the absence of factors, this high rate of violators would be unreasonable and would not distinguish occasional violators from the majority of reasonable drivers.

Chandler Boulevard, south roadway, between Lankershim Boulevard and Vineland Avenue:

Chandler Boulevard, south roadway, between Lankershim Boulevard and Vineland Avenue has a roadway width varying from 76 to 80 feet, with striping as follows:

- Lankershim Boulevard to west of Blakeslee Avenue has two lanes each direction and a bike lane, with two-way left-turn channelization
- West of Blakeslee Avenue to Vineland Avenue has one lane westbound and a bike lane, two lanes eastbound and a bike lane, with two-way left-turn channelization.

The developments along the frontage of this segment of Chandler Boulevard are mixed-use commercial and multi-family residential, North Hollywood Metro Station, and Metro Rail Bus Plaza. There are striped bike lanes for both

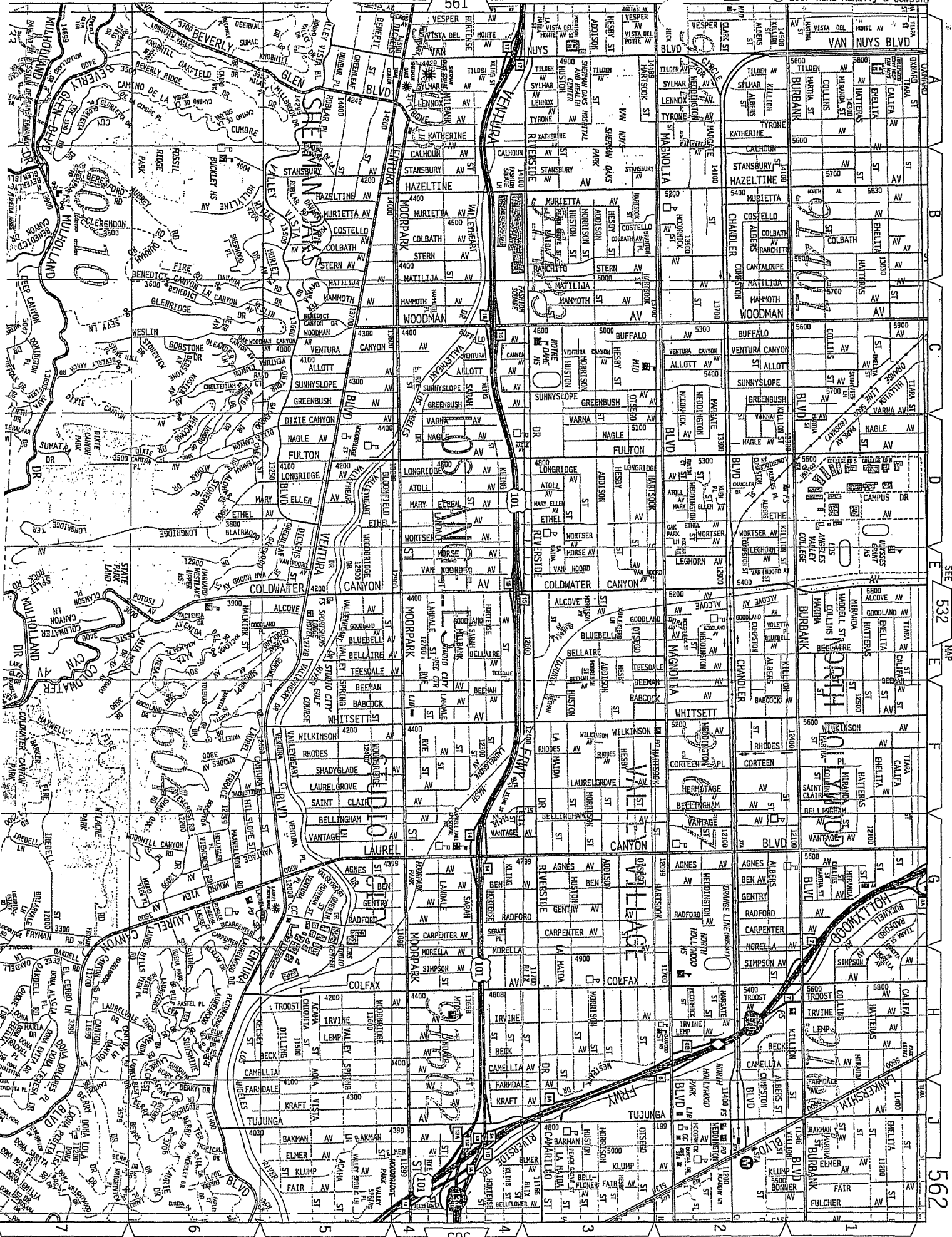
directions on Chandler Boulevard, and there are sidewalks adjacent to both sides of the roadway for pedestrians.

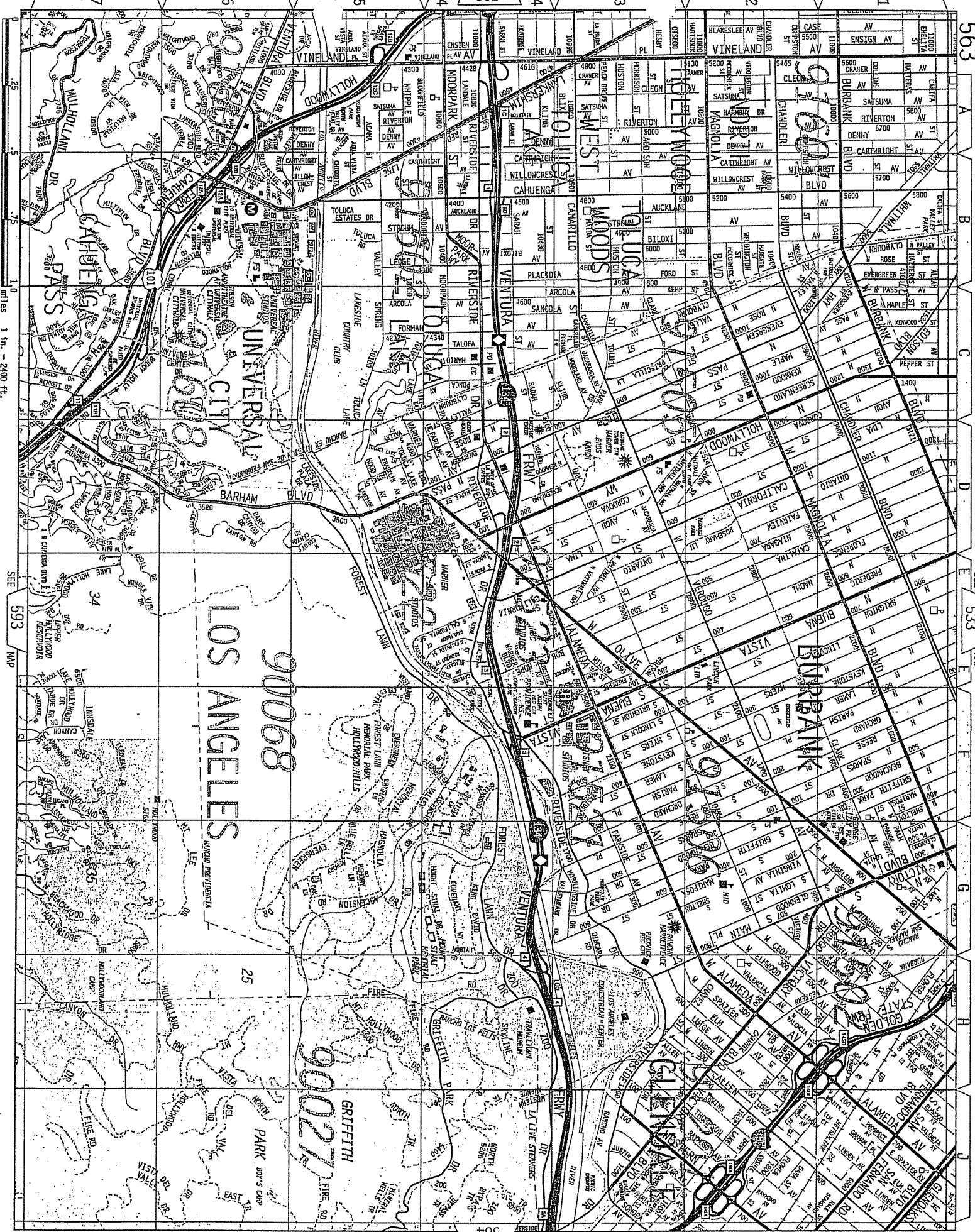
Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Vineland Avenue is a distance of approximately 0.4-mile, with observed critical speeds between 37 and 39 miles per hour, and an average critical speed of 38 miles per hour. The average lower limit of pace is 30 miles per hour, and the average median speed is 33.5 miles per hour. According to the requirements for setting speed limits described in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (California MUTCD), effective September 26, 2006, the speed limit on this segment of Chandler Boulevard should be set at 40 miles per hour, unless there are roadway characteristics that are unexpected to drivers that can justify a 5 miles per hour reduction. A review of field conditions and accident records indicates that there are no observed conditions that objectively could be considered as not readily apparent to motorists. Accordingly, any speed limit reduction below the proposed 40 miles per hour speed limit would not be justified.

Therefore, for the reasons described above, the Department recommends that the existing 35 miles per hour speed limit on Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Avenue be increased to 45 miles per hour, and that a 40 miles per hour speed limit be established on Chandler Boulevard between Lankershim Boulevard and Vineland Avenue.

Approved: John E. Fisher Title: Principal Transportation Engineer

Date: 2-4-09





1.0 miles 1 in. = 2400 ft.

SEE 593 MAP

SEE 533 MAP

