

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 RIVERSIDE DRIVE BETWEEN CLYBOURN
AVENUE AND VAN NUYS BOULEVARD

At its regular meeting of August 13, 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

EX-1014
CITY CLERK

OCT 30 11 58

EX-1014
CITY CLERK
OCT 30 11 58
CITY CLERK

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

02,04, 05 – East Valley #10-0124
Riverside Dr bet. Clybourn Av
& Van Nuys Bl

August 13,
DATE: July 24, 2009

TO: Board of Transportation Commissioners

**SUBJECT: ORDINANCE APPROVAL - RECOMMENDED SPEED LIMIT REVISION
FOR RIVERSIDE DRIVE BETWEEN CLYBOURN AVENUE AND VAN
NUYS BOULEVARD**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That your Board approve revising the speed limit on Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard from 35 to 40 miles per hour, so as to be able to retain radar enforcement.
2. 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 limit.
3. 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 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 Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard as required by California Vehicle Code Section 40802(b), in order to justify enforcement of the speed limit by radar. The

August 13,
July 21, 2009

attached Engineering Report summarizes the findings of the engineering and traffic survey and the basis for the recommended speed limit. The survey indicated that a speed limit of 40 miles per hour is consistent with traffic conditions and roadway characteristics and will facilitate the safe and orderly movement of traffic.

The average critical speed for Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard is 40 miles per hour. If the current 35 miles per hour speed limit were to be retained, then 63 percent of the motorists would be considered as speed violators. 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 injury accident rate of 2.10 accidents per million vehicle miles is within the normal range, and substantiates the safety level of the roadway operation within 5 miles per hour of the critical speed.

COORDINATION:

LAPD has reviewed the information supporting the proposed speed limit revision and has no objections as stated in their April 2, 2009 response to a Department of Transportation memo dated February 17, 2009. The Department of Transportation sent letters to Councilmembers Greuel (2nd District), LaBonge (4th District), and Weiss (5th District) on November 13, 2008, notifying them of the proposed speed limit revision and the reasons for the change.

On November 13, 2008, the Department sent letters to the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council, and the Valley Village Neighborhood Council notifying them of the proposed speed limit revision and the reasons for the change. On May 14, 2009, the Department of Transportation sent an e-mail follow up to those letters to the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council, and the Valley Village Neighborhood Council. Staff from the Department of Transportation met with the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council Public Safety Committee on December 1, 2008, February 2, 2008, and June 1, 2009, to discuss the findings, and to advise them that this matter is to be heard by the Board of Transportation Commissioners. The Department of Transportation met with the Valley Village Neighborhood Council on March 25, 2009 to discuss the findings, and to advise them that this matter is to be heard by the Board of Transportation Commissioners, and staff also spoke with Tony Braswell, President, Valley Village Neighborhood Council on July 20, 2009 just to follow up. The Department of Transportation met with the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council on June 8, 2009 to discuss the findings, and to advise them that this matter is to be heard by the Board of Transportation Commissioners.

Despite the efforts of the Department of Transportation to communicate the laws and policies regarding the authorization and enforcement of speed limits, all three Neighborhood Councils do not appear to be in support of a revised speed limit for

AUGUST 13,
July 21, 2009

Riverside Drive. The Department of Transportation received a letter from the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council, dated May 27, 2009, requesting that the speed limit on Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Sancola Avenue remain at 35 miles per hour. It has been clearly communicated to all three Neighborhood Councils that the Police Department has discontinued enforcement of the existing 35 miles per hour speed limit signs, and that they will not resume enforcement of speeding on Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard until valid speed limits are re-established and posted (per California Vehicle Code Sections 627, 22357, and 22358).

Approved by:

John E. Fisher

for RITA L. ROBINSON
General Manager
Department of Transportation

Date Signed: July 29, 2009

RLR:brg
C:\Documents and Settings\BGallagh\Desktop\Board report_Riverside Dr bet Clybourn Av and Vannuys BI09BRG.doc

- 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: August 13, 2009
 Board of Transportation Commissioners
Robert Long
 Transportation Executive Assistant



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO

CITY ATTORNEY

May 18, 2009

6/4/09

c: Alan Willis

PS

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

Note: Received 6/3/09

Re: A Draft Ordinance Amending Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles
Municipal Code to Change the Speed Limit on Riverside Drive 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 Riverside Drive in Council Districts 2, 4, and 5, at 40 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 Offices, 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 Riverside Dr Ltr

ORDINANCE NO. _____

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

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

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

On Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard.

Sec. 2. Subdivision R of Subsection (3) of Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by adding the following in alphabetical order:

Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard.

Sec. 3. 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

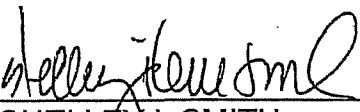
By _____ Deputy

Approved _____

Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO, City Attorney

By 
SHELLEY I. SMITH
Assistant City Attorney

Date 5/18/09

File No. _____

ENGINEERING REPORT

Engineering and Traffic Survey for Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard

Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard is a designated Major Highway. The entire 6.1-mile street segment is currently posted with a 35 miles per hour speed limit.

Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard has a roadway width varying from 56 to 90 feet, with striping as follows:

- Van Nuys Boulevard to Tyrone Avenue has two lanes each direction, with two-way left-turn channelization
- Tyrone Avenue to Laurel Canyon Avenue has two lanes each direction, with two-way left-turn channelization and bike lanes
- Laurel Canyon Avenue to Hortense Street has two lanes each direction, with two-way left-turn channelization
- Hortense Street to Vineland Avenue has two lanes in each direction, with a centerline
- Vineland Avenue to Lankershim Boulevard has two lanes each direction, with two-way left-turn channelization
- Lankershim Boulevard to Cahuenga Boulevard has two lanes in each direction, with a centerline
- Cahuenga Boulevard to Clybourn Avenue has two lanes each direction, with two-way left-turn channelization

The development along the frontage of Riverside Drive includes a mixture of single-family residential, multi-family residential, and business. There are schools between Buffalo Avenue and Ventura Canyon Avenue (Notre Dame High School), between Greenbush Avenue and Nagle Avenue (Armenian Evangelic Grade School), between Ethel Avenue and Morse Avenue (Riverside Drive Elementary School), between Rhodes Avenue and Laurelgrove Avenue (Temple Beth Hillel High School), and between Agnes Avenue and Ben Avenue (Valley Torah Grade School).

Between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard, the current speed limit is 35 miles per hour. However, the observed critical speeds are between 38 and 42 miles per hour with an average critical speed of 40 miles per hour. The average lower limit of pace is 33 miles per hour, and the average median speed is 38 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 Riverside Drive should be set at 40 miles per hour. The injury accident rate of 2.10 is in the normal range, and 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.

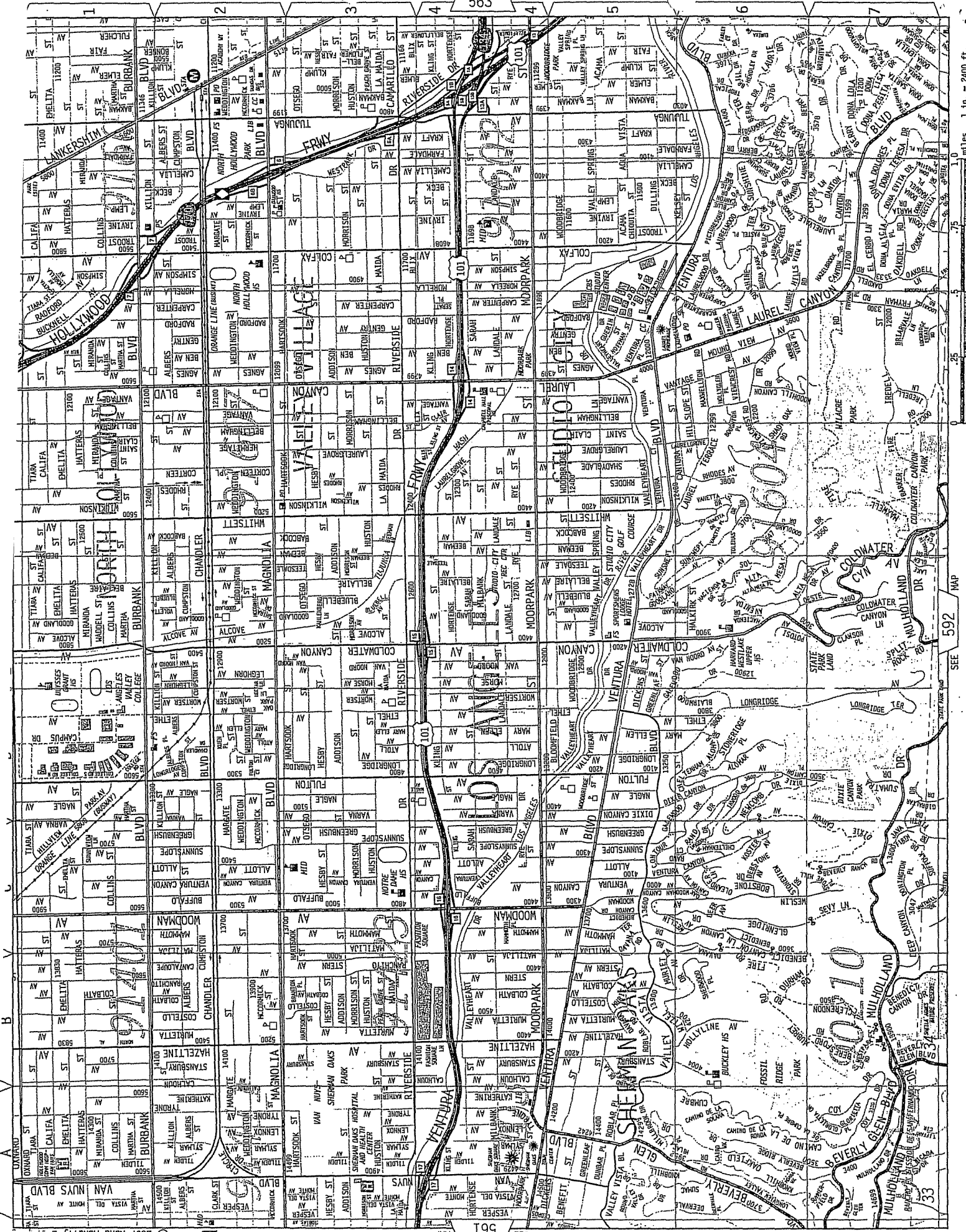
If the current 35 miles per hour speed limit were to be retained, then 63 percent of the motorist would be considered as speed violators. In the absence of factors, this high rate of violators would be unreasonable and would not distinguish occasional violators from the majority of reasonable drivers.

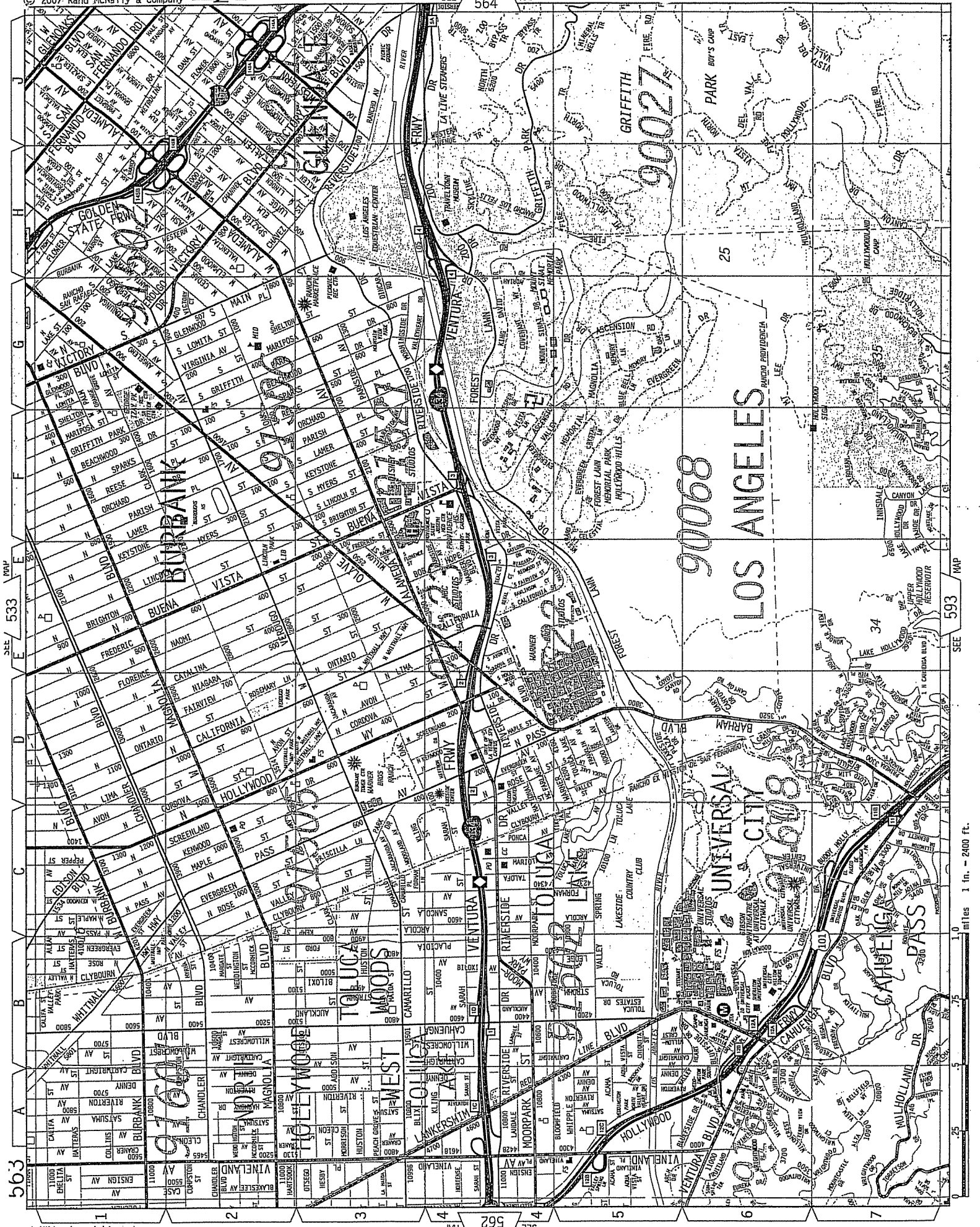
Therefore, for the reasons described above, the Department recommends that the speed limit on Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard be increased from 35 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour.

Approved: *John S. Fisher for*

Title: Principal Transportation Engineer

Date: 11-13-08





SEE 533 MAP

SEE 593 MAP

563

562

564