

# TRANSPORTATION

## MOTION

The Department of Transportation has expressed concerns about speeding on Cahuenga Boulevard West between Highland Avenue and Oakcrest Drive. Since the State of California relinquished this roadway to the City in 2006, there have been several speed related crashes for this 1.2 mile street segment. Recently, a safety investigation at the intersection of Cahuenga Boulevard West and Pilgrimage Bridge, along this section of Cahuenga Boulevard West, was conducted by the Department of Transportation, and it was determined that the combination of the sloped section of the roadway, the roadway geometry, the roadside landscaping, and the 40 miles-per-hour speed limit may possibly create a false sense of security for drivers wanting to make a southbound left-turn across the Pilgrimage Bridge.

The Pilgrimage Bridge serves as a main access for the John Anson Ford Theatre for drivers originating from the San Fernando Valley. In addition to theatre traffic, the Pilgrimage Bridge is used by over 600 vehicles per hour during the morning peak hours, as a route by commuters driving into Hollywood from the Valley. Cahuenga Boulevard West between Highland Avenue and Oakcrest Drive, and Cahuenga Boulevard south of Odin Street, are both designated as "Major Highways" in the Community Plan of the City's General Plan.

The Department of Transportation has conducted a preliminary engineering study of the intersection of Cahuenga Boulevard West and Pilgrimage Bridge, and will be recommending that a traffic signal with a left-turn signal for southbound traffic turning onto the bridge, be installed at this intersection, as a means of improving roadway safety for all users, as well as a way of better managing non-recurring congestion. However, the Pilgrimage Bridge belongs to the State of California, and concurrence from Caltrans for the recommended signal improvements must be obtained before any work on the design and implementation of a traffic signal at this intersection can commence.

The 40 miles-per-hour speed limit for this segment of Cahuenga Boulevard West was established based upon a current engineering and traffic survey. The California Vehicle Code Section 40802.(b). requires that speed limits be established based upon an engineering and traffic survey, in order for jurisdictions to legally enforce with electronic devices, such as laser or radar. The studies include consideration of prevailing critical speeds, collision history, and the existence of any conditions not readily apparent to motorists, and are intended to provide an objective basis for setting speed limits and preventing "speed traps." Speed limits are set according to these criteria to ensure that the greater majority of reasonable motorists will not be subject to arbitrary citations.

Based on the existing roadway conditions and accident history, an interim speed limit of 35 miles-per-hour has been suggested as a way of improving the level of safety along Cahuenga Boulevard West until a traffic signal can be implemented. The Department of Transportation has recently installed an "Intersection Ahead" warning sign, with a "35 miles-per-hour" advisory speed warning sign for northbound Cahuenga Boulevard West, south of Pilgrimage Bridge.

The Department of Transportation has indicated that a reduction of the speed limit to 35 miles-per-hour on this street segment would preclude the use of radar/laser for enforcement, because



JAN 3 0 2015

the speed limit would not be supported by an engineering and traffic survey. However, the current engineering and traffic survey that is the basis for the 40 miles-per-hour speed limit expired on August 29, 2013, so the Police Department is currently unable to enforce with radar/laser anyway.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council direct the Department of Transportation to work with Caltrans to solicit their concurrence with the proposed signal improvements, and once their approval has been obtained, to design and install a traffic signal at the intersection of Cahuenga Boulevard West and Pilgrimage Bridge; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the City Attorney to work with the Department of Transportation to prepare a draft Ordinance that would amend Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 80.81 for the purpose of establishing a 35 miles-per-hour speed limit on Cahuenga Boulevard West between Highland Avenue and Oakcrest Drive; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the Department of Transportation to replace the existing 40 miles-per-hour speed limit signs with 35 miles-per-hour speed limit signs for Cahuenga Boulevard West between Highland Avenue and Oakcrest Drive, upon Council adoption of an Ordinance establishing a 35 miles-per-hour speed limit for this street segment; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the Department of Transportation to conduct a new engineering and traffic survey for Cahuenga Boulevard between Highland Avenue and Oakcrest Avenue, following the activation of the new traffic signal at the intersection of Cahuenga Boulevard West and Pilgrimage Bridge, and to then report back to City Council with the recommendations of the new study.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



TOM LABONGE  
Councilmember, 4<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

