

Issue 2: Santa Cruz Speed - Sand Hill to “Y”

Overview:

Santa Cruz Ave, thru Sand Hill to the “Y” at Alameda de las Pulgas, is a short 1,200 foot section of road way that experiences a very high accident rate, injuries, costly property damage, and deaths. The paramount safety issue is speed and it is compounded by:

- Excessively High accident rates (documented)
- High number of cyclists and pedestrians - especially senior and school age
- Driveways double the number for which CVC recommends lower speeds
- Senior Center with 120+ seniors
- Confusing and unusual road conditions (curve, lane configuration changes)
- Unsafe crosswalks - partially due to speed, visibility, and design

The high speed is a known problem and police, CHP, and Fire District all agree it is the main problem causing accidents here and a critical safety issue.

Proposed Solution Option:

The **most effective solution** is to reduce the speed from 35 mph and install effective and high visible speed limit traffic controls at the beginning of Santa Cruz at Sand Hill Rd. Preferably electronic 'eye catching' signs to insure motorists are aware of the safer speed limit.

This option reduces the speed limit by employing provisions of the vehicle code (CVC 627) that require lower speeds for collector and arterial roadways, such as Santa Cruz, that have the conditions currently existing on this short section.

The one existing sign on northbound Santa Cruz is improperly placed, hidden and ineffective. Motorists cannot see it and it is far from where it should be, as there are only 800 feet before the speed limit changes to 30 mph.

A key observation in support of a lower speed limit is that all traffic entering Santa Cruz at Sand Hill Rd, enters Santa Cruz at a rate of 25 mph or lower. This is because all traffic has to turn onto Santa Cruz from either Sand Hill or Alpine Road. In fact, the advisory speed for that turn at Alpine is 25 mph. Keeping the traffic at a speed no greater than 30 mph would have no impact on throughput but would make a huge improvement in safety. This solution applies to southbound Santa Cruz where the speed limit is already 30 mph before the “Y”.

Status Update:
Issue Resolved

This issue has been addressed by County passing a resolution to lower the speed limit to 25MPH. Resolution passed at the Oct 17th, 2017 Supervisors meeting and will be effective about Nov 17th.

- Positives of Solution:**
- Reduces speed - Improved visibility
 - Visible speed limit signs
 - Safer ingress/egress for residents
 - Improved safety for cyclists
 - Does **not** impact vehicle throughput
 - Allows safer negotiation of traffic lane changes at the “Y”
 - Safer SB speed entering Sand Hill
- Considerations:**
- Throughput **not** affected
 - Senior Center (Menlo Commons) require 25 mph (CVC 22352 (2)(C))

Impact:
 Minimal costs for proper signs
 Slightly higher cost for more effective electronic speed signs.

Alternatives:
 No feasible alternatives

Scope - Cost:
 Minimal costs for proper signs.
 Slightly more costs for effective electronic signs to improve motorist awareness.

