



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2003

ITEM NUMBER: Item Number

SUBJECT: RADAR SPEED DISPLAY SIGNS – INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

DATE: FEBRUARY 3, 2004

**FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION**

**PRESENTATION BY: PETER NAGHAVI
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER**

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RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached “Guidelines For Installation of Electronic Speed Display Signs”.

BACKGROUND:

The Transportation Services staff has identified an electronic speed display sign, also known as “Vcalm”, as a potential measure to address concerns for increased vehicular speeds within residential areas and near schools. The Transportation Services staff, in an effort to reduce vehicular traffic speeds in residential areas as well as near schools has frequently utilized the installation of traffic control signs, pavement legends, the placement of the radar speed trailer and increased police enforcement. Speed humps have also been installed on residential streets where “extraordinary” speed and traffic volumes were present and the conditions met the Council adopted “speed hump” installation guidelines criteria.

The City Council, at their Study Session of August 11, 2003, received a demonstration of the “VCalm”. This sign has been developed by Fortel Traffic, Inc. in conjunction with the City of San Jose to display “real time” vehicle speeds to passing motorists. The sign is mounted semi-permanently to a pole, and displays “Speed Limit 25” which changes to “Your Speed XX” when motorists are detected exceeding a programmed speed level. Due to programming flexibility, the sign can display any speed limit and also can display a “Slow Down” message if vehicles exceed a maximum threshold. Additionally, the device records programming data for the vehicles detected. This information regarding the speed, as well as the day and time vehicle was detected, can be downloaded and analyzed by staff for potential enhancements in engineering and enforcement.

The Transportation staff submitted a competitive grant application through the “California Safe Route to School (SR2S) Program” for funds to purchase and install these devices. Staff has recently been informed that the City’s application has been approved and funds will be available to purchase and install up to six (6) signs in the school zones near Wilson Elementary School and Whittier Elementary School. The estimated costs to purchase and install the “VCalm” display signs are \$12,000 per location (two signs in each location).

Staff was cognizant that the installation of this device may also be appropriate in select residential neighborhoods where vehicle speeds have been identified as problematic frequently. Furthermore, upon the completion of the planned installation of the devices funded under the SR2S program, it is likely that requests for additional signs from these areas will be received. However, staff does not recommend that the signs be installed in residential districts without first establishing minimum guideline thresholds.

ANALYSIS:

Staff will be receiving the grant funds shortly to install the six (6) “VCalm” signs in the school zones near Wilson Elementary School and Whittier Elementary School.

In consideration of the traffic conditions in some areas of the City and current policies, Transportation staff has developed for Council’s consideration the attached criteria (Attachment 1) as recommended guidelines for installation of the Electronic Speed Display signs. These guidelines generally call for thresholds by which the installation of such device may be considered.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

One alternative would be to not approve the guidelines. In this case staff will stop any further action on this matter and will forfeit the recently approved grant.

FISCAL REVIEW:

A grant application through the State of California Safe Route to School Program has recently been approved to purchase and install up to six (6) signs in the school zones near Wilson Elementary School and Whittier Elementary School. Therefore, the consideration of the guidelines as well as the installation of the six signs, do not have any financial bearing on the City budget. The grant funds will be appropriated towards this project when the agreement is executed with the State.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The development of the guidelines as a technical installation criteria does not required legal review

CONCLUSION:

The Transportation Services Division has recently identified an Electronic Speed Display sign (VCalm) that may be effective in addressing vehicular speeds. Several cities have tested this sign in select school zones with favorable results. Additionally, staff has recently secured a grant to purchase and install six (6) Display signs in the school zones near Whittier Elementary and Wilson Elementary Schools. Should this device be determined appropriate for use within the City, staff recommends that minimum guideline thresholds be approved to ensure uniformity and proper selection of location. the signs are installed in a uniform manner.

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ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Speed Display Sign Guidelines](#)

File Name

Date

Time