

**CITY OF COSTA MESA**

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

P.O. Box 1200

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER

April 16, 2015

Mr. Jay Litvak
2895 Velasco Lane
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

SUBJECT: SAINT CLAIR STREET – REQUEST FOR SPEED HUMPS

Dear Mr. Litvak:

The Transportation Services Division has completed a review of traffic conditions on Saint Clair Street between Velasco Lane and Drake Avenue. This review has been conducted in response to your concern of excessive speeding and request for speed humps on Saint Clair Street. The decision to install speed humps on public streets is based on guidelines adopted by the City Council (attached). As primary criteria, streets considered for speed hump installation must be in a "residential district" having a speed limit no greater than 25 miles per hour (mph) with a minimum threshold of at least 3,500 vehicles per day.

As a residential street, the posted speed limit on Saint Clair Street between Velasco Lane and Drake Avenue is 25 mph. As part of our investigation, a radar speed survey was conducted to determine the prevailing speed of vehicles on Saint Clair Street. The result of this survey indicates that the 85th percentile speed of traffic is 33 miles per hour, and the median (average) speed is 30 miles per hour. The 85th percentile speed is the speed at which 85 percent of the drivers drive safely and comfortably and is the basis to determine speed limits in accordance with the State of California laws. As a result of many residential neighborhood traffic studies, we have found the 25 miles per hour posted speed limit to be frequently exceeded by 5 to 10 miles per hour. Speeds in this range, while not desirable, are not uncommon, and represent typical conditions in many residential neighborhoods in Costa Mesa.

In addition to the speed survey, the volume of traffic has also been surveyed. The result of this survey indicates that the traffic volume on Saint Clair Street is approximately 1,600 vehicles per day in the vicinity. Vehicular volume levels within this range are below the threshold where additional traffic controls may be considered necessary and are regarded as quite ordinary for streets within a residential neighborhood.

Traffic accident records for the past five (5) years were reviewed to determine if any unsafe conditions may exist. Traffic accident records revealed that two (2) accidents have occurred in the section between Velasco Lane and Drake Avenue and one (1) accident has occurred along Velasco Lane between Saint Clair Street and Santiago Road during this time period. Both the accidents on Saint Clair Street involved a collision with a parked vehicle due to improper turning from Drake Avenue to westbound Saint Clair Street. The accident on Velasco Lane involved a collision with a fixed object as a result of loss of control of the vehicle while driving under the influence. The accident on your property caused by the driver under the influence is not yet included in the database. In all these accidents, speeding is not determined to be the primary cause necessitating the installation of speed humps.

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As a result of the above analysis, the City has determined that the present traffic conditions of vehicle volume, speed, and accident frequency do not meet City guidelines. Therefore, the installation of speed bumps is not recommended at this time.

To provide emphasis on slowing westbound vehicles at the curve where Saint Clair Street turns into Velasco Lane, staff recommends the following signage and pavement legend installations.

- Install transverse thermoplastic striping (across the westbound travel lanes) just west of the existing "15 MPH" warning sign before the curve.
- Relocate existing parking signage at the west end of Saint Clair Street, five (5) feet south, and install a chevron sign on that post.

A work order for the signage and thermoplastic striping installation has been prepared and the work should be completed by City crews in a few weeks.

Police presence and enforcement action is the most effective deterrent to excessive speeds. Your observations of certain times or days of the week when violations most likely occur may assist the Police Department in providing the most effective presence in the neighborhood. For further information and assistance regarding enforcement, please contact Lt. Greg Scott of the Police Department Special Services Bureau at (714) 754-5265.

The City appreciates your taking the time to inform us of your concerns for safety in your neighborhood and hopes the above information is helpful. If you have any further questions, please contact Elizabeth Palacio, Engineering Technician II, at (714) 754-5634.

Sincerely,



RAJA SETHURAMAN, Manager
Transportation Services

Attachment

- c Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director
- Lt. Greg Scott, Costa Mesa Police Department
- Pritam Deshmukh, Associate Engineer
- Elizabeth Palacio, Engineering Technician II