



# City of Palo Alto

## City Council Staff Report

(ID # 8847)

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**Report Type: Consent Calendar**

**Meeting Date: 2/5/2018**

**Summary Title: New Speed Limit Ordinance near Private Schools**

**Title: Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 10.56 (Special Speed Zones) of Title 10 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code to Reduce the Posted Speed Limit Near Private Schools**

**From: City Manager**

**Lead Department: Planning and Community Environment**

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that Council adopt the attached ordinance (Attachment A) to amend Chapter 10.56 (Special Speed Zones) of Title 10 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code to include Private Schools when establishing Reduced Speed Limits of 20 MPH Within School Zones During School Hours When Children Are Present, and authorize the City Manager or designee to remove signs establishing the 20 MPH speed limit if a Private School ceases to operate at the designated location.

### **Background**

On November 7, 2017, City Council reviewed and adopted an ordinance updating various sections of Chapter 10.56 (Special Speed Zones). The updates were for the following items:

1. Increase Posted Speed Limit from 35 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour on two roadway segments (Portions of Deer Creek Road and East Bayshore Road)
2. Reduce Posted Speed Limit within school zones, consistent with State law
3. Adopt a Resolution establishing Target Speeds for certain Arterials and Residential Arterials

At the same Council meeting, staff discussed that private schools do not serve immediate neighborhoods. Hence, they have higher number of vehicle commuters and generally do not have similar safety issues involving pedestrians and bicyclists as those of neighborhood serving public schools. It was also discussed that most private schools are located in rented facilities and in case of their closure or relocation additional resources would be required to remove all signage and markings associated with reduced speed limit. However, City Council directed staff to return with an Ordinance addressing Posted Speed Limits near Private School and incorporated this into the motion.

The staff report from November 7 is available at:

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/61407>

Action minutes for November 7 are available at:

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/62352>

## Discussion

The attached draft ordinance (Attachment A) incorporates Council direction on November 7 to include Private Schools when establishing reduced speed limits of 20 MPH within school zones during school hours when children are present as per California Assembly Bill (AB) 321. Staff completed an analysis of 24 private schools within Palo Alto and identified several street segments that would be eligible for reduced speed limit. The list below of 24 schools was obtained from California Department of Education, 2016-17 Private School Affidavit Data and included schools with enrollment of six or more students as of September 2017.

Streets that are not within a residential district, have posted speed limit of more than 30 mph or have more than a total of two through travel lanes are not eligible for reduced speed limit.

### *Palo Alto Private Schools - AB321 Impacted Streets, proposed for reduced speed limit*

	<b>School Name</b>	<b>Road Name</b>
1	Discovery Children’s House Montessori School	University Avenue
		Webster Street
2	Castilleja School	Kellogg Avenue
		Bryant Street
		Emerson Street
3	St. Elizabeth Seton School	Channing Avenue
		Harriet Street
4	Stratford School	Louis Road
		Middlefield Road
		N California Avenue
5	Keys School	Sutter Avenue
6	Bowman School	Donald Drive
7	Cornerstone Learning Foundation	Manuela
8	Esther B Clark School /Sand Hill School	Clark
9	International School of the Peninsula- Cowper	Cowper
10	Keys Family – Middle Campus	El Camino Way
11	Living Wisdom School	College Ave
12	Tru School	Middlefield
		Fulton

		Melville
		Addison Avenue
		Emerson Street
13	Altschool Emerson	High Street

*Palo Alto Private Schools - AB321 Non-Impacted Streets, not eligible for reduced speed limit*

	School Name	Road Name
14	Kehillah Jewish High School	
15	Challenger School	
16	Athena Academy	
17	International School of the Peninsula	
18	Girls Middle School	
19	Hope Technology School	
20	Meira Academy	
21	Fusion Academy	
22	Achieve Inc School	
23	Imagination School	
24	Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School	

During analysis, staff learnt of the upcoming closure of Alt School campus in Palo Alto at the end of school year and therefore is not recommending reduced speed limit for street segments associated with Alt School. Relocation or closure of a private school in the future would require removal or relocation of signage. Staff proposes that Council provide authority to staff for such removal of signage without amending the Ordinance.

### Resources

Staff estimates approximately \$10,000 for installation of reduced Speed limit signs near 12 private schools listed above. These are new sign installations and the total number of signs will be determined upon completion of field review. There is available funding for speed signs in the Transportation and Parking Improvements Capital project (PL-12000), and the Safe Routes to School capital project (PL-00026).

### Timeline

If adopted on second reading, the attached ordinance would become effective 31 days later.

### Environmental Review

The proposed action is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class One: existing facilities).

#### Attachments:

- Attachment A: Ordinance Amending Speed Limit to Include Private Schools

Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ordinance of the Council of the City of Palo Alto Amending Palo Alto  
 Municipal Code Chapter 10.56 (Special Speed Zones) to Establish  
 Reduced Speed Limits of 20 MPH within School Zones Proximate to  
 Private Schools During School Hours When Children Are Present

The City Council of the City of Palo Alto ORDAINS as follows:

SECTION 1. Findings and Recitals. The Council of the City of Palo Alto finds and declares as follows:

A. The City Council has established a reduced speed limit of 20 mph within 500 feet of public schools within the City during school hours when children are present and now desires to do the same with respect to private schools within the City, as allowed by law.

B. The City Council has determined and declares, pursuant to its authority under California Vehicle Code Section 22358.4(b), that the speed limit set forth herein are the most reasonable, safe and appropriate to facilitate the orderly movement of traffic on the applicable portions of such streets within the City and shall be the prima facie speed limits in the road segments specified.

SECTION 2: Section 10.56.035 (Twenty (20) miles per hour School Zones Speed Limit) of Chapter 10.56 of Title 10 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**Section 10.56.035 Twenty (20) miles per hour School Zones Speed Limit**

It is determined and justified pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 22358.4(b)(1) that twenty (20) miles per hour shall be the prima facie speed limit on the road segments shown below at a distance within 500 feet from or of the school grounds while children are going to or leaving the school, either during school hours or during the noon recess period.

Public Schools	School name	Road Segment Name
1	Addison Elementary School	Middlefield Rd
		Webster St
		Addison Ave
		Lincoln Ave
2	Palo Alto High School	Churchill Ave
		Embarcadero Rd

3	Walter Hays Elementary School	Embarcadero Rd
		Middlefield Rd
4	Duveneck Elementary School	Channing Ave
		Alester Ave
5	Jordan Middle School	California Ave
		Middlefield Rd
6	Ohlone Elementary School	Amarillo Ave
7	El Carmelo Elementary School	El Carmelo Ave
		Loma Verde Ave
		Bryant St
		Ramona St
8	Palo Verde Elementary School	Louis Rd
		Rorke Way
9	Fairmeadow Elementary School	East Meadow Dr
10	JLS Middle School	East Meadow Dr
11	Herbert Elementary School	Charleston Rd
12	Barron Park Elementary School	Barron Ave
13	Juana Briones Elementary School	Maybell Dr
		Gerogia Ave
		Orme St
14	Terman Elementary School	Terman Ave
		Arastradero Rd
15	Gunn High School	Arastradero Rd
16	Escondido Elementary School	Stanford Ave

<b>Private Schools</b>	<b>School name</b>	<b>Road Segment Name</b>
<u>17</u>	<u>Discovery Children's House Montessori School</u>	<u>University Ave</u>

<u>18</u>	<u>Castilleja School</u>	<u>Kellogg Ave</u>
		<u>Bryant St</u>
		<u>Emerson St</u>
<u>19</u>	<u>St. Elizabeth Seton School</u>	<u>Channing Ave</u>
		<u>Harriet St</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>Stratford School</u>	<u>Louis Rd</u>
		<u>Middlefield Rd</u>
		<u>N California Ave</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>Keys School</u>	<u>Sutter Ave</u>
<u>22</u>	<u>Bowman School</u>	<u>Donald Dr</u>
<u>23</u>	<u>Cornerstone</u>	<u>Manuela Ave</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>Esther B Clark/Sand Hill</u>	<u>Clark Way</u>
<u>25</u>	<u>International School of the Peninsula-Cowper Campus</u>	<u>Cowper St</u>
<u>26</u>	<u>Keys School – El Camino Campus</u>	<u>El Camino Way</u>
<u>27</u>	<u>Living Wisdom</u>	<u>College Ave</u>
<u>28</u>	<u>Tru School</u>	<u>Middlefield Rd</u>
		<u>Fulton St</u>
		<u>Melville Ave</u>

**SECTION 3. Severability.** If any provision, clause, sentence or paragraph of this ordinance, or the application to any person or circumstances, shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and, to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

**SECTION 4. CEQA.** The City Council finds and determines that this Ordinance is not a project within the meaning of section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) because it has no potential for resulting in physical change in the environment, either directly or ultimately.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective upon the thirty-first date after its passage and adoption.

INTRODUCED:

PASSED:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Planning and Community  
Environment