



**COUNTY OF NEVADA**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**Board Agenda Memo**

**MEETING DATE:** June 8, 2021  
**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Trisha Tillotson, Director of Public Works  
**SUBJECT:** **An Ordinance Repealing Subsection 30 and 34 of Section G-IV 3.A.5, Amending Subsections 15, 16 and 17, and Adding Subsections 24, 25 and 26 to Section G-IV 3.A.7, of Article 3.A of Chapter IV of the Nevada County General Code Pertaining to Speed Limits on McCourtney Road**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Introduce, waive further reading and adopt the attached Ordinance repealing subsection 30, and 34 of Section G-IV 3.A.5, amending subsections 15, 16, and 17, of Section G-IV 3.A.6, and adding subsections 24, 25 and 26 to Section G-IV 3.A.7 of Chapter IV of the Nevada County General Code.

**FUNDING:** There is no impact to the General Fund, and no budget amendment is needed. Installation of new speed limit signs will be completed using the 2020/21 road maintenance budget.

**BACKGROUND:** In September 2020, the Department of Public Works conducted a routine speed zone study for McCourtney Road, which currently has a prima facie residential speed limit ranging between 35 & 40 mph. The study demonstrates that an increase to the speed limit on five portions of McCourtney Road are needed, consistent with the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices which establishes speed limits at the nearest 5 mph increment to the 85th percentile speed. Speed limits can be further reduced by 5mph if approved by a registered Traffic or Civil Engineer (Speed Zone Study Summary documents for each road segment are attached for reference) and as recommended below.

McCourtney Road Section	Current Posted Speed Limit	85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed	Recommended Speed Limit
1) South Ponderosa Way to Wolf Mountain Rd	40	48	45
2) Indian Springs Road to 1.3 miles south of Indian Springs Road	40	52	45
3) Auburn Road to Banner Grange Hall	40	48	45
4) 1.3 miles south of Indian Springs Rd to 2.2 miles south of Indian Springs Rd	35	47	40
5) Banner Grange Hall to South Ponderosa Way	35	43	40

6) Wolf Mountain Rd to Indian Springs Road	40	42	40
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California Vehicle Code Section 22357 authorizes local agencies to increase the prima facie residential speed limit based on an engineering and traffic survey that demonstrates that a higher speed would be reasonable and safe. There are no schools, hospitals, or business districts along this segment of McCourtney Road that would necessitate a slower speed limit than the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile prevailing speed, and this portion of McCourtney Road is also of a lower residential density, with fewer driveway encroachments. Staff therefore recommends that the prima facie speed limit be raised on McCourtney Road to 45 mph from South Ponderosa Way to Wolf Mountain Road, and from Indian Springs Road to 1.3 miles south of Indian Springs Road, and from Auburn Road to Banner Grange Hall.

Staff also recommends that the prima facie speed limit be raised from 35 mph to 40 mph on McCourtney Road from 1.3 miles south of Indian Springs Road to 2.2 miles south of Indian Springs Road and from Banner Grange Hall to South Ponderosa Way, and establishing a 40 miles per hour prima facie speed limit on McCourtney Road from Wolf Mountain Road to Indian Springs Road.

**Item Initiated by:** Patrick Perkins, Principal Civil Engineer  
**Item Approved by:** Trisha Tillotson, Director of Public Works

Submittal Date: May 2, 2021  
Revision Date: May 27, 2021