



COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
950 MAIDU AVENUE, NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-8617
(530) 265-1411 FAX (530) 265-9849 www.nevadacountyca.gov

Trisha Tillotson
Community Development Agency Director

George Schureck
Acting Director of Public Works

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **George Schureck, Acting Director of Public Works**

SUBJECT: (Waive further reading/Adopt) An ordinance repealing section 16.03.030.4, amending sections 16.03.070.1 and 16.03.050.3, and adding sections 16.03.040.15, 16.03.080.3, 16.03.030.150, and 16.03.030.151 of the Nevada County Code pertaining to Speed Limits on Cement Hill Road, Mooney Flat Road, and Donner Pass Road

RECOMMENDATION: This item was originally brought for introduction on April 9, 2024. We now recommend waiving further reading and adopting the proposed Ordinance.

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 2023/24 road maintenance budget.

BACKGROUND: There was a concurrent ordinance amendment before the Board of Supervisors that proposed to renumber and consolidate the County's previous Administrative, Land Use, and General Codes. Because of the timing of this item, the Department of Public Works had outlined proposed changes to the County's speed limit ordinances as they will be numbered upon adoption of the new Nevada County Code. The new Nevada County Code was adopted April 23, 2024. This ordinance will be adopted after the adoption of the Nevada County Code amendment and will go into effect after the new Nevada County Code goes into effect.

In 2022/23, the Department of Public Works conducted a routine speed zone study for a number of roads in Nevada County. The California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) and California Vehicle Code (CVC) establishes that speed limits should be placed at the nearest 5 mph increment to the 85th percentile speed. The CA MUTCD includes that speed limits can be reduced 5 mph from the rounded 85th percentile speed at the discretion of a registered Traffic or Civil Engineer. In addition, in 2023 the CA MUTCD created the option to further reduce the speed limit by 5 mph if a roadway has hazards that are not readily apparent to drivers in "safety corridors" such as bicyclists and pedestrians. The additional 5 mph reduction may be utilized on no more than one-fifth of a local authority's streets per CVC section 22358.7(a)(1). The road sections listed below require modification:

Road Section	Current Posted Speed	85th Percentile Speed	Recommended Speed
Cement Hill Road from 0.1 Mile Northwest of Highway 49 to West Piper Lane	25	37	30
Mooney Flat Road from Highway 20 to Englebright Dam Road	45	55	50
Mooney Flat Road from Englebright Dam Road to Marina Drive	45	47	45
Donner Pass Road from Interstate 80 to Soda Springs Road	35	36	25
Donner Pass Road from Soda Springs Road to Donner Drive	35	42	25
Donner Pass Road from Donner Drive to 2.43 Miles East of Interstate 80 Soda Springs Exit	35	42	35

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. Cement Hill Road from 0.1 Miles east of Highway 49 to West Piper Lane does not contain any schools, hospitals, or business districts along its length. It is therefore recommended that Cement Hill Road from 0.1 Miles east of Highway 49 to West Piper Lane speed limit be increased from 25 mph to 30 mph.

The current speed section on Mooney Flat Road runs from Highway 20 to Marina Drive. It is recommended that this section be split into two (2) sections. The first being Mooney Flat Road from Highway 20 to Englebright Dam Road and the second section being Mooney Flat Road from Englebright Dam Road to Marina Drive. The speed limit is currently posted at 45 mph for both sections. To be more in alignment with the 85th percentile speed it is recommended that the first section from Highway 20 to Englebright Dam Road be increased to 50 mph and the section from Englebright Dam Road to Marina Drive remain at 45 mph.

Donner Pass Road through Soda Springs is currently posted at 35 mph. Due to density of homes and businesses along Donner Pass Road as well as bicycle and pedestrian traffic a reduction in speed limit is warranted per CVC Sections 515 and 22352. Therefore, the existing 35 mph section from the Interstate 80 off ramp is being divided into three sections. The first section is from the Interstate 80 off ramp to Soda Springs Road and is proposed to be posted as 25 mph using the allowable 10 mph reduction from the 85th percentile speed per CVC section 22358.7(a). The second section from Soda Springs Road to Donner Drive qualifies as a residential district and is proposed to be posted as a 25-mph section. The remaining section from Donner Drive to 2.43 miles east of Interstate 80 will remain 35 mph.

Attachments:

- A. Ordinance
- B. Cement Hill Road E&TS
- C. Mooney Flat Road E&TS
- D. Donner Pass Road E&TS

Item Initiated by:
Approved by:

Elijah Larimer, Assistant Engineer
George Schureck, Acting Director of Public Works