

BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE

IN THE MATTER OF:

An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of)
Lafayette Establishing Prima Facie Speed Limits)
Around Schools Within the City)
_____)

Ordinance No. 692

WHEREAS, the City of Lafayette ("City") is authorized by California Vehicle Code Section 22357 *et seq.* to adjust the prima facie speed limits in the City; and

WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code Section 22358.4 gives a local authority the ability to establish a 15 or 20 mph prima facie speed limit under certain conditions when children are present when approaching, at a distance of less than 500 feet from, or passing, a school building or the grounds thereof, contiguous to a highway; and

WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code Section 22352(b)(2) establishes a prima facie speed limit of 25 miles per hour (mph) on roadways at any distance up to 500 feet from school grounds when children are going to or leaving school; and

WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code Section 627 states that a local authority when conducting an engineering and traffic survey may consider the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, with increased consideration for vulnerable population groups including children, seniors, persons with disabilities, users of personal assistive mobility devices, and the unhoused; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration published a study in 1999 that reported that fatality and serious injury rates increase substantially when travel speeds rise; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Transportation Engineers reported that slower speeds in school zones are warranted given that children do not have the same ability as adults in seeing and evaluating traffic conditions, processing information, perceiving correctly the direction and sound of traffic, and understanding the use of traffic control devices and crosswalks; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lafayette has identified public safety, and in particular pedestrian and bicyclist safety around schools, as a citywide priority; and

WHEREAS, City of Lafayette Resolution 2021-50, which established a Citywide Vision Zero Policy, states that Vision Zero is founded on a Safe System approach that recognizes that people will make mistakes and that roadway systems, policies and projects should be designed and implemented to protect people in the public right-of-way first through redundancies and shared responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lafayette amended in 2016 Section 8-8131 of the Lafayette Municipal Code to read as follows:

The city council shall by ordinance designate the speed limit on those streets where speed limits other than those prescribed by state law are necessary for the safe and orderly movement of traffic. These speed limits shall be based on an engineering and traffic study evaluated by a traffic engineer. Upon the adoption of such ordinance, the city manager shall direct the installation of signs giving notice thereof.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Adoption of Speed Limits.**

The recommended prima facie speed limits indicated in the City of Lafayette School Zone Speed Limit Study and set forth in the table below are hereby adopted. The recommended speed limits as identified in the City of Lafayette School Zone Speed Limit Study is summarized as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference.

EXHIBIT A

School / Street	From	To	Posted Speed Limit	Total Travel Lanes	Recommendation
Acalanes High School					
Pleasant Hill Road‡	De Young Lane	150' north of Acalanes Avenue	35 mph	4	25 mph School Zone as per CVC 22352(b)(2)
Stanley Boulevard	Pleasant Hill Road	Camino Diablo	25 mph	2	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone
Bentley Upper School					
El Nido Ranch Road‡	Acalanes Road	400' west of Sunnybrook Drive	35 mph*	2	25 mph School Zone as per CVC 22352(b)(2)
Burton Valley Elementary School					
Rohrer Drive	Castello Road	Silverado Drive	25 mph	2	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone
Merriewood Drive	Sandalwood Court	Rohrer Drive	25 mph	2	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone
Happy Valley Elementary School					
Happy Valley Road‡	300' west of Redwood Lane	100' west of Valory Lane	30 mph**	2	25 mph School Zone as per CVC 22352(b)(2)***
Lafayette Elementary School					
Moraga Road‡	300' south of Mount Diablo Boulevard	150' south of Rosedale Avenue	25 mph	4	25 mph School Zone as per CVC 22352(b)(2)
School Street	Moraga Road	Topper Court	20 mph	2	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone
First Street	Golden Gate Way	School Street	20 mph	1	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone
Meher School					
Condit Road	Windsor Drive	Hidden Oaks Drive	25 mph	2	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone
Leland Drive	200' south of Leland Reservoir entrance	Hidden Oaks Drive	25 mph	2	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone
Saint Perpetua School					
Hamlin Road	Solana Drive	Sweet Drive	25 mph	2	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone
Springhill Elementary School					
Pleasant Hill Road‡	300' south of Reliez Valley Road	Park Lane	35 mph	4	25 mph School Zone as per CVC 22352(b)(2)
Springhill Road	Martino Road	Pleasant Hill Road	25 mph	2	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone
Quandt Road	Pleasant Hill Road	Candy Court	25 mph	2	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone

Springstone School					
Carol Lane	300' south of Mount Diablo Boulevard	Janet Lane (south)	25 mph	2	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone
Stanley Middle School					
School Street	Moraga Road	Topper Court	20 mph	2	15 mph Reduced Speed School Zone
St. Mary's Road‡	Moraga Road	Birdhaven Court	25 mph	2	Posted School Zone (Existing Posted Speed Limit of 25 mph)

‡ This roadway is not eligible for 15/20 mph reduced school zone speed limit.

* The October 2023 Lafayette Engineering & Traffic Survey report recommends reduction of the posted speed limit from 35 mph to 30 mph on this roadway.

** The October 2023 Lafayette Engineering & Traffic Survey report recommends reduction of the posted speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph on this roadway.

*** If the speed limit on this roadway is reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph as per the 2023 Lafayette Engineering & Traffic Survey, this recommendation would change to indicate a Posted School Zone, with existing posted speed limit of 25 mph.

Section 2. Notice of Speed Limits.

City staff is hereby authorized and directed to install and/or upgrade all appropriate signs giving notice of the speed limits set forth in the table above, as per the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Section 3. Compliance with California Environmental Quality Act.

The City Council finds that this Ordinance is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

Section 4. Severability.

If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are severable. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof.

Section 5. Publication.

The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and cause it, or a summary of it, to be published once within fifteen (15) days of adoption in a newspaper of general circulation printed and published within the City of Lafayette, and shall post a certified copy of this Ordinance, including the vote for and against the same, in the Office of the City Clerk in accordance with Government Code § 36933.

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced at a meeting of the City Council of the City of Lafayette held on April 8, 2024, and adopted and ordered published at a meeting of the City Council held on April 22, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: **Dawson, Kwok, Anduri, Candell and McCormick**

NOES: **None**

ABSTAIN: **None**

ABSENT: **None**

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Joanne Robbins, City Clerk

Gina M. Dawson, Mayor