

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
MAYOR

SELETA REYNOLDS  
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October 29, 2018

South Robertson Neighborhood Council  
Doug Fitsimmons, President  
PO Box 35836  
Los Angeles, CA 90035  
Email: dougfitzsimmons@soronc.org

Dear Mr. Fitsimmons:

**RE: PROPOSED SPEED LIMITS ON VENICE BOULEVARD BETWEEN CADILLAC AVENUE AND MCLAUGHLIN AVENUE**

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) are working together to ensure that speed limits can be enforced citywide. LADOT has determined that a street with a proposed speed limit change is within your neighborhood.

For LAPD to enforce speed limits on surface streets using radar technology, those streets must have a traffic speed survey that was conducted by LADOT within the past seven years. If the speed survey expires, LAPD can no longer enforce the speed limit. California Vehicle Code Section 21400 mandates the use of the 85th-percentile rule for setting speed limits, whereby the speed limit on a road reflects the speed of approximately 85 percent of the vehicles traveling on that road, determined by surveying the speeds at least 100 cars.

As a result of this state mandated law, LADOT is recommending the following proposed speed limit revision so that radar enforcement may be used:

**Revise the speed limit on Venice Boulevard between Cadillac Avenue and McLaughlin Avenue from 35/40 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour.**

Any posted "SCHOOL ZONE, 25 MILES PER HOUR, WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT" speed limit signs adjacent to the school(s) will also continue to be in effect and will be enforceable by radar.

The updated speed limit will allow LAPD to resume enforcing speeding laws, which will make Los Angeles streets safer. The role of LADOT is to ensure that the process is objective, that the speed limit is enforceable and, that the speed limit does not compromise traffic safety. The City is actively working with the State of California to re-evaluate the 85th-percentile methodology.

AB 2363, signed September 2018, will establish a state task force to review this policy. Learn more about the current efforts around the City's Vision Zero Initiative at <http://visionzero.lacity.org/>

We are processing this proposed radar-enforced speed limit for consideration by the Transportation Commission, the Transportation Committee and the City Council. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jaclyn Garcia, Transportation Planning Associate, at [jaclyn.garcia@lacity.org](mailto:jaclyn.garcia@lacity.org).

Sincerely,

TIM CONGER  
Senior Transportation Engineer  
LADOT Traffic Surveys

C: Councilmember Herb J. Wesson Jr., 10<sup>th</sup> Council District, Attn: Sylvia Lacy  
Councilmember Paul Koretz, 5<sup>th</sup> Council District, Attn: Jay Greenstein  
Councilmember Mike Bonin, 11<sup>th</sup> Council District, Attn: Krista Phipps

## **SPEED LIMIT CHANGES**

As part of Vision Zero, the City’s commitment to safe streets, we are ensuring that speed limits can be enforced citywide. Speed limits around schools and residential areas are not changing. They are set at a “prima facie” speed of 25 MPH. In some instances, school zone speeds are set to 15 MPH.

After Council approves changes to roughly 120 miles of speed limits, speed limits citywide will be virtually 100 percent enforceable.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. What is a speed survey?**

Speed surveys are required by law to be able to have speed limits enforced. For LAPD to enforce speed limits on surface streets using **radar technology**, those streets must have had a traffic speed survey conducted by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) within the past seven years. If the speed survey expires, LAPD cannot enforce the speed limit using radar technology on that street. While LAPD can still enforce speed limits by pacing cars from behind, radar is the preferred method as pacing can be dangerous.

### **2. What’s your methodology for collecting speed surveys?**

For LAPD to enforce speed limits on surface streets using radar technology, those streets must have a traffic speed survey that was conducted by LADOT within the past seven years. If the speed survey expires, LAPD can no longer enforce the speed limit. California Vehicle Code Section 21400 mandates the use of the 85th-Percentile Rule for setting speed limits, whereby the speed limit on a road reflects the speed of approximately 85 percent of the vehicles traveling on that road, determined by surveying the speeds at least 100 cars during any daytime period with free-flowing traffic.

### **3. Are there any alternatives to setting speed limits?**

The City is currently obligated to comply by the state mandated law, but LADOT, along with the State of California, are working on potential alternatives to this speed limit methodology. City Council voted to support pursuing alternatives to existing speed setting methodology and has expressed concern that the existing methodology is a one-size-fits-all approach that is inappropriate for urban and suburban street typologies in Los Angeles. Assembly Bill 2363 (Friedman) was signed by Governor Brown this fall and establishes a statewide Task Force to explore options to the speed setting methodology that prioritize safety when setting speeds.

### **4. In what circumstances would you be required to increase speeds?**

If the “critical speed” (i.e. the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile result) is higher than what is posted, the speed limit must be increased.

### **5. Why is my street changing? Can you keep it the same? Can you make it lower?**

Speed Limits are changing so that all streets in the city can be enforceable by radar technology. This is not the only effort the City of Los Angeles is making to improve safety. Engineering improvements can help to ensure people

are driving at safe speeds. In the last 18 months, LADOT has installed over a thousand safety improvements at high priority intersections with safety needs. The City cannot leave speed limits the same or at artificially lower speed limits in order to legally enforce.

**6. Vision Zero is about safety, how is increasing speeds safer?**

Though it is counter-intuitive, these increases will allow LAPD to resume enforcing speeding laws. That enforcement will make L.A. streets safer.

**7. Will the Police actually enforce?**

Yes. The City Council allocated additional resources to LAPD to conduct enforcement and gave direction that speed enforcement is a priority. LAPD has been enforcing newly established speed limits since February 2018.