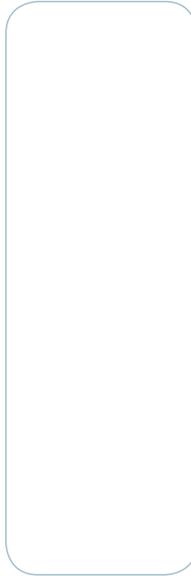


Speed Zone

The purpose of setting a speed zone is to protect and provide a safe environment for the public. Speed zoning should be reserved for roads with considerable volumes of traffic where such zoning will facilitate a smooth traffic flow. Police agencies rely on reasonable and well recognized speed laws to keep our streets safe.

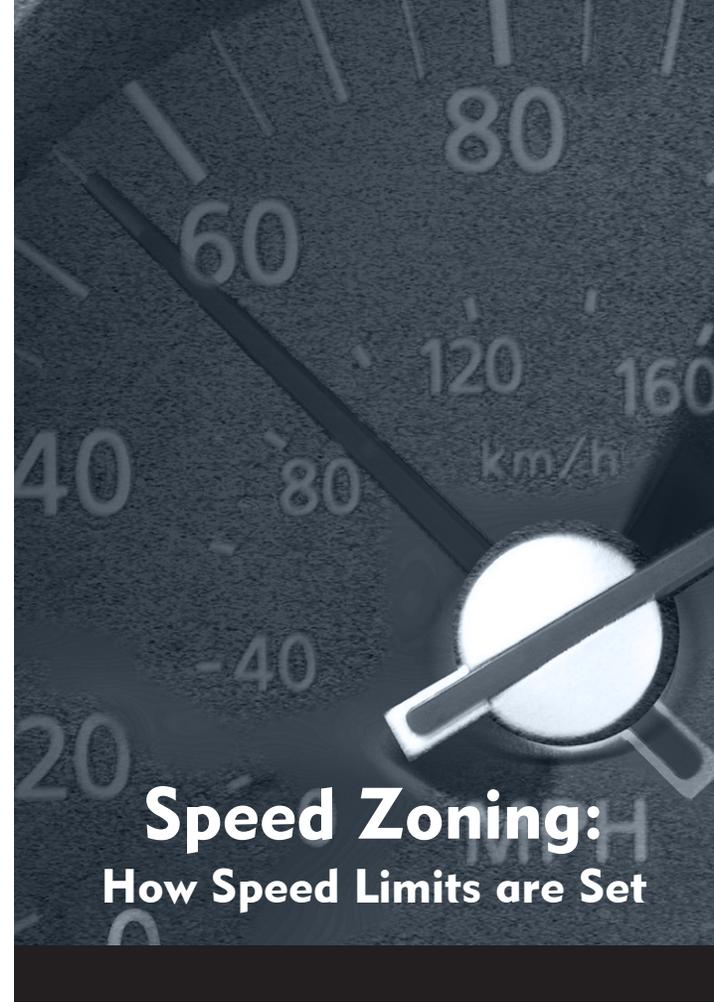


City of Murrieta
Public Works and Engineering Department
26442 Beckman Court
Murrieta, CA 92562



If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic issues, please contact the Public Works and Engineering Department at: (951) 304-CITY (2489) or through the "At Your Service" link at: www.murrieta.org

NTMP
Neighborhood Traffic Management Program



Basic Speed Law

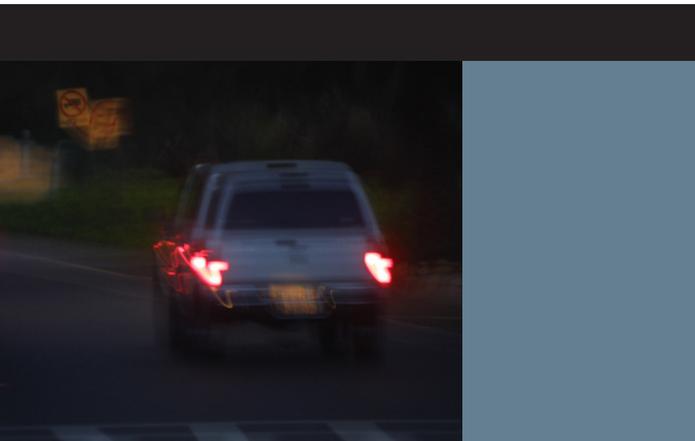
Speed regulations are based on traffic conditions and natural driver behavior. Local agencies must follow the basic speed law when setting speed limits on public streets. The basic speed law states:

“No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent.”

These speed regulations take into consideration weather conditions, visibility, traffic flow, and the surface and width of the street. This law enforces the premise that no person shall drive at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property.

Prima Facie Speed Limits

In accordance to California Vehicle Code (CVC) 22352, prima facie limits are reasonable speeds set by local authorities under normal conditions. These limits are often set at less than the absolute highest limit based on the results of an engineering and traffic survey. Although motorists may exceed any prima facie limit if it is safe to do so, if cited for exceeding the speed limit, it is their responsibility to prove the higher speed was reasonable and prudent under the existing conditions.



Certain blanket prima facie speed limits exist. For instance, residential areas and school zones are limited to 25 miles per hour (mph).

Speed Trap Law

The enactment of CVC 40802 has established a clear law against the use of speed traps in California. The law states that a current and accurate engineering and traffic survey must be conducted for roads with prima facie speed limits.

Law enforcement is prohibited from using radar to issue speeding citations to motorists in speed zones that are not supported by a speed study.

The posted speed limit is determined from the speed study at the nearest 5 mph increment to the 85th percentile speed (the speed at which 85% of the traffic is flowing). If the speed limit is too low and not supported by the results of the study, then the posted speed limit is considered a speed trap and non-enforceable.

The speed trap law encourages prevention through patrolling rather than punishment by radar. Furthermore, the law limits the City's flexibility in posting and enforcing low speed limits.

Most posted speed limits in the City are radar enforceable. Residential areas and school zones are exempt from the Speed Trap Law and the 25 mph prima facie limit is radar enforceable without the support of a speed study.

Benefits of Speed Zoning

- Law enforcement has the ability to routinely enforce speed limits using radar on road segments where they were previously prohibited.
- Motorists will slow down if speed limits are enforced.
- Judges will be less likely to dismiss citations issued for speeding if radar equipment is used for enforcement.

