



WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PO Box 3692, Winnetka, CA 91306

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April 26, 2009

Mr. Randall Tanijiri, Senior Transportation Engineer
Department of Transportation, West Valley District
19040 Vanowen Str.
Reseda, CA 91335

Dear Mr. Tanijiri:

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council (WNC) recently heard a presentation by the Department of Transportation regarding the completion of three traffic speed studies within our NC. The three studies covered:

- DeSoto Ave between the Ronald Reagan Freeway and Ventura Blvd.
- Mason Ave between Trentino and Victory Blvd.
- Victory Blvd, between Shoup Ave and the San Diego Freeway

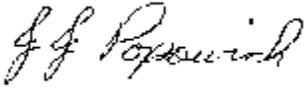
The DOT reported that they are required by law to periodically conduct traffic speed studies on major streets over two lanes. These studies clock the average speed of hundreds of cars that travel along these streets at tens of locations. From these surveys they compile an average speed that most cars using these streets travel. All three streets had an average speed between 40 and 45 miles per hour.

The DOT also explained that the city is bound by Federal law to set speed limits within plus or minus 5 miles of the actual average speed limit. Failure to set these speed limits based on the traffic studies can have various impacts including the inability to enforce speed limits using radar equipment. The ability for radar enforcement to stand up in court is in part determined by whether the speed limit has been set using these traffic studies. In addition, the DOT advised our Council that the LAPD has advised them that they will not conduct speed enforcement without the use of radar. In essence they will no longer do “speed matching” enforcement where a law officer paces a car for a distance to gauge its true speed.

The WNC voted to support the DOT recommendation to change the speeding limit to 40 miles per hour on all three streets. The WNC felt that there is a very real need for speed law enforcement on these streets. Our hope is that once the speed limit has been set, the LAPD will conduct enforcement operations.

We have sent letters to Councilmember's Zine and Smith respectfully requesting that they support an ordinance to allow the reposting of the speed limit in accordance with the DOT recommendations and the encouragement of the LAPD to conduct radar enforcement along these streets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JJ Popowich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

JJ Popowich
President, WNC

Cc: Councilmember Greig Smith
Randall Tanijiri, Department of Transportation