

## Vanessa Castro

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**From:** Ron Snow >  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 21, 2024 9:00 PM  
**To:** Vanessa Castro; John Langbein; Elaine Salinger; Joel Slavitt  
**Subject:** Fwd: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again  
**Attachments:** Speed limit to fall on two roads in West Menlo Park – Palo Alto Daily Post.pdf

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Dear BPAC,  
please forward this email to all BPAC members. This email pertains to County DPW ignoring safety, for many many years, at two west Menlo locations. A location on Santa Cruz Avenue and the business district on Alameda del las Pulgas starting at Avy Ave each have unsafe speeds. The current situation is that there are a high number of accidents and near misses. Several involving either cyclists or pedestrians. Please read. Please come out and walk the area. Please take action.

Thank you,  
Rno

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ron Snow  
**Subject:** Re: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again  
**Date:** December 21, 2024 at 8:49:39 PM PST  
**To:** Greg Faris  
**Cc:** Michael Callagy , Li Xiaofan , Ann Stillman , Qi Chen , Nate Gardner , Ray Mueller

Mike,  
This is an example of incompetence and ignoring safety. For 7+ years the community has requested a safer speed limit. This section of Santa Cruz Ave is 800 feet and the county keeps this section an an unsafe higher speed even though all of the input to county recounts a high number of near misses, accidents, and an extreme feeling of being unsafe.

The Vehicle code and MUTCD both has provisions that allow a lower speed limit both because of the accident rate AND the high number of residential driveways. Either one of these would lower the speed limit well below the 85% that DPW seems to solely quote. They could not support this high rate of speed if either of these two other provisions of the code were included in their calculus.

For 7+ years we get the same [BS] reply that a traffic study is needed and that this section will be reviewed. Nothing has happened!!! The fact is ,with all of Santa Cruz Ave currently being 25 mph

EXCEPT this 800 foot section. This factor of such a short section alone is a condition that is in conflict with FHWA guidelines where such a speed limit change is not recommend.

This game of ignoring safety and community input, is not what should be occurring between County and our community. Lets get this fixed!! Lower the speed.

Then, lets also fix the unsafe speed in the **West Menlo business district** along the Alameda de las Pulgas (Luttikens, Dutch Goose, Lulus, Starbucks). There have been many bicycle/car and car/car accidents. Tons of near misses, just talk with the business owners that see this continually. It has a chaotic parking layout that causes conflicts and confusion. It also has a very high concentration of school age kids (3 schools and multiple day cares). This is at the location on Alameda de las Pulgas between Avy and Valpariso. It is so dangerous there!!! Recently the section of Avy Ave east of the Alameda was lowered to 15 mph. Why can't Alameda be safer? A speed of 30 mph or even 25 mph is not safe!!! Local cities have lowered such business districts to 15 mph. A much safer speed would not only lower the number accidents but also would reduce the seriousness of injury by two orders of magnitude.

Please get County to **take immediate action**.

Thank you,  
Ron

PS: Adding Ray Mueller to thread

On Dec 21, 2024, at 2:51 PM, Gregory Faris wrote:

Mike,  
Xiaofan is talking about Santa Cruz Avenue north of the "Y." Although originally part of the of the Santa Cruz Avenue and Alameda De Las Pulgas Improvement plan, it was dropped from the project (see map). Sadly, this section was also excluded from the speed limit reduction in 2017 (see article). Currently, this single block has a speed limit of 30 mph, when the rest of Santa Cruz is 25 mph (almost 2.5 miles of it). Although heavily trafficked by motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians, the conditions are very unsafe for all.

Xiaofan,  
The part of the project that was kept is getting improvements for motorists, cyclists, AND pedestrians. New sidewalks are the first part that are being put in, with sidewalks on both sides of the Alameda mostly complete west of Sharon.

Greg Faris

On Dec 21, 2024, at 10:33 AM, X.F. Li wrote:

Unfortunately this part of the Santa Cruz Ave is excluded from the ongoing construction project on the triangle area.

Also, it's difficult for me to understand why we are prioritizing motorists and bikers who are passing through the area, instead of making it safer for residents who live here and walk this road everyday.

Thanks,  
Xiaofan

On Sat, Dec 21, 2024 at 8:15 AM Michael Callagy wrote:

DPW is working on road improvements that I believe will start very soon and I believe result in a safer road for motorist and bikers.

Best regards,

Mike  
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** X.F. Li  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2024 5:28:54 PM  
**To:** Michael Callagy  
**Subject:** Re: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again

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Hi Michael,  
It is unfortunate that we still do not have traction from the county's DPW to fix this road.

Do you have any recommendation on how we can make this road safer?

The current state is really difficult for the residents because there is zero safety measures in place, plus it has this weird speed limit discrepancy with the rest of the road in Menlo Park city proper.

As I mentioned earlier in the thread, there's no side walk, no cross walk and there are several intersections with no stop sign and very dangerous blind spots when turning. Also, all the cars go really fast on this part of the road with heavy traffic all the time.

All the residents on this road are scared of using this road to walk dogs or using a stroller. Plus it's a school route.. it's a matter of time before a serious accident happens because of the bad condition of the road.

So, what's the better way for us to get help besides emailing this list all the time? Can I file a petition somewhere? Do I need to come into the DPW office and request someone to walk with me to see how bad it is? Do I have to hire a lawyer to find some way to push for this?

Thanks,  
Xiaofan

On Fri, Dec 20, 2024 at 5:15 PM Michael Callagy wrote:

I've not heard of any desire or recommendations by speed studies to alter the speed limit.

Best regards,

Mike

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**From:** X.F. Li

**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2024 3:51:37 PM

**To:** Chen, Kevin

**Cc:** Nate Gardner ; Mitch, Azalea A

SMC\_SupMueller; Qi Chen ; Nash, Betsy ; Ann Stillman ; Khoa Vo ; Ron Snow ; [Gregory Faris](#) ; Nagaya, Nicole H ; Michael Callagy ; Tim Cheng

**Subject:** Re: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again

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Any update on this?

On Sat, Dec 7, 2024 at 5:16 PM X.F. Li wrote:

Hi, is the county ready to improve safety? :)

On Tue, Nov 19, 2024 at 4:53 PM Chen, Kevin wrote:

Hi Nate,

The City is conducting some spot traffic counts to help gauge trends citywide (*including the location you mentioned*). This is not related to the County's effort.

Thank you,

<CMP\_Email\_Logo\_100dpi\_05d92d5b-e8e3-498f-93a6-d0da509bd6021111111111.png>

**Kevin Chen, P.E.** (*he/him*)  
Senior Transportation Engineer  
City Hall - 1st Floor  
701 Laurel St.  
tel 650-330-6748  
[menlopark.gov](http://menlopark.gov)

See [www.pronouns.org](http://www.pronouns.org) to learn more about why I share my pronouns.

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**From:** Nate Gardner  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2024 8:46 AM  
**To:** Tim Cheng  
**Cc:** X.F. Li ; Mitch, Azalea A ; SMC\_SupMueller ; Qi Chen ; Nash, Betsy ; Ann Stillman ; Khoa Vo ; Chen, Kevin; Ron Snow ; Gregory Faris; Nagaya, Nicole H ; Michael Callagy

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**Subject:** Re: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again

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Hi Tim,

There are traffic sensing cables in front of our house (on SCA) which is in MP city limits (across the street is county). Is this for the report you mention or something else?

I was prompted to send this email by a school bus that just drove by at 40-45 mph. Quite frankly, I would love someone to explain why AB 47 doesn't apply to our street and speed limits aren't already an enforced 25 mph. NACTO recommendations/guidelines justify even lower limits on SCA.

tx,

Nate

On Nov 13, 2024, at 1:17 PM, Tim Cheng wrote:

Hi Xiaofan,

I'm finalizing the ETS and sharing the study with my managers. I will share the results with this group when the study is signed and approved.

Thanks,

Tim

Tim Cheng, PE, TE

Senior Civil Engineer | Road Operations

Public Works Dept | County of San Mateo

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**From:** X.F. Li

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 12:34 PM

**To:** Mitch, Azalea A

**Cc:** Tim Cheng ; [SMC\\_SupMueller](#)

; Qi Chen ; Nash, Betsy ; Ann Stillman ; Khoa Vo  
; Chen, Kevin ; Nate Gardner  
; Ron Snow  
; Gregory Faris ; Nagaya, Nicole H

**Subject:** Re: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again

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Hi Tim, has there been any update?

On Tue, Nov 5, 2024 at 12:19 PM X.F. Li wrote:

Hi Tim,

Has there been any update on the ETS?

It has been over two months since it started.

Recently there's a huge sign right outside of Cardinal Ct which has unfortunately made safety worse for pedestrians.

Thanks,

Xiaofan

On Fri, Sep 13, 2024 at 1:17 PM Mitch, Azalea A wrote:

Hello Everyone,

We apologize for the confusion and error on our part. We typically approach changes on our jurisdictional boundaries in coordination with the neighboring agencies. Unfortunately, our crew received the wrong instructions and changed the speed limit signs on both the City and County limits. While the error was corrected, we understand that our two agencies are on different timelines with

this effort. Although this is a short segment, we will change the City's speed limits signs back to 25 mph. The County will follow once their surveys are completed.

We will issue a work order now and schedule the change for Monday. Again, we apologize for the error and the confusion.

Thank you,

Azalea

<image001.png>

**Azalea A. Mitch, P.E.** (*she/her*)

Public Works Director

City Hall - 1st Floor

701 Laurel St.

tel 650-330-6692

[menlopark.gov](http://menlopark.gov)

See [www.pronouns.org](http://www.pronouns.org) to learn more about why I share my pronouns.

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**From:** X.F. Li

**Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2024 5:48 PM

**To:** Gregory Faris

**Cc:** Tim Cheng ; [SMC\\_SupMueller](#)

; [Qi Chen](#) ; [Nash, Betsy](#) ; [Ann Stillman](#) ; [Khoa Vo](#)

; [Chen, Kevin](#) ; [Nate Gardner](#)

>; [Ron Snow](#)

**Subject:** ~~Re: Speed limit~~ on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again

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+1 to Greg's question. We should figure out what happened and fix it.



Tim - thank you for the clarity in your recent email. We should follow the rules and processes, without question. We are only requesting the staff to consider this dire situation, which has already been posing a real safety risk to the residents, and help us remedy it as soon as possible. For example, today there were multiple cars parked on this road and we had no choice but to walk on the vehicles' roads (with an elderly, a stroller and a dog!), while all the cars were still speeding even above 30mph. I attached a picture to illustrate this:

<image002.jpg>

Please definitely let us know if there's any update on the ETS and remaining processes, and whether there is anything we can do to help us all do the right thing.

Thanks,

Xiaofan

On Thu, Sep 12, 2024 at 5:30 PM Gregory Faris wrote:

Hello Tim,

Thanks for the reply.

The City's signs between Sharon and Avy were also reverted to 30 mph at the same time as the County's signs between Sharon and the "Y". Are we to understand that the City accidentally changed the County's signs to 25 mph, and then, when reverting the County's signs to 30 mph, the City also accidentally reverted their own 25 mph signs to 30 mph as well? Or, is it possible that the County reverted the City's signs to 30 mph by accident? Whichever case, the City's signs were also changed to 30 mph. As far as I know, they are supposed to be 25 mph.

Any idea what is happening with the City's signs?

Greg Faris

On Sep 12, 2024, at 4:35 PM, Tim Cheng < wrote:

Good afternoon,

I had confirmed with Menlo Park staff that the two speed limit signs in the County was mistakenly swapped out by their crew. They were promptly reverted back to the original speed limit upon my request. Kevin Chen, Senior Transportation Engineer, from the City of Menlo Park is included in this thread and can confirm for the two signs in Menlo Park as well.

As I have mentioned before, the State governs how speed limits are set in California. The County is conducting an Engineering and Traffic Survey (ETS) for the County's section of Santa Cruz. Once the ETS is completed and if the speed limit can be lowered, the County will need Board of Supervisor Approval for the new speed limit sign to be posted and enforced. Posted speed limits without a valid ETS are not enforceable, which is why the two signs in the County had to be reverted back to the original posted speed limit of 30 mph. I anticipate that it will take one to two months for the ETS to be completed, and can provide an update then.

Thanks,

Tim

Tim Cheng, PE, TE

Senior Civil Engineer | Road Operations

Department of Public Works

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**From:** X.F. Li

**Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2024 3:44 PM

**To:** Gregory Faris

**Cc:** Tim Cheng ; [SMC\\_SupMueller](#)

; [DPW\\_info](#)

; [Qi Chen](#) ;

Nash, Betsy

**Subject:** Re: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again

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Hope everyone had a great week.

**Tim** - has there been any update on the ETS, superintendent approval and again, any way for residents to stay informed without emailing this thread every week?

+Mrs Nash from the Menlo Park city council also noticed the speed limit signs were changed without the city knowing. Adding her in case it was changed by the county by mistake.

**Tim** - could you please check and revert back according to city's conclusion?

Thanks,

Xiaofan

On Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 12:23 PM Gregory Faris wrote:

Hello Tim,

Thank you for the prompt response.

I do hope the County can expedite this change to 25 mph. I can't imagine any reasonable argument to support the present case, that is, having the speed limit increase to 30 mph for a single block. By the time a car actually accelerated from 25 to 30 mph to reach the posted limit, it would have to immediately decelerate to get back to 25 mph again for the lower limit.

I am puzzled by all four signs being changed back to 30 mph at the same time. Is it possible that the County accidentally changed Menlo Park's two signs to 30 mph by mistake?

Greg

On Sep 6, 2024, at 9:14 AM, X.F. Li wrote:

+ Supervisor Mueller for District 3.

Hi Supervisor Mueller,

The residents of the unincorporated areas of Menlo Park have been requesting the DPW to help with reducing the speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave **between Sharon Rd and Alameda.**:

many neighbors are concerned about is with respect to the **irregular speed limit** for this section of the road - the limit is 25mph for everywhere else in Santa Cruz Ave, except this one section which is 30mph. The increase in speed limit for this one block can cause vehicles to suddenly speed up. Without any side walk, speed bump, crosswalk or any other safety measure on this section of the road, this creates a significant risk for pedestrians. To make things more urgent, this section of the road is on school routes for Oak Knoll, which puts our children at increased risk.

Moreover, the City of Menlo Park recently improved this situation by reducing the speed limit on a nearby section of the road (between Sharon Rd and Avy Rd) - See this meeting minutes (<https://menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/ agendas-and-minutes/city-council/2024-meetings/minutes/20240416-city-council-regular-minutes-approved.pdf>) Page 11.

As you have already known during the recent Menlo Park Council meeting, this part of the Santa Cruz Ave has been left out on numerous safety improvements over the years. It is unfortunately in a state that is dangerous for both the pedestrians and everyone who uses this road (and there are a lot of users).

I understand there needs to be a process which involves Engineering and Traffic Survey and Board of Supervisor approval. I'm hoping this simple request

to reduce the speed by 5 miles an hour can be supported by the supervisors and the needed survey can be conducted with priority and transparency to the residents. This improvement is long overdue.

If there is any chance we can discuss this issue further or get updates, please let us know and I'll be happy to discuss over the phone or in person.

Thank you,

Xiaofan

On Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 8:33 AM Tim Cheng wrote:

Good morning All,

The two signs in the County were swapped to 25 mph by mistake by City of Menlo Park staff, so they signs have been reverted back to the original 30 mph signs.

I need to reiterate that the County follows state regulations – we cannot simply change the speed limit signs on the street without a valid Engineering and Traffic Survey and Board of Supervisor approval. Posted speed limits signs without an ETS are not enforceable.

Thank you,

Tim

Tim Cheng, PE, TE

Senior Civil Engineer | Road Operations

Public Works Dept | County of San Mateo

Office: (650) 599-1414

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**From:** Gregory Faris **Sent:** Friday, September 6, 2024 8:00 AM

**To:** Li Xiaofan ; [Tim Cheng <tcheng@smcgov.org>](mailto:tcheng@smcgov.org) ; [DPW\\_info](#) ; [Qi Chen](#)

**Subject:** Re: Speed limit on Santa Cruz Ave - changed back to 30 mph again

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Hello All,

Well the signs have been changed back to 30 mph again. The two County signs have been changed back to 30 mph and the two City signs have been changed back to 30 mph. For a few days, we actually had speed limits that made sense. Now we are back to the crazy situation where the speed limit increases for only two blocks. Santa Cruz is around 2.5 miles and all the rest is 25 mph.

Can anyone explain what is happening?

Thank you,

Greg Faris

On Sep 2, 2024, at 10:02 AM,  
X.F. Li wrote:

Thanks for sharing the great news  
Greg!

Big THANK YOU to Tim and  
everyone who helped push this  
through so quickly!

I am working with Google Maps to update this in their systems now.

Have a good Labor Day weekend!

Xiaofan

On Mon, Sep 2, 2024 at 7:54 AM  
Gregory Faris  
wrote:

Hello All,

I am excited to report that the 30 mph signs have been replaced by 25 mph signs between Sharon and the "Y" (Alameda) on Santa Cruz Avenue.

Suggesting that cars go faster for a single block has sent a bad message about traffic safety and has been a big frustration for our neighborhood.. The reset of Santa Cruz Avenue is 25 mph on both the County and City of Menlo Park sides.

It is great that this has finally been fixed!

Best Regards,

Greg Faris

<IMG\_2211.jpeg><IMG\_2212.jpeg>

On Aug 23,  
2024, at  
5:29 PM, X.F.  
Li

wrote:

Hi Tim,

It's great to hear that the county is taking this request seriously and working on this. The request is to simply reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 25mph to match other sections of the road because it is a residential street and literally only this one block is higher speed with **zero safety measure**. If not 1-2 weeks, can we do this in some reasonable timeframe like 1-2 months?

There is overwhelming support from the neighbors based on a recent neighborhood meeting. + @ [Gregory Faris](#) who has been working with the county and Menlo Park city on this issue in the past. I am not sure why the Santa Cruz/Alameda Project excluded this dangerous section of Santa Cruz Ave, but it would be a shame if this simple request gets delayed due to the project, which should have



included this section to begin with.

Without this adjustment, the speed control devices would not be considered - "The department will not recommend that speed control devices be installed on any road where the posted speed limit is 30 miles per hour (mph) or more."

Please let us know if we can do anything at all to help push this through, or a way to monitor progress periodically. As always, appreciate your efforts and understanding!

Thanks,

Xiaofan

On Fri, Aug 23, 2024 at 4:58 PM Tim Cheng

wrote:

Hi Xiaofan,

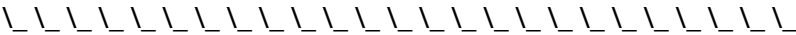
Thank you for following up. We have received your concern.

The County follows regulations by the State that governs how speed limits are set in California. The effort to re-evaluate the current speed limits is something that the County takes very seriously and is not something that will take one or two weeks. As you mentioned, the Santa Cruz/Alamed a Project will begin construction shortly. The project includes various pedestrian and bicycle improvements to enhance safety, and will impact traffic patterns during and following construction. In order for an ETS to be properly conducted, the traffic patterns must be normalized. I am working collaboratively with our Public Works team to prioritize the

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safety of our community through the construction phase of our project and as we conduct our; evaluation of the posted speed limits to ensure they are appropriate, consistent, and contribute to the safety of all that travel through this area.

If you are interested in other traffic calming improvements such as speed humps, you can review the guidelines and submit a request here:



Ron Snow  
 SantaCruz/Alameda For Everyone (SAFE)

