

**TRANSMITTAL**

To: **THE COUNCIL**

Date: **MAY 06 2009**

From: **THE MAYOR**

**TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.**



**ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**  
Mayor


016

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

April 23, 2009

To: The Honorable Antonio R. Villaraigosa  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Attention: June Lagmay, Legislative Coordinator

From: Patricia Sanchez, Commission Executive Assistant   
Board of Transportation Commissioners

Subject: ORDINANCE APPROVAL – RECOMMENDED SPEED LIMIT  
REVISION FOR SHERMAN WAY BETWEEN BALBOA  
BOULEVARD AND PLATT AVENUE

At its regular meeting of April 23, 2009, the Board of Transportation Commissioners considered the evidence presented at the public hearing and approved the above-referenced Ordinance. Copies of the Board's action, and the draft Ordinance are attached for your information.

After your office reviews the attached information, please forward to the City Clerk's office for assignment of a Council file number and transmittal to the City Council.

If you need further information, please contact Alan Willis, Senior Transportation Engineer, at (213) 972-8430.

Thank you.

PS

Attachments

c w/attachments: Alan Willis  
Jasmin San Luis

**BOARD REPORT  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Item #13

3, 6 & 12 - W. Valley #09-1405  
Sherman Way bet.  
Balboa Bl. & Platt Av.

DATE: April <sup>23</sup> 9, 2009

TO: Board of Transportation Commissioners

SUBJECT: **ORDINANCE APPROVAL - RECOMMENDED SPEED LIMIT REVISION FOR  
SHERMAN WAY BETWEEN BALBOA BOULEVARD AND PLATT AVENUE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That your Board approve raising the speed limit on Sherman Way between Balboa Boulevard and Platt Avenue from 35 to 40 miles per hour.
2. That your Board recommend to the City Council that they approve the attached City Attorney's draft ordinance amending Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (L.A.M.C.) establishing the recommended speed limit.
3. That two copies of this report and the draft ordinance be forwarded to the City Clerk for assignment of a council file number and transmittal to the City Council.

**INITIATED BY**

A speed study was initiated by a request from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to determine the appropriate speed limit and to permit enforcement by the use of radar.

**DISCUSSION**

An engineering and traffic survey has been completed for Sherman Way between Balboa Boulevard and Platt Avenue as required by Vehicle Code Section 40802(b), in order to justify enforcement of the speed limit by radar. The attached Engineering Report summarizes the findings of the engineering and traffic survey and the basis for the recommended speed limit. The survey indicated that speed limit of 40 miles per hour is consistent with traffic conditions and driveway characteristics and will facilitate the safe and orderly movement of traffic.

**COORDINATION**

LAPD concurred with the proposed speed limit change in a letter to the Department dated September 17, 2008. The Department of Transportation then sent a letter to Councilmembers Zine, Cardenas and Smith on October 8, 2008, notifying them of the proposed change and the reasons for the change.

Board of Transportation Commissioners

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23  
April 9, 2009

On October 8, 2008, the Department sent a letter to the four affected Neighborhood Councils (NC); Lake Balboa NC, Reseda NC, West Hills NC and Winnetka NC, notifying them of the proposed change and the reasons for the change. On February 26, 2009, DOT sent an e-mail to the NC officers of the four aforementioned Neighborhood Councils notifying them of the proposed change.

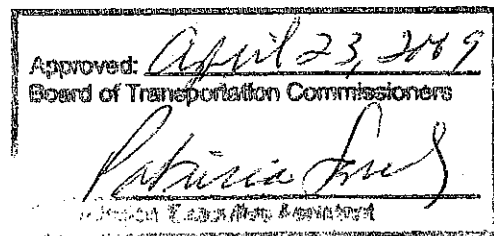
On February 10, 2009, DOT attended the Winnetka NC Board meeting and discussed this issue with them and the NC Board voted to support the proposed speed limit increase. The Reseda NC Board supported the proposed speed limit increase at their General Meeting on February 17, 2009. On March 4, 2009, DOT attended the West Hills NC regular meeting and discussed this issue with them and advised them of the opportunity to forward their comments related to the proposed speed limit increase to the Transportation Commissioners before the April Board meeting. On March 20, 2009, DOT received an e-mail from the Lake Balboa NC President acknowledging that they have been advised of the opportunity to forward their comments related to the proposed speed limit increase to the Transportation Commissioners before the April Board meeting.

Approved by:

  
RITA L. ROBINSON  
General Manager

Date Signed: 3/26/09

c: Councilmember Dennis Zine, Third District  
Councilmember Tony Cardenas, Sixth District  
Councilmember Greig Smith, Twelfth District  
City Clerk (2)  
City Attorney  
Board of Transportation Commissioners (7)  
Captain Phillip Trotter, LAPD  
Survey Section, LADOT



Attachments



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO  
CITY ATTORNEY

November 6, 2008

The Honorable Board of  
Transportation Commissioners  
City of Los Angeles  
100 S. Main Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: A Draft Ordinance Amending Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles  
Municipal Code to Change the Speed Limit on Sherman Way

Honorable Members:

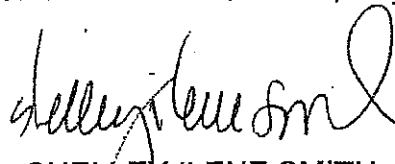
Pursuant to standing instructions from the City Council and the request of the Department of Transportation, this office has prepared and transmits with this letter, approved as to form and legality, a draft of ordinance amending Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 80.81 to increase the speed limit on portions of Sherman Way in Council Districts 3, 6, and 12, from 35 to 40 miles per hour, in order to ensure radar enforcement. This draft ordinance has been approved by the Los Angeles Police Department as well as by the affected Council Offices, completing all requirements of City Council Rule 38.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (213) 978-8147.

Sincerely,

ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO, City Attorney

By

  
SHELLEY ILENE SMITH  
Assistant City Attorney

Transmittal

M:GC:SS: Speed Limit on Sherman Way Ltr

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

An ordinance amending Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to change the speed limit on Sherman Way in the City of Los Angeles.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Subdivision S of Subsection (2) of Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by deleting the following:

On Sherman Way from Clyborne Avenue to Platt Avenue.

Sec. 2. Subdivision S of Subsection (2) of Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by adding the following in alphabetical order:

Sherman Way between Clyborne Avenue and Balboa Boulevard.

Sec. 3. Subdivision S of Subsection (3) of Section 80.81 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by adding the following in alphabetical order:

Sherman Way between Balboa Boulevard and Platt Avenue.

Sec. 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_.

KAREN E. KALFAYAN, City Clerk

By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO, City Attorney

By \_\_\_\_\_  
SHELLEY I. SMITH  
Assistant City Attorney

Date \_\_\_\_\_

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

## ENGINEERING REPORT

### Engineering and Traffic Survey for Sherman Way between Balboa Boulevard and Platt Avenue

Sherman Way between Balboa Boulevard and Platt Avenue is a designated Major Highway with a total length of 7.0 miles. Sherman Way terminates at its intersection with Platt Avenue, however, the street continues southwesterly and is renamed Platt Avenue. The existing posted speed limit along this segment of Sherman Way is 35 miles per hour (m.p.h.). East of Balboa Boulevard, the existing speed limit is 35 m.p.h.

Sherman Way between Balboa Boulevard and Etiwanda Avenue, and between Vanalden Avenue and Variel Avenue is striped for three lanes of traffic in each direction with left-turn channelization at signalized intersections. Between Etiwanda Avenue and Vanalden Avenue, and between Variel Avenue and Platt Avenue, Sherman Way is striped for two lanes of traffic in each direction with left-turn channelization at signalized intersections. Along the 6-lane segments of Sherman Way, the roadway width varies from 94 to 112 feet with a 14-foot raised median island. Along the 4-lane segment, the roadway width varies from 66 to 84 feet. Between Balboa Boulevard and Royer Avenue, on-street parking is generally permitted. Bike lanes exist on Sherman Way between Shoup Avenue and Platt Avenue. Between Balboa Boulevard and Shoup Avenue, there is a mixture of commercial and multi-family dwellings along Sherman Way with business districts residing between Etiwanda Avenue and Wilbur Avenue, and between Variel Avenue and Topanga Canyon Boulevard. Single-family residential dwellings are the main land between Shoup Avenue and Platt Avenue.

The current posted speed limit on this segment of Sherman Way is 35 m.p.h. However, 80 percent of the observed critical speeds range between 38 and 42 m.p.h. with an average critical speed of 39.9 m.p.h. According to the requirements for setting speed limits described in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the speed limit on this segment of Sherman Way should be set at 40 m.p.h. The injury accident rate is in the normal range and there are no observed conditions that objectively could be considered as not readily apparent to motorists. Accordingly, any speed limit reduction below the proposed 40 m.p.h. speed limit would not be justified.

If the current 35 m.p.h. speed limit were to be retained, then 50 percent of the motorists would be considered as speed violators. In the absence of other factors, this high rate of violators would be unreasonable and would not distinguish occasional violators from the majority of reasonable drivers.

Therefore, for the reasons described above, the Department recommends that the speed limit on Sherman Way between Balboa Boulevard and Platt Avenue be increased from the existing 35 m.p.h. to 40 m.p.h.

Approved By: John E. Fisher Title: Principal Transportation Engineer

Date: August 14, 2008