



# Resource Management Agency

## COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI  
District One

PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN  
District Three

EDDIE VALERO  
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** January 7, 2025

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7010

**SUBJECT:** An ordinance amending Article 3 of Chapter 1 of Part III of the Ordinance Code of Tulare County pertaining to speed limits

**REQUEST(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Introduce and waive the first reading of an ordinance amending Article 3 of Chapter 1 of Part III of the Tulare County Ordinance Code pertaining to speed limits.
2. Find that the title of the ordinance was included on the published agenda, and that a copy of the full ordinance was made available to the public online and in print at the meeting before the ordinance was introduced.
3. Set the adoption of the ordinance for January 28, 2025.
4. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish a summary of the ordinance before the second reading as required by law.

**SUMMARY:**

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) governs speed limits in California. Per the requirements of CVC Section 40802, to ensure that speed limits are not illegal speed traps, local authorities must conduct an Engineering and Traffic Survey (E&TS) every five years to justify existing speed limits. CVC Section 627 requires that these surveys include the following: 1) prevailing speeds as determined by traffic engineering measurements; 2) accident records; and 3) highway, traffic, and roadside conditions not readily apparent to the driver.

After a speed survey has been completed, the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD-CA) establishes guidelines for setting speed limits on the basis of an E&TS. Following CVC Section 22358.6, the MUTCD-CA standard states: "When a

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speed limit is to be posted, it shall be established at the nearest 5 mph increment of the 85th percentile speed of free-flowing traffic”, with the following exceptions, if rounding down “the posted speed limit may be reduced by 5 mph... in compliance with CVC section 627 and 22358.5”, if rounding up “then the speed limit may be rounded down to the nearest 5 mph”. The standard further states “If the speed limit to be posted has had the 5 mph reduction applied, then the E&TS shall document in writing the condition and justification for the lower speed limit and be approved by a registered Civil or Traffic Engineer.” All of the County speed zone E&TS have been updated.

Since the last speed limit ordinance update, one speed zone was incorporated into the city of Visalia through the process of annexation, and will be removed from the Ordinance:

**3-01-1180 VISALIA AREA:**

(b)	"K" Road	From the Visalia City Limits east of Santa Fe Road to the Visalia City Limits east of Burke Street	40 MPH
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Other speed zones to be removed from the Ordinance by maintenance agreement:

**3-01-1065 DELANO AREA:**

(a)	County Line Avenue	From Diagonal 144 to Road 152	40 MPH
(b)	County Line Avenue	From Road 152 to Road 156	50 MPH

**3-01-1175 TULARE AREA:**

(a)	Bardsley Avenue	From West Street to Pratt Street	45 MPH
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**3-01-1200 KINGSBURG:**

(a)	Avenue 392	From Road 8 to 970 feet east of Road 8	45 MPH
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The MUTCD-CA recommends a minimum segment length of one-half mile for each individual speed zone segment.

On Avenue 304 in the community of Goshen, the extension of the Visalia City limits has reduced the length of this speed zone and with the closure of the State Route 99 on/off ramps, the traffic volume has decreased significantly. This shortened speed zone would be better served with a curve speed advisory sign. Therefore, this segment will be removed as a speed zone and removed from the Ordinance:

**3-01-1095 GOSHEN:**

(a)	Avenue 304	From Diagonal 69 east to the Visalia City Limits	50 MPH
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Also in Goshen, the Robinson Road speed zone is a curved roadway intersected by a signal light on Betty Drive resulting in two very short segments deemed impractical as

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speed zones. As such, this segment will be removed as a speed zone and removed from the Ordinance:

**3-01-1095 GOSHEN:**

(f) ~~Robinson Road From Avenue 310 to Road 68~~ 35 MPH

Other short transitional speed zone segments deemed to be impractical will be consolidated into one speed zone. Collected data has been combined, averaged, and re-evaluated to post a more appropriate speed limit, and will include the following:

**3-01-1085 EARLIMART:**

(b) ~~Front Road From a point 800 ft south of Chaparral St to Wilson Avenue~~ 40 MPH

(c) ~~Front Road From Wilson Avenue to Sutter Avenue~~ 35 MPH

(d) ~~Front Road From Sutter Avenue to a point 800 ft north of Sierra Avenue~~ 40 MPH

Will Become:

(b) Front Road From a point 800 ft south of Chaparral St to a point 800 ft north of Sierra Avenue 35 MPH

**3-01-1115 PIXLEY:**

(c) ~~Park Drive From Terra Bella Avenue to 800 ft north of Howard Avenue~~ 35 MPH

(d) ~~Park Drive 800 ft north of Howard Avenue to 800 ft north of Orrland Avenue~~ 40 MPH

Will Become:

(c) Park Drive From Terra Bella Avenue to a point 800 ft north of Orrland Avenue 35 MPH

**3-01-1130 PORTERVILLE AREA:**

(e) ~~Date Avenue From Leggett Street to Springville Drive~~ 40 MPH

(f) ~~Springville Drive From Date Avenue to Springville Avenue~~ 40 MPH

Will Become:

(e) Date Avenue/ Springville Drive From Leggett Street to Springville Avenue 35 MPH

**3-01-1145 STRATHMORE:**

(c) ~~Orange Belt Drive From Avenue 194 to Bishop Avenue~~ 45 MPH

(d) ~~Orange Belt Drive From Bishop Avenue to Road 228~~ 40 MPH

(e) ~~Orange Belt Drive From Road 228 to Avenue 200~~ 45 MPH

Will Become:

(c) Orange Belt Drive From Avenue 194 to Avenue 200 35 MPH

**3-01-1155 TERRA BELLA:**

(a) ~~Avenue 95 From State Route 65 to Road 236~~ 40 MPH

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(b)	Avenue 95	From Road 236 to 1500 ft east of Road 238	35 MPH
Will Become:			
(a)	Avenue 95	From State Route 65 to a point 1500 ft east of Road 238	35 MPH

Speed zones with recently identified safety concerns or changes to the adjacent roadway segments will be adjusted for length only as follows:

**3-01-1055 COTTON CENTER:**

(a)	Road 192	From a point 500 ft north of Avenue 148 to a point 1,500 ft north of Avenue 152	45 MPH
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**3-01-1060 CUTLER-OROSI:**

(b)	El Monte Way	From Road 120 to Road 124	40 MPH
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**3-01-1095 GOSHEN:**

(e)	Diagonal/Road 68	From Avenue 304 to Avenue 308	45 MPH
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**3-01-1120 PLAINVIEW:**

(a)	Road 196	From a point 500 ft south of Avenue 194 to Avenue 196	35 MPH
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**3-01-1180 VISALIA AREA:**

(d)	Road 156	From a point 900 ft south of Avenue 295 to Avenue 296	35 MPH
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**3-01-1195 TONYVILLE:**

(a)	Road 216	From a point 200 ft south of Avenue 252 to a point 300 ft north of Avenue 254	45 MPH
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The following speed zones will be adjusted for length and a speed reduction of 5 mph:

**3-01-1060 CUTLER-OROSI:**

(c)	El Monte Way	From a point 630 ft east of Road 130 to Road 136	45 MPH
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**3-01-1085 EARLIMART:**

(h)	Washington Avenue	From Church Road to Dietz Road	35 MPH
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**3-01-1125 POPLAR:**

(a)	Road 192	From Avenue 144 (State Route 190) to a point 500 ft north of Avenue 148	35 MPH
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After thorough review, it was determined that many speed zones should be addressed and adjusted to include constituent concerns, identified safety concerns with increased pedestrian traffic, roadside conditions not readily apparent to the driver, reducing

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crashes, and reducing speed limits to mitigate higher speeds into the community and residential speed zones. The following speed limits will be reduced by 5 mph:

**3-01-1085 EARLIMART:**

- |     |                   |  |        |
|-----|-------------------|--|--------|
| (a) | Armstrong Avenue  | From Front Road to Lane Road           | 35 MPH |
| (e) | Sierra Avenue     | From Front Road to North Thompson Road | 35 MPH |
| (g) | Washington Avenue | From Howard Road to Valente Road       | 35 MPH |

**3-01-1095 GOSHEN:**

- |     |            |                            |        |
|-----|------------|----------------------------|--------|
| (b) | Avenue 308 | From Camp Drive to Road 76 | 35 MPH |
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**3-01-1100 IVANHOE:**

- |     |            |   |        |
|-----|------------|---|--------|
| (a) | Avenue 328 | From Road 156 to Road 160                             | 35 MPH |
| (c) | Road 156   | From Avenue 328 to a point 500 ft north of Avenue 332 | 35 MPH |

**3-01-1115 PIXLEY:**

- |     |                    |  |        |
|-----|--------------------|--|--------|
| (g) | Terra Bella Avenue | From Airport Street to Ash Street                      | 45 MPH |
| (h) | Terra Bella Avenue | From Ash Street to a point 1,100 ft east of Elm Street | 35 MPH |

**3-01-1130 PORTERVILLE AREA:**

- |     |               |   |        |
|-----|---------------|---|--------|
| (a) | Olive Avenue  | From a point 600 ft west of the west edge of the Tule River Bridge to the Porterville City Limits at Elderwood Street | 45 MPH |
| (b) | Roby Avenue   | From Ruth Street to Olive Drive/Doyle Street  | 40 MPH |
| (d) | Success Drive | From Leggett Street to Springville Avenue   | 35 MPH |

**3-01-1135 RICHGROVE:**

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|-----|-----------------|---|--------|
| (a) | Richgrove Drive | From a point 500 ft south of Ames Drive to Avenue 8 | 35 MPH |
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**3-01-1140 SEVILLE:**

- |     |          |  |        |
|-----|----------|--|--------|
| (a) | Road 156 | From Inyo Avenue to Avenue 384 (State Route 201) | 45 MPH |
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**3-01-1150 SULTANA:**

- |     |            |                           |        |
|-----|------------|---------------------------|--------|
| (a) | Avenue 416 | From Road 100 to Road 108 | 40 MPH |
|-----|------------|---------------------------|--------|

**3-01-1170 TRAVER:**

- |     |             |                                      |        |
|-----|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| (a) | Diagonal 39 | From State Route 99 to Merritt Drive | 35 MPH |
|-----|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|

**3-01-1180 VISALIA AREA:**

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(a) Avenue 296 From Road 152 to a point 600 ft east of Road 158 40 MPH

**3-01-1185 WOODVILLE:**

(a) Avenue 168 From a point 400 ft west of Road 164 to a point 1,000 ft east of Road 168 40 MPH

(b) Road 168 From a point 2,500 ft south of Avenue 167 to Avenue 168 40 MPH

The following speed zone on Betty Drive in the community of Goshen will have the speed limit reduced by 5 mph, with an additional 5 mph reduction due to increased safety concerns surrounding the redevelopment of the State Highway interchange, the Betty Drive corridor extension to the new Road 63, and the rerouting of traffic from the closure of the on/off ramps at Avenue 304. Truck stops, service stations, convenience stores, eateries, etcetera, and construction still in progress has resulted in an increase of traffic volumes, congestion, pedestrians, and roadside conditions not readily apparent to the driver:

**3-01-1095 GOSHEN:**

(c) Betty Drive From Road 63 to Robinson Road 35 MPH

The following speed zone on Avenue 408 in the community of Cutler will also have the speed limit reduced by 5 mph, with an additional 5 mph reduction due to safety concerns and increased pedestrian traffic. An apartment complex, healthcare center, church activities, and a community park within this half mile speed zone all contribute to the increased concentration of pedestrian traffic resulting in roadside conditions not readily apparent to the driver. This area is scheduled for an upcoming sidewalk development project.

**3-01-1060 CUTLER-OROSI:**

(a) Avenue 408 From Road 124 to Road 128 (State Route 63) 35 MPH

The following speed zone on Avenue 196 in the community of Strathmore will also have the speed limit reduced by 5 mph, with an additional 5 mph reduction due to safety concerns with the high number of crashes on this very busy two to four lane transition roadway and the high concentration of pedestrian traffic. There are rectangular flashing beacons (RRFB) crosswalks all along the zone due to the significant number of children going to and from two high schools to the west, and middle schools and elementary schools to the north, which all contribute to the increased concentration of pedestrian traffic. There have been many crashes within a five-year period. This roadway is currently being redesigned for road diet traffic calming and sidewalk improvements.

**3-01-1145 STRATHMORE:**

(a) Avenue 196 From State Route 65 to Road 232 35 MPH

Since the last Tulare County Ordinance Code update, three new speed zones will be added to the Ordinance. An Engineering & Traffic Survey was completed for each location resulting in posting the speed limits as shown.

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In response to safety concerns with traffic speeds on Church Road in the community of Earlimart, it is unwarranted for its residential speed limit status resulting in motorist driving at various speeds along this segment because few homes front the roadway. With businesses and elementary schools on the east side and the middle school on the west, the All-Way Stops at their busiest intersections only help to control traffic, not slow it down. Therefore, establish this speed zone as follows:

**3-01-1085 EARLIMART:**

(f) Church Road From Armstrong Avenue to Sierra Avenue 35 MPH

In response to traffic versus pedestrian concerns on Road 234 south of Terra Bella Avenue in the community of Terra Bella, the growth and expansion of businesses to include roadway improvements, sidewalks, and crosswalks, etcetera, has created a higher concentration of pedestrian traffic walking to parking facilities located across the roadway. To address these pedestrian safety concerns, establish this speed zone as follows:

**3-01-1155 TERRA BELLA:**

(d) Road 234 From a point 1,630 ft south of Avenue 92 to Avenue 95 35 MPH

On Avenue 280 on the outskirts of Visalia, conversion of this two-lane undivided road to a four-lane divided roadway from State Route 99 to the Visalia City limits required a traffic study to determine a speed limit that would be suitable for this much improved corridor. The freeway interchange is scheduled for reconstruction, which may include the west end of this roadway. At the west end of this roadway, the south side is currently undergoing new construction of businesses and developments which include a signal light at the entry, east of the interchange. This speed zone will address the roadway conversion and new business developments still in progress. Establish this speed zone as follows:

**3-01-1180 VISALIA AREA:**

(d) Avenue 280 From Drives 85/88 to the Visalia City Limits 55 MPH

This amendment will make minor adjustments to some descriptive language for better consistency. Adjustments will also be made to the order of speed zone listings, where zones were removed or replaced with consolidated zones without directly affecting any changes to the speed limits or speed zone segments.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

No Net County Cost to the General Fund.

The anticipated cost of installing, replacing, or relocating existing or new speed limit signs is budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Roads Budget for sign management.

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**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

Strategic Initiative: Safety and Security includes as a goal to improve and maintain adequate transportation infrastructure. Updating the Tulare County Ordinance Code Pertaining to Speed Limits is a significant contribution towards fulfilling this goal.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**

**/s/ Reed Schenke**

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Reed Schenke, P.E.  
Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment A - Ordinance

Attachment B - Vicinity Map Annexation & Maintenance Agreements

Attachment C - Vicinity Map Goshen Removals

Attachment D - Vicinity Map Consolidated Speed Zones

Attachment E - Vicinity Map Goshen: Betty Drive Extension

Attachment F - Vicinity Map Earlimart: New Church Road

Attachment G - Vicinity Map Terra Bella: New Road 234

Attachment H - Vicinity Map Visalia: New Avenue 280

Attachment I - Proposed Ordinance Summary

Attachment J - Redline Ordinance

Attachment K - CEQA