

STAFF REPORT
January 25, 2021

Topic: A resident's request to lower the speed limit on Weirs Blvd near 937 Weirs Blvd

Discussion: This item was tabled at the January 11, 2021 Council meeting. The Police Department did not use their tracking system; therefore no further data can be provided.

Councilor Felch received a request from a representative of the St. Moritz Condominium Association at 937 Weirs Blvd to lower the speed limit in front of their property from 35 mph to 30 mph.

Weirs Blvd's speed limit is 35 mph from the intersection of White Oaks Road to a point approximately 423 feet north of the northern boundary of 937 Weirs Blvd (90 feet north of 965 Weirs Blvd) where the speed limit is reduced to 30 mph.

Iliuokalani's Ice Cream Shop is located at 956 Weirs Blvd which is within the 35-mph speed limit zone. During the summer tourist season, the ice cream shop has a lot of traffic that turns into its parking lot. Additionally, members of the condominium association have beach rights and docks on Paugus Bay across Weirs Blvd from the condominiums. Thus, pedestrians cross the road in this area to go to their beach and the ice cream shop, and vehicles stop in the road while waiting to turn into the ice cream shop.

The combination of the curve in the road and the hill at the curve, limits sight distance in this area. The limited sight distance in combination with the speed limit along Weirs Blvd in front of their property increases the likelihood of an accident in this area. A vehicle/pedestrian accident at the 35-mph speed limit has a 60% chance of a fatality. The situation is not corrected by installing a crosswalk due to the limited site distance. Lowering the speed limit from 35 to 30 mph reduces the stopping distance. The improvement in sight distance and the lowered speed limit significantly reduces the chance of a pedestrian fatality.

Due to the limited sight distance the speed limit needs to be lowered at the existing 35 mph speed limit sign that is by the fire hydrant that is 21 feet south of the southern boundary of 937 Weirs Blvd. This location provides enough time for drivers to lower their speed before the stopping distance becomes an issue.

Attachment:

Map of the Weirs Blvd in the vicinity of 937 Weirs Blvd

Fiscal Impact: The estimated cost to install the necessary signs to implement this speed zone is \$200. The cost of the signs will come from the Public Works' regulatory sign budget.

Recommendation: Public Works recommends that City Council approve this request by the Condominium Association's to lower the speed limit on Weirs Blvd in the vicinity of 937 Weirs Blvd.

Report Submitted by Wesley B. Anderson, Director of Public Works.

Proposed Motion:

"I move to remove this item from the table."

“I move that the City Council approve the adjustment of the existing 30 mph speed zone by relocating the north bound start point and the southbound endpoint of the speed zone to a point 21 feet south of the southern boundary of 937 Weirs Blvd.”