



# Memorandum

**TO:** Rules Committee

**FROM:** Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio

**SUBJECT:** Lowering School Zone  
Speed Limits

**DATE:** August 19, 2011

Approved:

Date:

## RECOMMENDATION

Direct Staff to lower the school zone speed limits to 15 miles per hour (mph) at both public and private schools.

## BACKGROUND

The San Jose City Council one year ago voted unanimously to lower the speed limit from 25 to 15 mph on Dana Ave adjacent to Trace Elementary School, Hoover Middle School, and Lincoln High school. The lowering of the speed limit was allowed due the passage of AB321. Residents, parents and school staff and pedestrians are pleased with the reduction of speed. This policy should be expanded citywide.

Recently, San Francisco announced they would be lowering the speed limit adjacent to 200 schools. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) interpretation of AB321 by City Traffic Engineers believes that engineering and traffic survey are not needed for each location. This is in contrast to the interpretation by City of San Jose Dept of Transportation and would save hundreds of thousands of dollars for the City of San Jose.

I would suggest San Jose first focus on streets that are two lane roads with a current 25 mph speed. These locations tend to be in residential neighborhoods where there is a high volume of cars and on occasion speeding.

The cost to implement would be the procurement and installation of 15 mph signs.