



PRESS RELEASE

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Councilmember Whitburn Calls for Speed Limit Reduction

Using provisions from California Assembly Bill 43, Councilmember Whitburn has requested that a list of streets recommended for speed limit reduction be developed.

SAN DIEGO – Councilmember Stephen Whitburn recently requested that City of San Diego’s Transportation Department develop a list of streets recommended for speed limit reduction, with priority given to streets with a history of fatal and severe injury collisions.

In making the request, Councilmember Whitburn has cited Assembly Bill 43 which was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom in October 2021. The bill allows cities to consider the safety of vulnerable road users and its Vision Zero goals when setting speed limits on streets with a history of collisions, paying special attention to places where people are more likely to walk and bike.

According to the National Highway Traffic Administration, a person struck by a vehicle going 20 mph has a 5 percent chance of dying. That number goes up to 40% for vehicles going 30 mph, and 80% for vehicles going 40 mph.

“Slowing cars down saves lives,” said Councilmember Stephen Whitburn. “The faster a vehicle travels, the chances of survival in a car crash decrease tremendously, especially for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, seniors, and children.”

In October 2015, the City of San Diego joined a growing list of cities around the United States and the world to become a Vision Zero City. San Diego recognized that solutions exist to prevent serious injury crashes and fatalities.

“Preventing death and severe injuries requires a commitment to rethink priorities and redesign safety in the transportation system,” said Councilmember Whitburn.

Along with his request for a list of areas for speed limit reduction, Councilmember Whitburn has also requested that the Transportation Department initiate an outreach effort to hear directly from community members.

“Community members often know their streets better than anyone because they experience those streets daily,” said Councilmember Whitburn.

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