

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (N.C.S.)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPEED LIMITS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE 2026 ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC SURVEY FOR SPEED LIMITS

WHEREAS, in accordance with California Vehicle Code Sections 22357 and 22358, local municipalities have the power to increase or decrease prima facie speed limits for local streets; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 40802 and provisions of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Engineering and Traffic Surveys must be performed on those local streets every five to seven years when the use of radar or other electronic devices which measure the speed of moving objects are utilized to enforce the prima facie speed limits for those streets; and

WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code defines a speed trap and prohibits evidence of a driver's speed obtained through a speed trap from being admissible in court in any prosecution against a driver for a speed-related offense; and

WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code deems a road where the speed limit is not justified by a traffic and engineering survey conducted within the previous 5 to 7 years to be a speed trap, unless the roadway has been evaluated by a registered engineer in which case the speed limit remains enforceable for a period of 14 years and exempts a school zone from certain provisions relating to defining a speed trap; and

WHEREAS, effective July 1, 2024, the State of California, through Assembly Bill 43, granted local jurisdictions the authority to retain or reduce speed limits a maximum of 5 mph below the current posted speed limit without creating a speed trap following an Engineering and Traffic Survey evaluated by a registered engineer; and

WHEREAS, the results of the 2026 Engineering and Traffic Survey for Speed Limits conform to the requirements of the California Vehicle Code; and

WHEREAS, Staff have concluded those speed limits set forth in the 2026 Engineering and Traffic Surveys for Speed Limits attached hereto are justified for their associated street segments in that they are found to be most appropriate to facilitate the orderly movement of vehicular traffic and are reasonable and safe for those street segments; and

WHEREAS, at its May 14, 2026, meeting, the Traffic and Transportation Commission voted (5-1) on an alternate recommendation to recommend to City Council to approve the establishment of the 2026 Engineering and Traffic Survey for Speed Limits with the exception of Sconberg Parkway; and

WHEREAS, setting a speed limit below the measured 85th percentile speeds and beyond the reductions allowed by law, would be arbitrary and capricious and the speed limit would not be enforceable by radar and is therefore not recommended by staff; and

WHEREAS, the speed limits recommended by the 2026 Engineering and Traffic Survey for Speed Limits are as follows:

Street Segment	Speed Survey Study Limits	Posted Speed Limit	
		Existing	Recommended
Chaparral Street	North Main Street to Natividad Road	25	25
Towt Street	East Alisal Street to Garner Avenue	30	25
Post Drive	Calle del Adobe to North Davis Road	30	30
Monterey Street	West Market Street to John Street	25	25
Terven Avenue	South Sanborn Road to Airport Boulevard	25	25
Hansen Street	Airport Boulevard to Harkins Road	30	30
John Street	Wood Street to East Alisal Street	35	30
Freedom Parkway	Williams Road to Sconberg Parkway	35	30
Sconberg Parkway	Alisal Road to Freedom Parkway	25	35
North Davis Road	Larkin Street to Westridge Parkway	35	35
Alisal Street	Capitol Street to Front Street	25	25
Towt Street	Garner Avenue to Freedom Parkway	25	25

WHEREAS, the City of Salinas has determined that the establishment of the 2026 Engineering and Traffic Survey for Speed Limits is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Section 15301, Class 1). The proposed action has no potential to cause any effect on the environment and does not cause a direct or foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Salinas City Council hereby approves the speed limits as recommended by 2026 Engineering and Traffic Survey for Speed Limits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Staff is hereby directed to proceed with the establishment of the 2026 Engineering and Traffic Survey for Speed Limits to fully effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of June 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

Dennis Donohue, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Soratos, City Clerk