

**From:** Robin Roemer < >

**Sent:** Sunday, January 27, 2019 10:36 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Cc:** District4

**Subject:** Comment City Council 1/29, Item 2.11. Resolution Establishing Speed Limits

Hi,

I would like to respectfully submit the attached document as a public comment to Item 2.11. Resolution Establishing Speed Limits on the City Councils 1/29 agenda.

Kind regards,

Robin Roemer

# Comment on Resolution Establishing Speed Limits

Council Agenda: 1/29/19

Item No.: 2.11

Thank you for reevaluating existing speed limits in the City and specifically for lowering the speed limit on Oakland Road between Brokaw Road and Fox Lane from 45 mph to 40 mph, which is adjacent to my daughter's school.

I would encourage the City to use this opportunity

- to address the 45mph speed limit that is currently posted immediately next to Orchard School on Oakland Road (see Photo 1 attached)
- to establish a proper 25 mph school zone speed limit on southbound Oakland Road where there is currently none apparent to drivers
- to extend the school zone limit on the northbound approach back to Wayne Avenue (see Map 1 attached).

Since no information on this is included, I am concerned that the new 40 mph speed limit will replace the current minimal school zone limit at the intersection of Fox Lane and Oakland Road.

It would be helpful for future traffic survey summaries to include details on existing or planned prima facie speed limits such as school zones within the road segment surveyed.

It would also be helpful for the summaries to explain why a road segment will be split differently than before. In this case, why Oakland Road north of the Fox Lane will have a higher speed limit than south of Fox Lane.

As Map 2 shows Oakland Road is the major access route for students, parents, grandparents and staff coming and leaving Orchard School. Lower speed limits are especially important for all community members who walk and bike in the area (see Graph 1) but also for anyone driving.<sup>1</sup>

Given that many smaller roads in San José with for example only four lanes seem to be able to handle similar traffic volumes as Oakland Road<sup>2</sup>, I would strongly urge the City to consider reducing the number of traffic lanes on Oakland Road (currently 7 lanes next to Orchard School) which then might allow for a further reduction in the speed limit.

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<sup>1</sup> San José Vision Zero Core Principle 4: Speed is a fundamental predictor of crash survival.

<sup>2</sup> <https://data.sanjoseca.gov/>

I also believe that instead of solely relying on observed speed – which is heavily dependent on how the City designed a road segment – greater emphasis should be given to safety concerns especially for pedestrian and bicyclists.

The survey summaries should include crash data on streets surveyed especially in cases where not the lowest legally possible speed limit is recommended. Brokaw Road for example seems has seen a significant number of bicycle crashes in the last five years (see Map 4). Yet staff seems to propose to no changes to the speed limit (or road design).

Robin Roemer

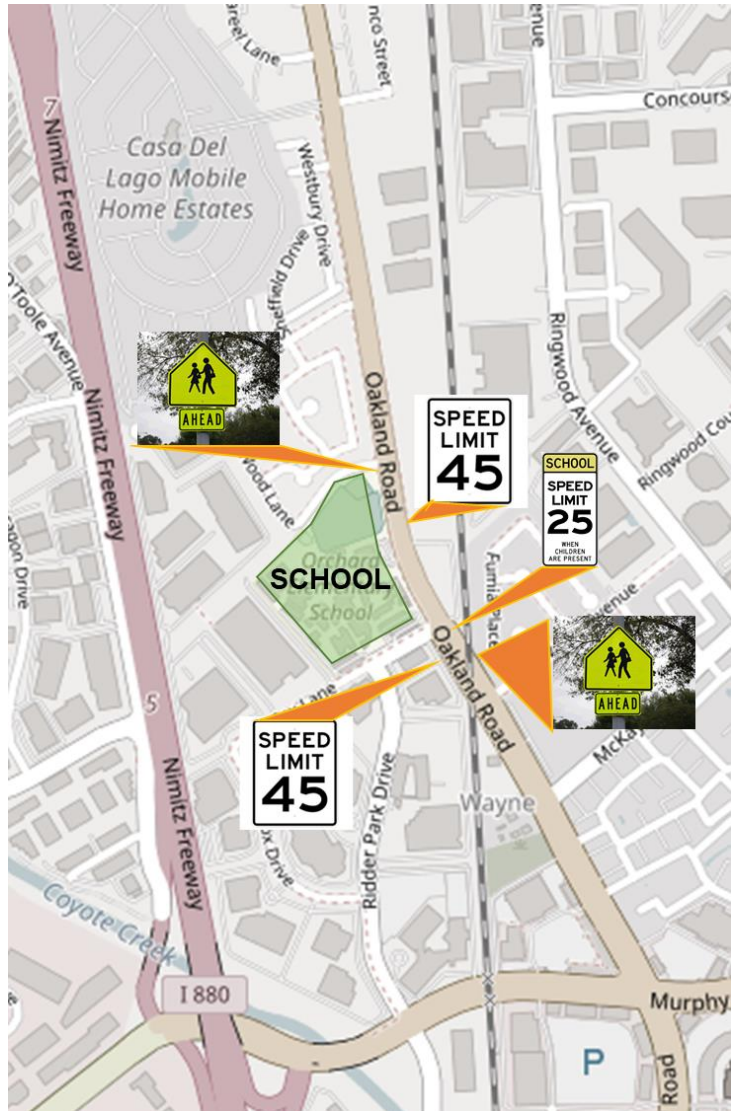
# Photo 1: Oakland Road just north of Fox Lane



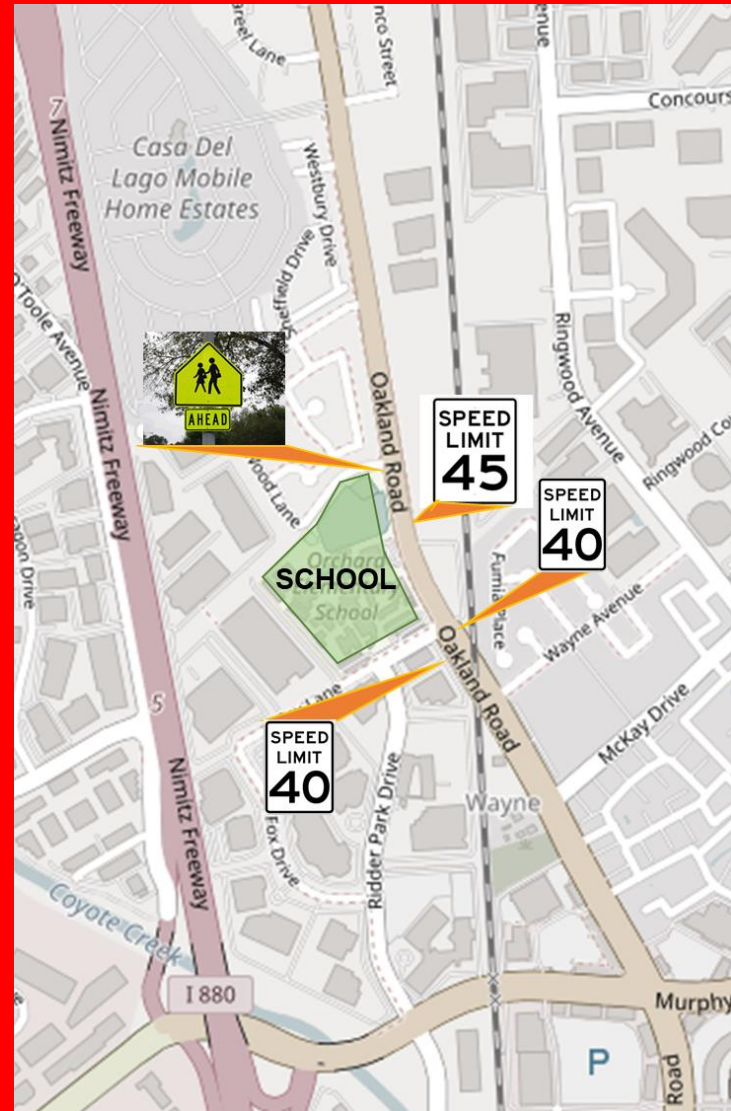


# Map 1: Speed Limits on Oakland Road near Orchard School

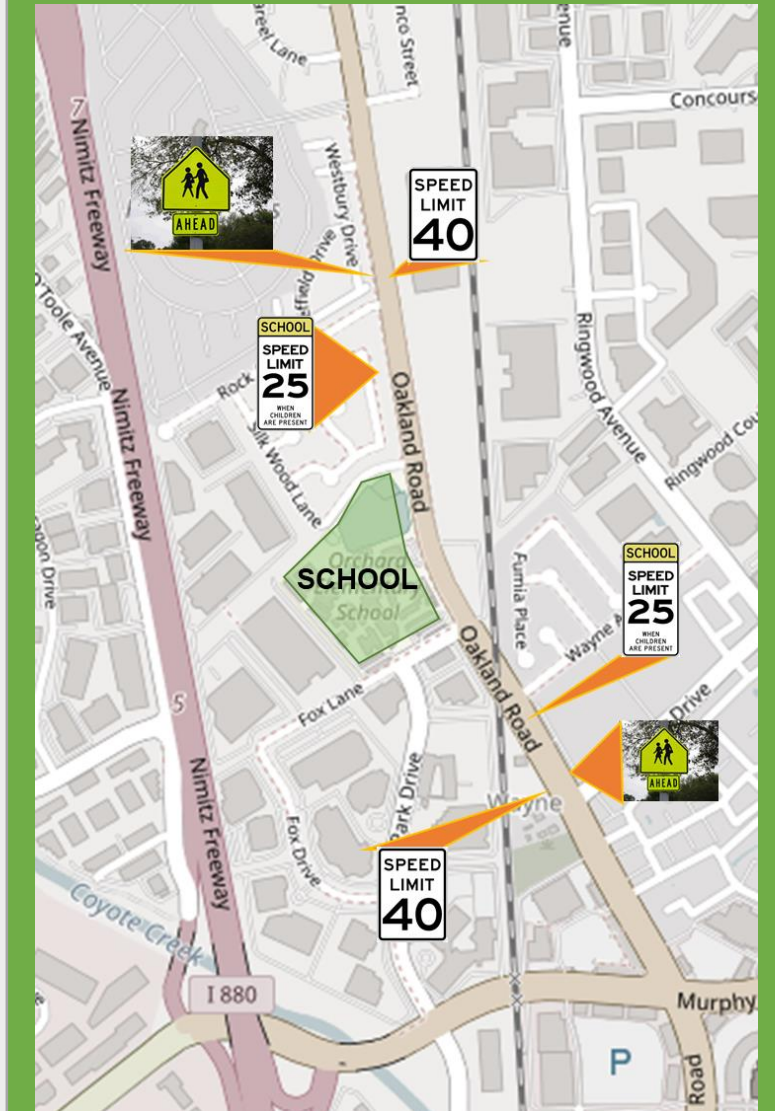
## Current Situation

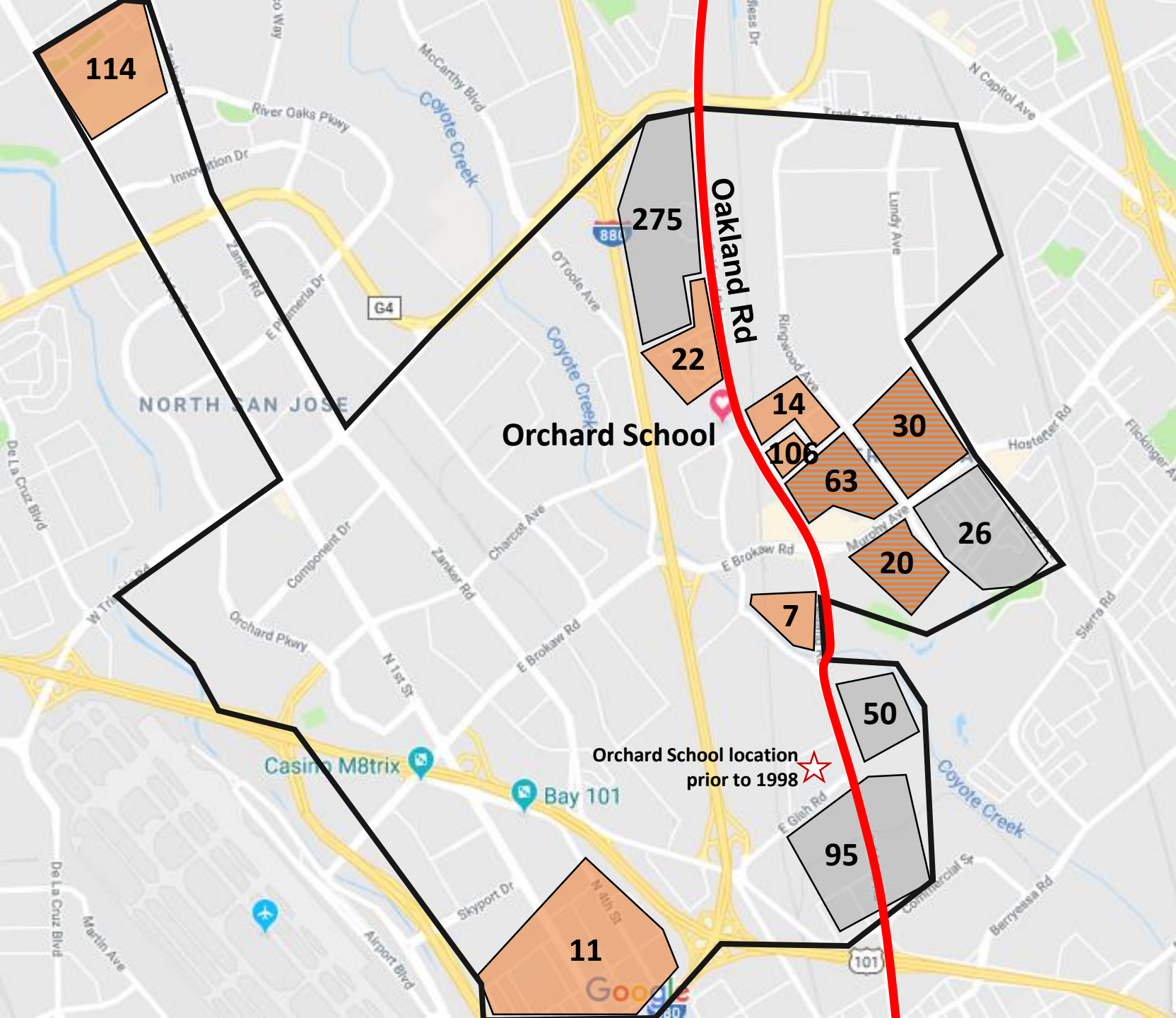


## City Suggestion?



## Alternative





**Map 2: Where Orchard Students Live**



Built before 1993



Partly built by 1993



Build after 1993

**891**

# of students 2017-18

**Students by Housing Category**

(2016 data)

**47%**

Mobile Home

**18%**

Relatively Affordable and Modest ATT

**17%**

High Amenity ATT(ached)

**9%**

Single family detached

**9%**

Inter-District



Oakland Road



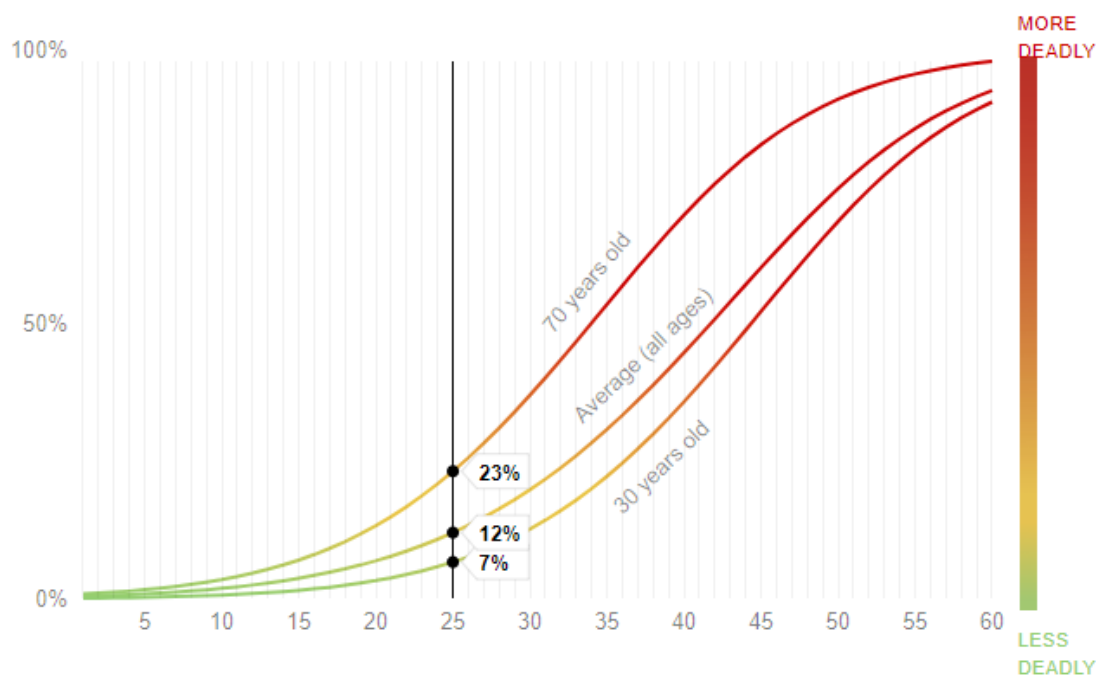
Borders School District (approx.)



# Graph 1: Chance of Being Killed by Car Depending on Speed

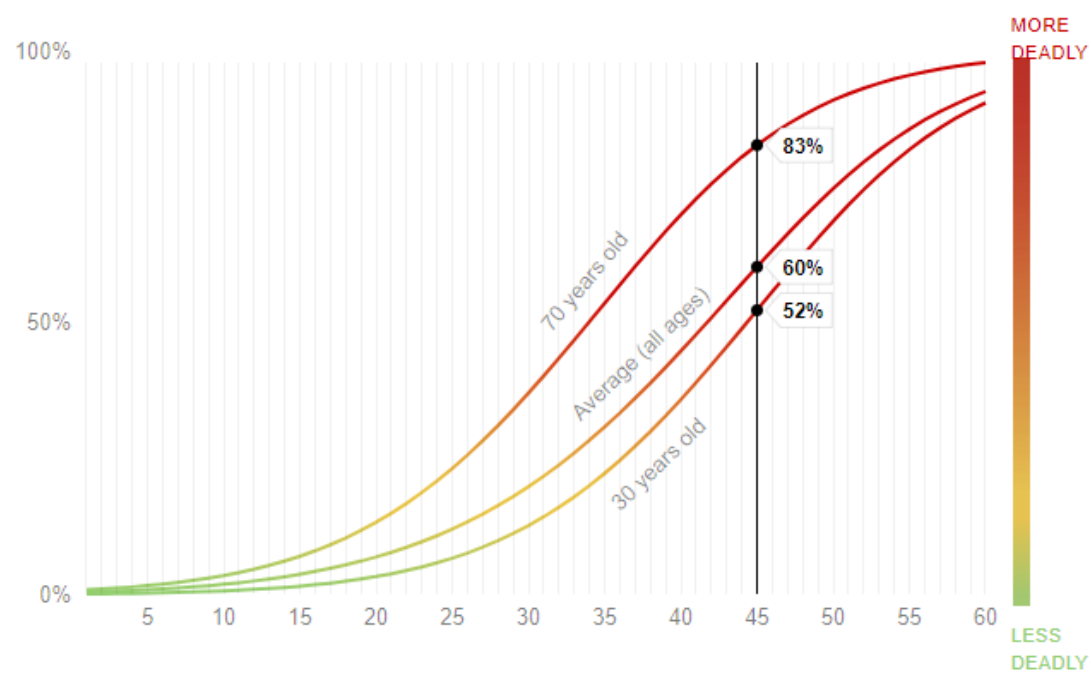
## The Chance of Being Killed by a Car Going 25 mph

Roll over the curved lines to see the risk at any speed



## The Chance of Being Killed by a Car Going 45 mph

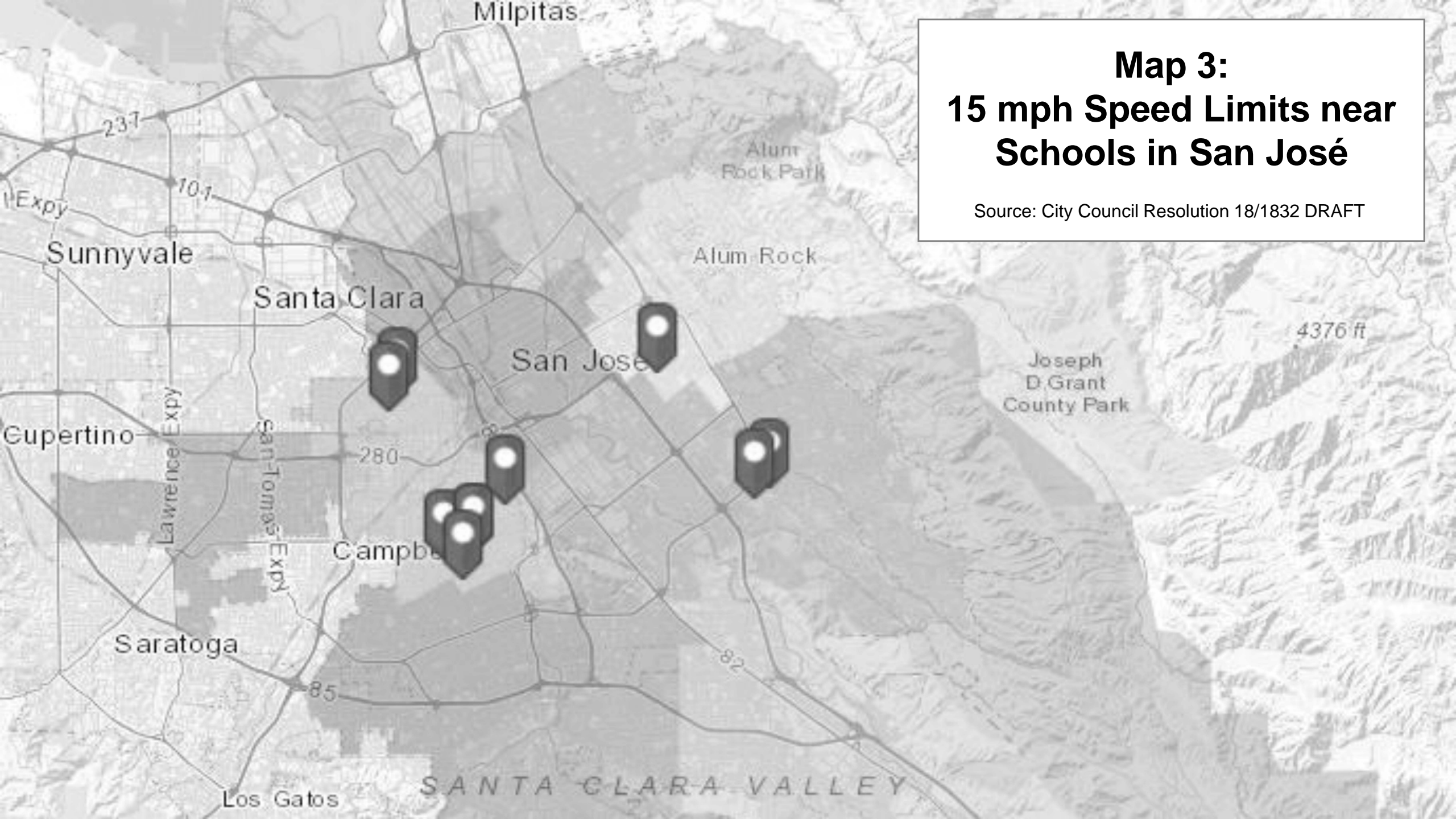
Roll over the curved lines to see the risk at any speed



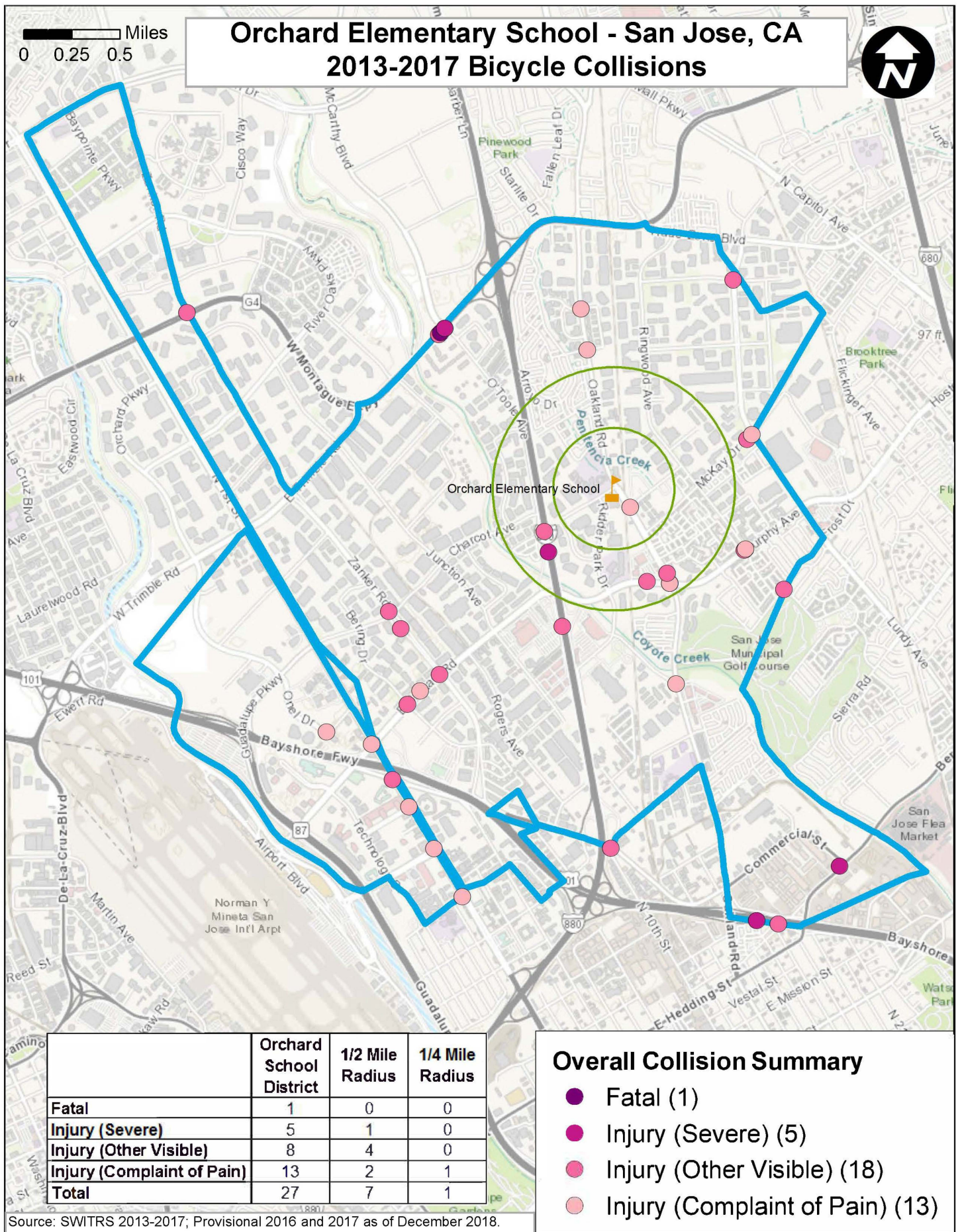
Source: <https://www.propublica.org/article/unsafe-at-many-speeds>

# Map 3: 15 mph Speed Limits near Schools in San José

Source: City Council Resolution 18/1832 DRAFT







**From:** Erin McCarthy < >  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 26, 2019 8:31 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** agenda item 2.11 date Jan. 29/2019

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and San Jose City Council members ,

Please let this letter reflect that the Orchard School Teachers Association is not in favor of your resolution to increase the speed limit near our school.

Your agenda item numbered 2.11 for the meeting dated January 29, 2019 aims to decrease traffic speed however, it partly raises the speed limit of Oakland Road that runs next to Orchard School

Many of our students walk Oakland Road every day, some of them ride their bikes. The intersection of Fox Lane and Oakland Road is a major pedestrian access point to the school and we are thankful that the City provides three crossing guards at this intersection to provide safe passage for our students. Raising the speed limit on northbound Oakland from currently 25 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour puts our students, parents, staff and crossing guards unnecessarily at risk.

We are also concerned that the city doesn't consider reducing the speed limit on southbound Oakland Road from currently 45 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour or less.

In the recent past we have had 3 traffic accidents on our campus. Vehicles that were going too fast on southbound Oakland Road lost control. Perhaps these cars were driving 45 miles per hour, or even faster.

Two years ago, your council was working towards and decreasing speed limits near schools to 15 miles per hour. Your argument was that cars driving 15 miles per hour would not kill a student should they hit them. Why is it that you would increase the speed limit to a deadly 40 or 45 miles per hour near a school? I urge you to consider the fact that our playground balls sometimes bounce onto Oakland Road. I urge you to amend this item to limit the speed to 25 miles per hour on Oakland Road as recommended for 4 lane roads near schools by the state of California. To quote the Department of Motor Vehicles "When driving within 500 to 1,000 feet of a school while children are outside or crossing the street, the speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise posted. Also, if the school grounds have no fence and children are out- side, never drive faster than 25 mph. Some school zones may have speed limits as low as 15 mph." Our students and our community deserve at least the protections that the state sets forward.

Sincerely,

Erin McCarthy

President, Orchard Teachers Association

**From:** jyotsnabala@gmail.com < >

**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2019 9:27 AM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Speed limit on Oakland Road City council 1/29

Dear Councilmember Diep,

On Tuesday the City Council discusses speed limits on Oakland Rd next to Orchard School (Item 2.11). I'm concerned that speed limits of 40mph and above are unsafe for children at the school or walking in the area. Also consider the age of the children in the school starts from 5yr old. Please advocate on our behalf for a speed limit of 25mph or lower within 1000 feet of the school.

Sincerely,

Banajyothsna Dandpat

**From:** Blake Whisenhunt < >

**Sent:** Saturday, January 26, 2019 5:25 PM

**To:** District9; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District 10; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; City Clerk; District1

**Subject:** San Jose Park Rangers

The last several years have been a violent year for all law enforcement, this includes park rangers, game wardens, and small town police and sheriff's offices.

For those in small towns and remote places, the impact was disturbing and disproportionate.

The very first officer killed in 2016 was ambushed in a tiny Ohio town where "nothing ever happens"; the most recent officer who died in California was murdered in the sleepy college town of Davis, CA. Folks there would say "I can't believe something like this happened in OUR town."

In between were dozens of other officers, broken and killed by risks seldom acknowledged by a public convinced that "nothing ever happens in [insert park name or small town here]."

The FBI released a report several years ago that National Park Service Rangers were the most assaulted of any Federal Law Enforcement. 5x more likely than an FBI Agent, DEA Agent, or any other Federal Officer. Are you aware how many times your San Jose Rangers have been in physical altercations with suspects while performing their duties?

Parks management and elected officials tend to talk a good talk about law and order, and 'backing the blue', ( green in our case). The harsh fact is that talk isn't support. Encouraging words and blue porch lights, while welcome and appreciated, don't provide equipment, training, or additional patrol positions.

Failure to do so is a decision in itself.

It is also a moral and ethical choice--the wrong one.

The real problem impeding these solutions isn't budget, it's will, which is even harder to overcome, in some ways, than figuring out funding streams or accessing training.

Asking city council and communities to help us address these risks requires everyone to admit publicly that their safe, quiet parks aren't really what they wish they were. It requires our management to admit that we do law enforcement, not only because it is what we are trained to do but because it is expected of us because PRNS asks us to. It requires our management to admit that we are highly vetted and extensively trained as Peace Officers for the City of San Jose.

We have been lied to and failed by our non-sworn, non-law enforcement management, and they've failed the people of this city as well. If there are hoops to jump through to arm us appropriate to the level of training we receive, just tell us when to jump and how high. We welcome regulation and oversight with open arms. I have myriad ways to create meaningful change, as we've shared with several of you. I have the President of the Park Ranger Association of California on speed dial for any Council person who wants ideas or guidance on how to create a safer, more effective Park Ranger agency. We are all eager to help and hungry for change.



I am here to tell you, that Peace Officer Park Rangers here in San Jose, as well as law enforcement officers in every place and at every level have worth and dignity, and deserve to be trained, equipped and staffed appropriately for the realities that they face.

Thank you,

Blake Whisenhunt

Peace Officer Park Ranger

City of San Jose

**From:** <>

**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2019 2:51 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Raising Speed on Old Oakland Road

Dear City Council,

As a teacher and parent, I implore you not to raise the speed limit on Old Oakland Road near Orchard school. You have raised it near Andrew Hill and it has been a problem and presents ongoing danger to students and community members.

I frequently drive in the Orchard School area as I live in Milpitas, but I shop and dine at many of the stores near Brokaw x Old Oakland. The speed limit is sufficient for an area with so many driveways that accommodate all ages and skills of drivers entering and exiting limited visibility driveways.

Please consider the health and welfare of our youngest citizens as they try to make their way across a busy road on their journey to and from school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wendy L. Stegeman

Teacher

Parent

Foster Parent

**From:** carmen guzman < >

**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2019 7:46 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Item 2.11

The item on the City Council agenda 2.11.

To whom it may concern,

I'm very concerned that a proposed increase in speed is on the agenda. Most students have to cross this road to get to school, and there have been three accidents in the last two years, with a reduced speed limit. Raising the four lanes' speed limit to 40, cannot be good for students and the school community. You are compromising the safety of children and this impedes on their access to school without stress of arriving safe. Please vote this item down and protect the children.

Maria Carmen Guzman

Sent from my iPhone