



Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488
www.westportmac.org

April 14, 2012

Ralph M. Martinelli
Chief, Traffic Safety Office
Department of Transportation - District 1
P.O. Box 3700
Eureka, CA 95502-3770

Re: Draft Engineering and Traffic Survey dated January 27, 2012 for MEN-1-PM 76.80/77.80

Dear Mr. Martinelli:

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council thanks you for sending Bob Kornman of your staff to present the results of the cited draft Engineering and Traffic Survey completed by Darron Hill. Mr. Kornman's presentation and responses to questions were very helpful. We acknowledge the data supports increasing the speed limit from 30 MPH to 35 MPH southbound through the village of Westport. While we understand the regulatory process controls how speed limits are set, community input consistently favors lower speeds around the town to ensure pedestrian safety. We would like to suggest ways to achieve traffic calming that we hope may be accommodated in this survey:

1. Replace 55 MPH regulatory sign northbound at PM 77.61 with one that reads "End 35 MPH Zone," moving it north of the fire station entrance (about PM 77.78). There are several sharp curves north of that, and we feel prudent drivers would not immediately accelerate to 55 MPH at the north end of town without the implied consent the current sign affords.
2. Place a new 55 MPH regulatory sign near PM 78.85 northbound of the curves.
3. Move the 35 MPH southbound sign from PM 77.61 to PM 77.76 and move the "35 MPH Ahead" sign from PM 77.76 to PM 78.0, before the curve approaching Pete's Beach.

Pedestrians from the village walk along the west edge of the highway to Pete's Beach on a regular basis and there is no available shoulder. Although we recognize advisory signs are dealt with separately from regulatory ones, it would be useful to relocate the "Pedestrians Ahead" sign from Pete's Beach to PM 78.0, coinciding with the suggested new location for the "35 MPH Ahead" sign there. Thank you for considering these suggestions as you work to finalize the survey.

Sincerely,

Thad Van Bueren, Chairperson

cc: Supervisor Kendall Smith
Darron Hill, P.E.
Bob Kornman, P.E.