

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Doug Monn, Director of Public Works
SUBJECT: Traffic Calming, Rolling Hills Road
DATE: August 21, 2007

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider a study of traffic calming options for Rolling Hills Road.

- FACTS:**
1. A petition was received dated January 8, 2007, from some residents in the immediate area of Rolling Hills Road. The petition states that traffic loads and speeds on Rolling Hills Road have a significant negative impact on their quality of life.
 2. Based upon a recent study of the intersection of Rolling Hills and Creston Roads, it is estimated that the average daily traffic on Rolling Hills Road is roughly 3,500 average daily trips (ADT).
 3. The posted speed limit of Rolling Hills Road is 35 miles per hour. The 2003 speed survey indicates the typical speed is 44 miles per hour.
 4. Twenty-nine citations were issued on Rolling Hills Road between last October and January. The relatively high citation rate is reflective of the enforcement effort in the area. Accident data on Rolling Hills Road is light and none is related to speed.
 5. The City Council adopted Traffic Calming policies describe a process for evaluation of requests for traffic calming measures. In accordance with this process, the City Council may authorize a study of traffic behavior and options for traffic calming.
 6. The City has \$20,000 available in gas tax funds dedicated to traffic calming in the fiscal year 07-08.
 7. At their meeting of July 13, the Streets and Utilities Committee recommended that the Council authorize a traffic calming study for Rolling Hills Road and that “bots” dots be placed as an interim measure.
 8. We have received two proposals from qualified traffic engineers to perform studies of traffic calming options for Rolling Hills Road.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: Rolling Hills Road functions as a collector street. It is a key connection between Union Road and Creston Road. Rolling Hills Road was originally established as Golden Hill Road, a county road that pre-dates the mapping of the Orchard Bungalow Tract (1920). Given its history, most of Rolling Hills Road was developed largely to rural road standards.

Accident history on Rolling Hills Road is very limited (six minor collisions between January, 2005, and April, 2007). By comparison, there were 66 collisions in the same stretch of Golden Hill Road during the same time period.

In accordance with adopted traffic calming policies, the City Council may authorize a study of traffic calming options for Rolling Hills Road. The study would include neighborhood meetings.

Options for traffic calming will include those as listed in the Council adopted traffic calming program including; traffic circles, mid-block chokers, medians, and chicanes. Increased enforcement is another option, which may involve video monitoring.

Traffic volume reduction measures would also be included in the study. These measures must be considered in the context of City-wide circulation patterns, resulting impacts on other streets and emergency response times.

While all of the above are needed to address traffic behavior issues on Rolling Hills Road, a more comprehensive road design effort is needed; similar to the on-going efforts in progress on Union Road, River Road and Vine Street.

Interim measures, such as stop signs, are not appropriate tools to address traffic calming. Stop signs are used for access control. Stop signs, installed without traffic counts and supporting warrants; increase driver frustration; increase speeds between intersections; increases driver's disrespect for all controls; increase accidents; and significantly increase the City's exposure to liability for damage and injuries resulting from accidents.

As an interim measure, the Streets and Utilities Committee recommended that "bots" dots be placed at two locations on Rolling Hills Road. Noise from these installations must be considered. A similar treatment was placed on Country Club Drive and subsequently removed.

Options for funding a study of Rolling Hills Road are limited to \$20,000 in gas tax funds in the fiscal year 07-08. Issues relating to Rolling Hills Road have to be weighed against other pending neighborhood traffic issues and road improvement interests City-wide.

Highways 101-46E; 101-46W; River Road, Union Road, Creston Road, South Vine Street and Theatre Drive are examples of high priority projects. Transportation funds are committed years in advance to these projects and only partially cover their cost.

POLICY

REFERENCE: Traffic Calming Program

FISCAL

IMPACT: The estimated cost of conducting a study of traffic calming options for Rolling Hills Road is \$25,000. The estimated cost of a comprehensive road design and plan is another \$50,000.

- OPTIONS:**
- a. City Council to authorize a traffic calming study for Rolling Hills Road from the City's gas tax funds not to exceed \$20,000.
 - b. City Council to add the Rolling Hills traffic calming study request to the list of road improvement projects for consideration in future budgets.
 - c. City Council to authorize staff to seek proposals for the design of a conceptual plan line for Rolling Hills Road.
 - d. Amend, modify or reject the above option.

Prepared by: John Falkenstien, City Engineer

Attachments (3):

- 1) Letter from Bob and Lenore Spielman
- 2) Letter from Lenore Mavleos
- 3) Neighborhood petition

From: Bob and Lenore Spielman [mailto:mavspiel@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2006 5:12 PM
To: Robert Burton
Cc: PDchief
Subject: Speeding Along Rolling Hills Road

Lt Burton,

Thank you for the prompt response regarding the increasing speeding issues on Rolling Hills Road.

Problem Statement:

People are speeding (well over the limit 45-60 mph in a 35 mph zone) and driving recklessly along Rolling Hills Road, especially during morning and evening rush hour. This is a residential area with children walking to schools and other pedestrians present; I see this as an unacceptable safety issue and an accident, just waiting to happen.

Background Information:

As we've discussed several times in phone conversations over the past 3 months, the excessive speeding and reckless driving tendencies have been increasing, despite numerous traffic control measures attempts employed by Officer Hackett.

We moved into the area last November and immediately noticed that the speed and traffic density for Rolling Hills Road, as a residential street, were excessive. People seem to use Rolling Hills as a shortcut to/from Creston Road to avoid the traffic signal at Golden Hills/Creston.

We associate the most recent excesses with the closure of Union Road as even more traffic has overflowed onto Rolling Hills and people are driving even faster.

Possible Actions:

I'm not a traffic engineer, but possible solutions to slow folks down might include:

- stop signs at Vista Grande Drive and/or Salida Del Sol (permanent solution) Additional traffic and children expected when Del Oro subdivision is complete.
- automatic speed cameras (they would relieve police officers of monitoring manpower and offer revenue for the City)
- speed monitors to warn motorists of their excess speed (short term fix)
- volunteers with radar guns to monitor motorists during rush hours
- more patrols (only works for short time)

Again, I really appreciate your efforts and fully realize that your department is overloaded with similar requests. It seems like the police action is after the fact, while permanent traffic fixes through good design would relieve the police department of some of the burden.

Please let me know how I can help your organization with similar issues. Again, I'm retired military and have time to give back to my community and I'd be more than willing to help in any way I can.

Regards,

Bob Spielman

805-227-6044

-----Original Message-----

From: L Mavleos [mailto:lmavleos@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2007 9:10 PM
To: Council; Jim App; Frank Mecham; John Falkinstien
Subject: Traffic Problems on Rolling Hills Road

Dear Mr. Falkinstien, Mayor Mecham, Mr. App, and City Council Members,

I know that you are aware of neighbors', some 40+ on a signed petition, complaints about the traffic on Rolling Hills Road. This letter is to add specifics from one more citizen.

RHR has 3 traffic issues that are really disturbing to homeowners and pedestrians in the area.

1. The volume
2. The use of RHR by heavy big vehicles, some with trailers
3. The brazen speeding

Each of these factors has increased in the past 6-9 months. Whatever the reason, it appears to be here to stay. The police have set up speed traps intermittently, but that's only as good as their continued presence. The speed monitor caused people to slow down while it was there, but then someone threw a rock at it and broke it. The heavy vehicles and brazen speeding can go on at any time of the day or night. The increased volume raises the incidence of the speeding and heavy vehicles. Sometimes, and sometimes often, we have all 3 going on at once.

I have read several traffic calming resources on the web, including the Federal Highway Administration's 1999 seminar materials as well as the procedure for Paso. After observing this for almost a year, it's my view that we are now in need of permanent controls--not police surveillance, not a speed monitor, but engineering changes--to change driver behavior. Creston Road has the same speed limit as RHR, but you don't see reckless speeding on Creston. This is because the traffic lights remind drivers to control their speed. Nickerson has speed bumps and stop signs. Changes like these are what we need on RHR.

What's more, RHR is adjacent to the planned Chandler Ranch development site. There's no traffic plan on the web for this project. I'm very concerned that our neighborhood will turn into Rolling Hills-by-the-freeway when all those new homeowners (1400 houses X 2 cars per house?) speed their way down an uncontrolled short cut to Creston.

Can you please tell us when you are going to institute effective traffic calming controls on RHR?

Respectfully and with good faith

Lenore Mavleos

Citizen Petition

Date 11/08/2007

In accordance with City of Paso Robles procedures for traffic calming measures, the undersigned hereby request that the City Council and staff correct the unacceptable motor vehicle behavior as described in the Problem Statement below:

Problem Statement: The traffic load and speeding on Rolling Hills Road is causing a significant public safety issue and has significant negative impact on the quality of life for surrounding residents

Current Situation:

The number of vehicles and the speed that they travel on Rolling Hills Road has increased significantly over the past 12 months. People are driving, on average 55-60 mph, which is well over 20-25 mph above the posted 35 mph speed limit (see attached traffic surveys).

Rolling Hills is now carrying as many as 350 vehicles per hour, including delivery and service trucks and trailers, horse trailers, and even 18 wheelers at times. This volume is currently at the year 2025 expected capacity!

Rolling Hills has also become a high-speed shortcut for through traffic between Creston and Golden Hills Road. This has significantly deteriorated the quality of life normally expected in a residential area.

Pedestrians, including school children, exercisers, and parents with baby strollers, and dog walkers are all impacted by this negative behavior. All residents are impacted and are at risk by the increased objectionable noise, similar at some times to a freeway service road, and also the safety issues presented when merging on and off it.

Summary: In summary, the current situation is an unacceptable public safety hazard, as well as a significant negative impact on the quality of life for those who live adjacent to it.

Request: As residents of neighborhoods adjacent to Rolling Hills Road, we insist that the City take swift actions and use all sensible and appropriate traffic calming techniques to correct driver behavior and to restrict Rolling Hills to appropriate use of this road as a 35 mph residential arterial collector road. Corrective action should also include consideration of the following:

- Proper detouring routes during the Union Rd surfacing and other future projects.
- Weight restrictions of vehicles
- Three way stop signs at Vista Grand and Vista Del Sol.

Name	Address	Email/phone
1. Daniele Nowak	825 Hacienda Circle	daniele@TAMS.com
2. Keith Williams	834 Hacienda Circle	Keithwill@charter.net
3. Lisa Schick Keiser	835 Hacienda Circle	l50329_schick@2
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8. Carol A. Starwood	845 Hacienda Cir	712-2004
9. David Johnson	851 Hacienda Cir	227-4160
10. Jeani Spears	847 Hacienda Cir	239-2876
11. Wendy Jones	849 Hacienda Circle	550-1304
12. M. A. B. Wood	853 Hacienda Circle	239-9539
13. Ron La Costa	800 Hacienda cr	235-6136
14. Chuck Hall	802 HACIENDA CR	237-1574
15. KEVIN TAYLOR	806 HACIENDA CR	kjtaylor@charter
16. Devin Martin	810 Hacienda Cir	239-9156
17. Bob Spiselman	819 Hacienda Cir	227-6044
18. Mike Turquist	416 Hacienda Cir	726-9030
19. JOHN Tackley	828 Hacienda Cir	237-0986
20. BONNY HOEHE	817 HACIENDA CIRCLE	441-6400
21. Brandon Jenkins	829 Hacienda Circle	226-0984
22. THOMAS HARNE	823 HACIENDA ROAD	237-9544
23. CARL MACRE	830 HACIENDA CIRCLE	226-0554
24. DONNA TAYLOR	842 HACIENDA CIRCLE	239-4155
25. BONNIE SIDWELL	805 HACIENDA CIRCLE	201-2795
26. SWA ZUMARIN	723 Rolling Hills	239-2911
27. TIK	4930 Summit Dr	461-6400
28. Amy Baker	1522 Park St. Rolling	712-9629
29. Kena Wisniewski	1495 Riverbank	286-8850
30. Dave Bolobay	801 Rolling Hills	237-7704
31. Joe Raychel	809 Rolling Hills	237-9397
32. Linda Camp	819 Rolling Hills Rd	238-9102
33. Patricia Ruiz	819 Rolling Hills Rd	235-7933
34. Lynn	2070a Parkway Dr	237-7977
35. Lynn	7601 Summit Dr	227-6755
36. Jim DAVIS	1303 CROWN WAY	237-2896
37. Christine	1309 Crown Way	238-3035
38. As Bluff	1311 Crown Way	237-0292
39. TOM SKEWEL	1312 CROWN WAY	226-9920
40. Rinnells	778 Vista Cerro Dr.	237-8447
41. JEANETTE SILVER	769 VISTA CERRO	800-8179
42. ANTHONY VARRIA	975 VISTA CERRO DR.	805-237-1551
43. SHEYL CAVE	983 VISTA CERRO DR.	805-226-2900