

BAYVIEW HEIGHTS TRAFFIC CALMING & PUBLIC SAFETY DISCUSSION

City Council Study Session
October 14th, 2025



CITY OF
NEWPORT BEACH

BAYVIEW HEIGHTS TRAFFIC CALMING & PUBLIC SAFETY

- At October 2024 District 3 Townhall Meeting, several residents requested speed cushions and/or street closure in Bayview Heights
 - speed cushions on Orchid St, Spruce Ave, & Bayview Ave
 - street closure of Spruce Avenue at Zenith Avenue
- Residents advised speed & traffic volume data do not support speed cushions or street closure per City Council Traffic Management Policy L-26
- Residents requested to proceed with petition process and City Council Policy Waiver
- Residents informed Spruce Avenue closure not supported by Traffic Engineering and presents concerns for emergency services

BAYVIEW HEIGHTS STUDY AREA



BAYVIEW HEIGHTS TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS & CALMING HISTORY

With the area annexation, the City inherited the Santa Ana Height Specific Plan (MC 20.90.190) traffic improvements

Specific Plan Identifies Eight Circulation Improvement Features

- ✓ Improvement 1 - traffic signal at Irvine Avenue and Orchard Drive (Completed)
- ✓ Improvement 2 - traffic signal at Mesa Drive and Santa Ana Avenue (Completed)
- ✓ Improvement 3 - cul-de-sac at Cypress Street south of south Bristol Street (Completed)
- ✓ Improvement 4 - monitor traffic volume in the Bayview Tract (Satisfied)
- ✓ Improvement 5 - realigning of intersection at Mesa Drive and Acacia Street (Completed)
- ✓ Improvement 6 - cul-de-sac on Orchard Drive, east of Santa Ana Avenue (Completed)
- ✓ Improvement 7 - realignment of Birch Street south of Bristol Street (Completed)
- ✓ Improvement 8 - additional ROW and pavement width on various streets (Completed)

CITY COUNCIL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT POLICY (L-26)

Level 1: Education & Enforcement Tools

- Tools include enforcement, signing, minor striping, speed trailer, and outreach

Level 2: Speed Cushion

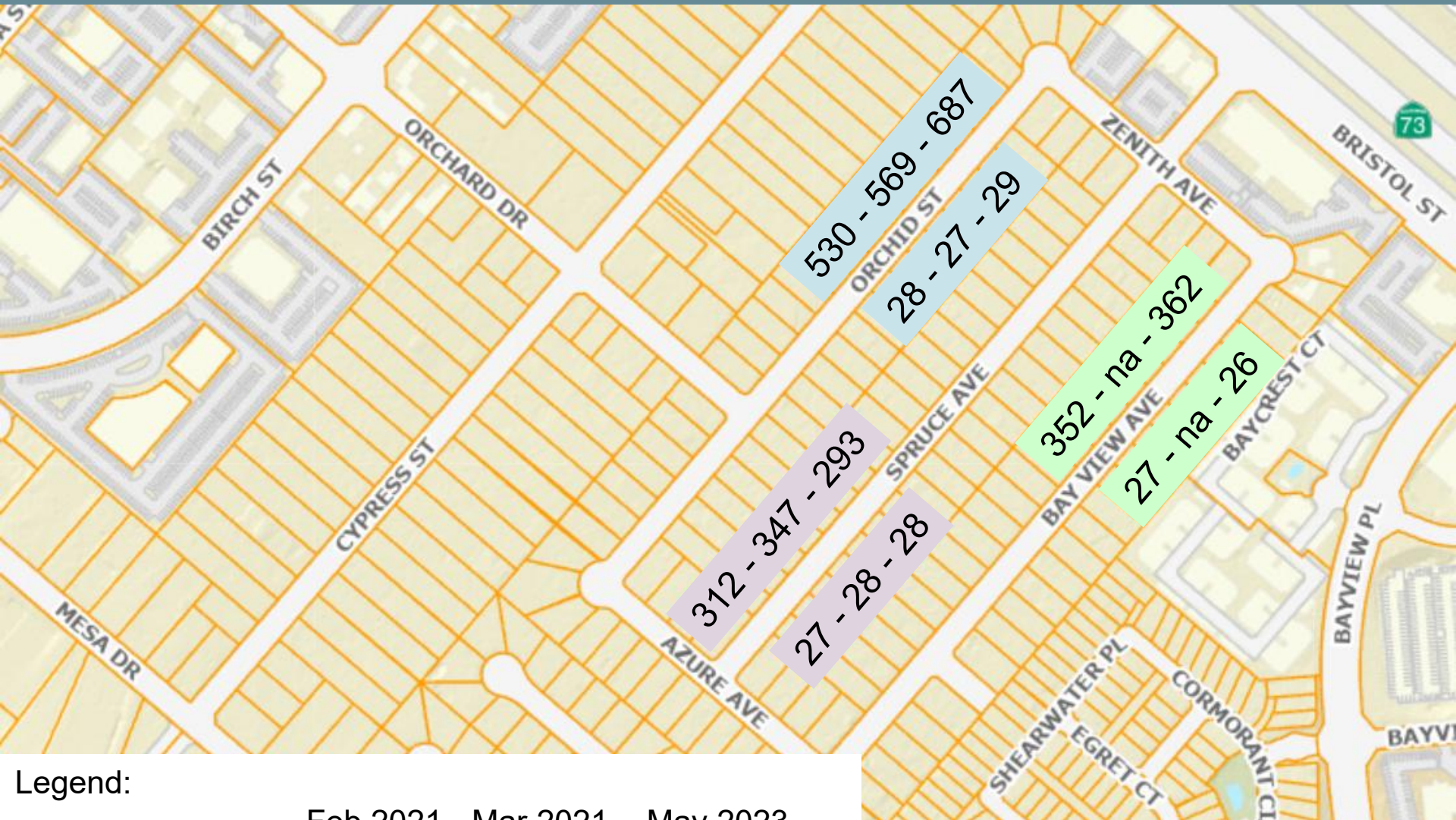
- Street segment should be minimum 800-FT in length
- Traffic volume should be between 500 and 4000 vehicles per day
- 32 MPH or more (*85 percentile speed*) on a posted 25 MPH street

Level 3: Street Closure (*Level 3 Traffic Calming*)

- Intention to remove excessive cut-through traffic volume
- Street segment should be a minimum 800-FT in length
- Traffic volume on street greater than 4000 vehicles per day
- Meets Level 1 and 2 criteria.

Note - 70% plus of all properties within study area must support any Level 2 or 3 traffic calming measure(s) to implement

TRAFFIC DATA



Legend:

Feb 2021 - Mar 2021 - May 2023

ADT Counts: XXX - XXX - XXX

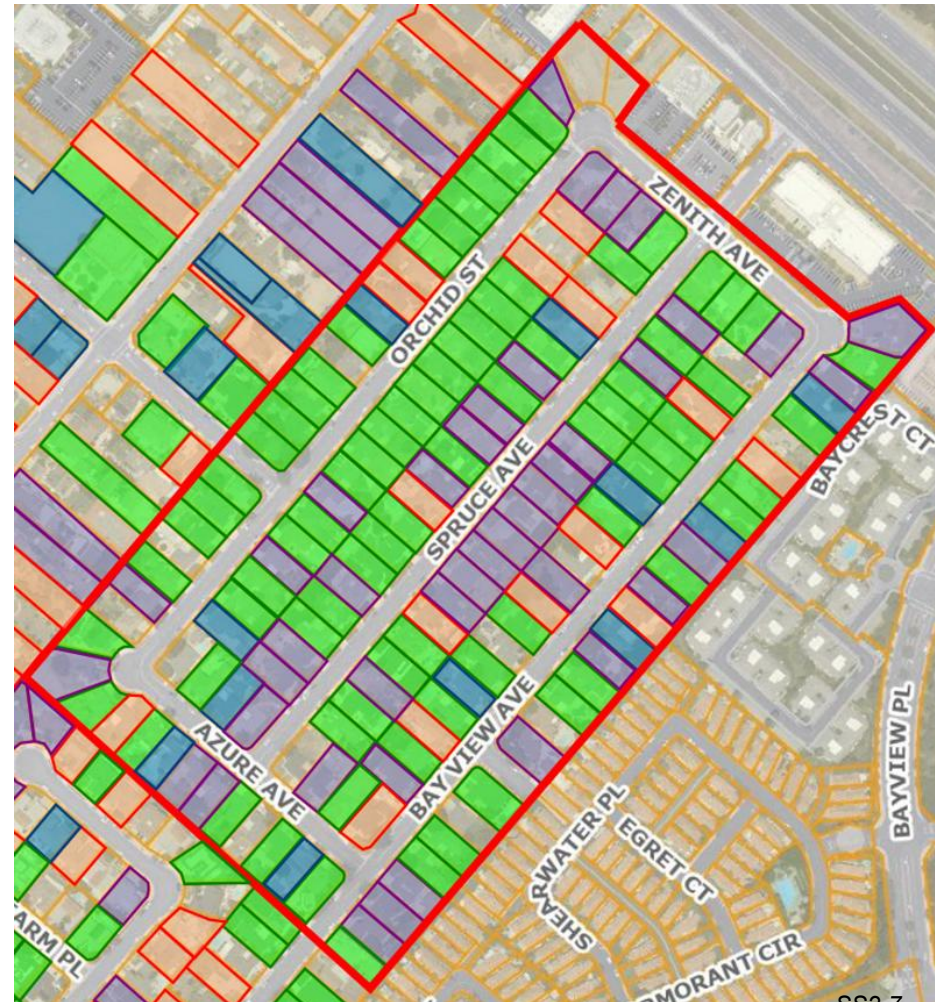
85th% Speeds (mph): XX - XX - XX

PETITION RESPONSE – SPEED CUSHIONS (SUBSECTION STUDY AREA)

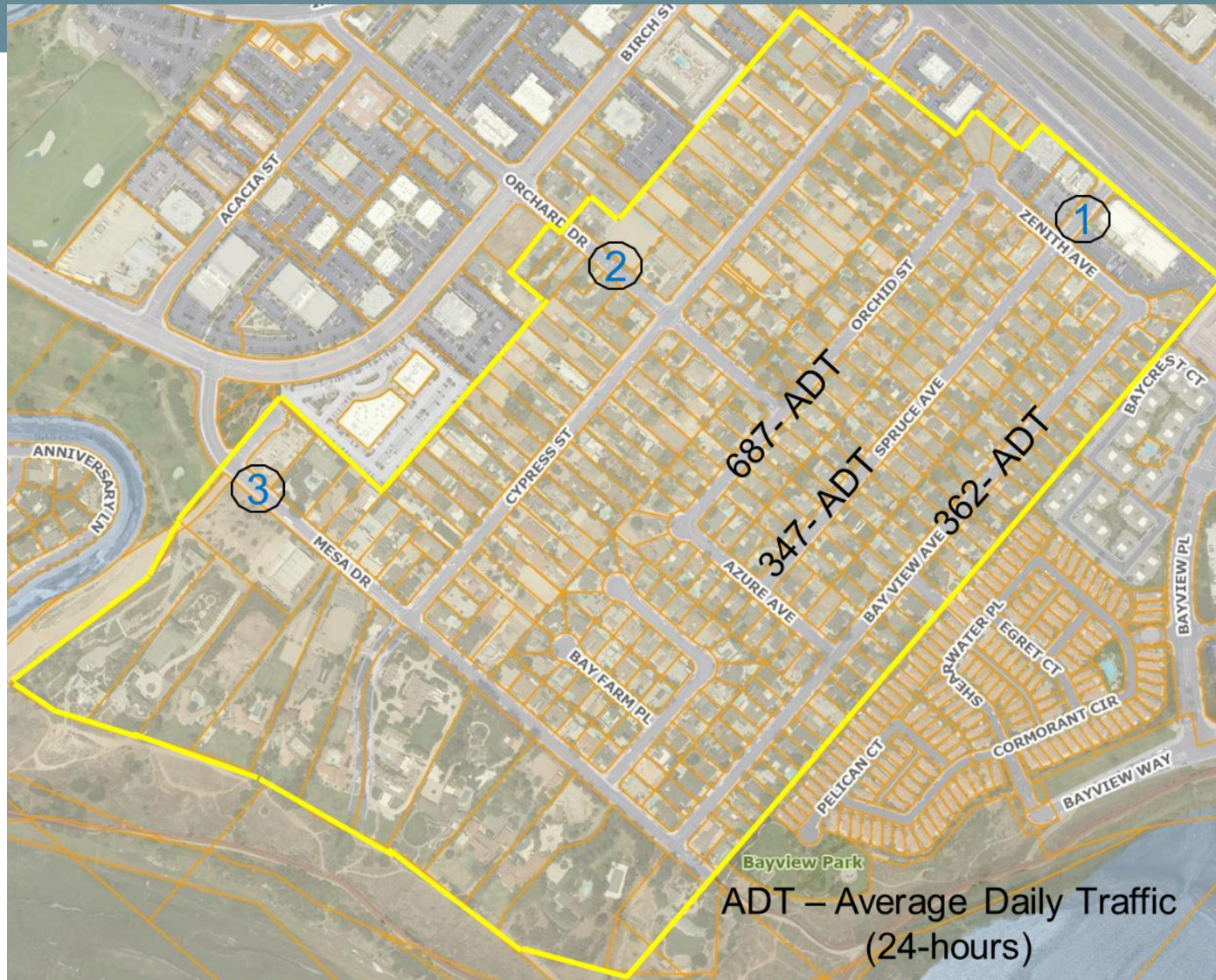
Yes to both (Speed Cushions & Spruce Closure): ■
 No to both (Speed Cushions & Spruce Closure): ■
 Yes to Speed Cushions: ■
 Yes to Spruce Closure: ■

SUBSECTION AREA	
# OF PROPERTIES	164
# OF RESPONSES	147 (91%)
YES TO SPEED CUSHIONS	90 (55%)
NO SPEED CUSHIONS, NO RESPONSE	74 (45%)

SPEED CUSHIONS TRAFFIC CALMING CRITERIA RESULT	
800 FT Street Segment	Yes
85 TH percentile speed met	No
Volume (ADT) 500 to 4000	Only Orchid St.
70% or greater support	No
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT POLICY NOT MET	



CURRENT BAYVIEW HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD CIRCULATION



PETITION RESPONSE – SPRUCE CLOSURE (ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD)

NEIGHBORHOOD (ALL)

# OF PROPERTIES	315
# OF RESPONSES	260 (84%)
YES TO SPRUCE CLOSURE	187 (59%)
NO SPRUCE CLOSURE, NO RESPONSE	128 (41%)

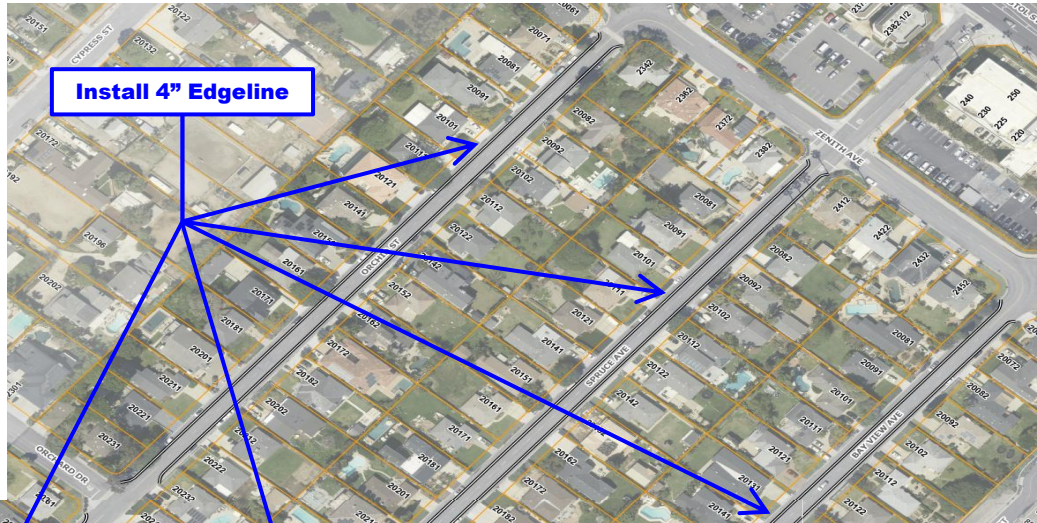
SPRUCE CLOSURE TRAFFIC CALMING CRITERIA

85 TH percentile speed met	No
Volume (ADT) > 4000	No
70% or greater support	No

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT POLICY NOT MET



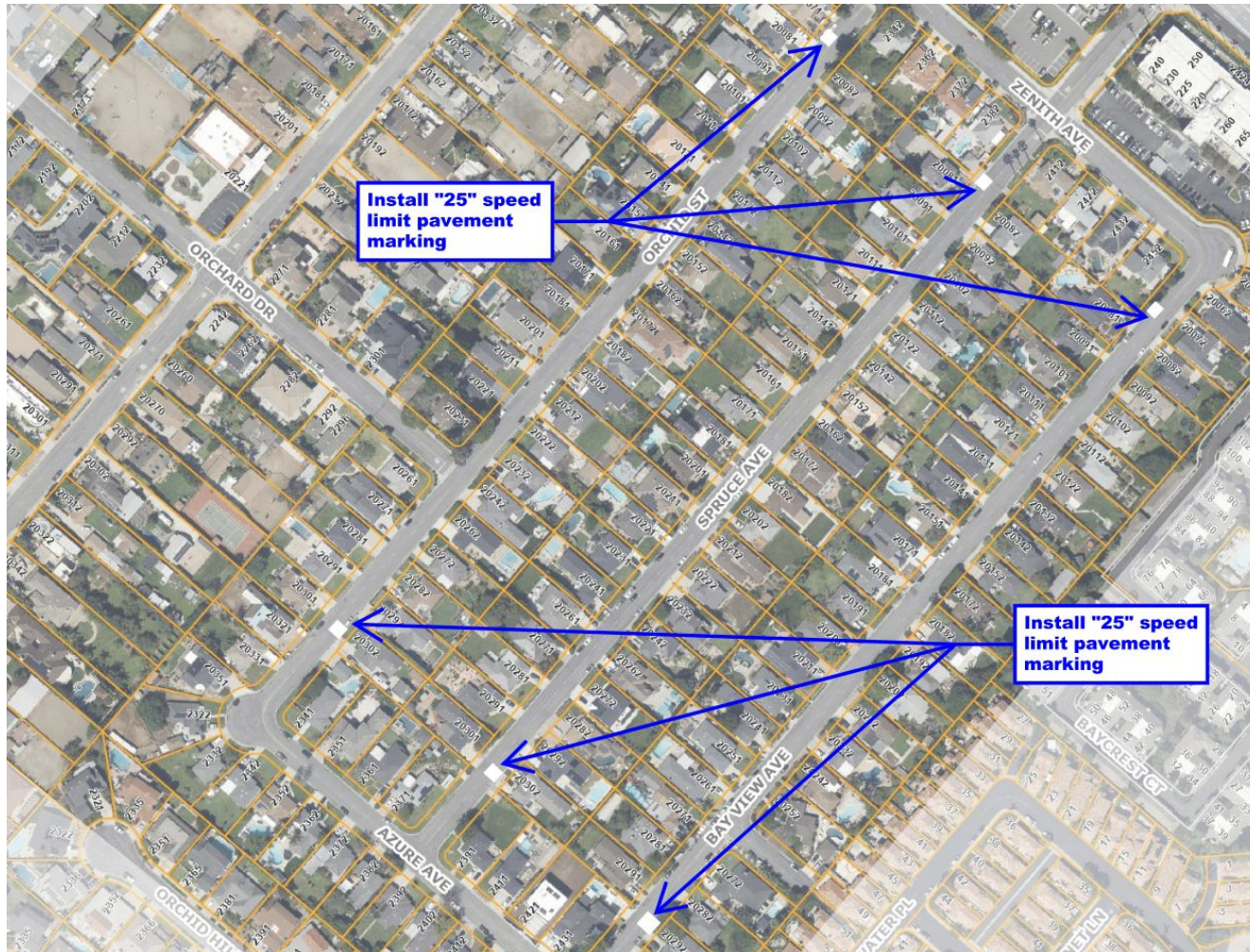
LEVEL 1 – Option One EDGELINES



Example of
Edgelines



LEVEL 1 – Option Two SPEED LIMIT PAVEMENT MARKINGS



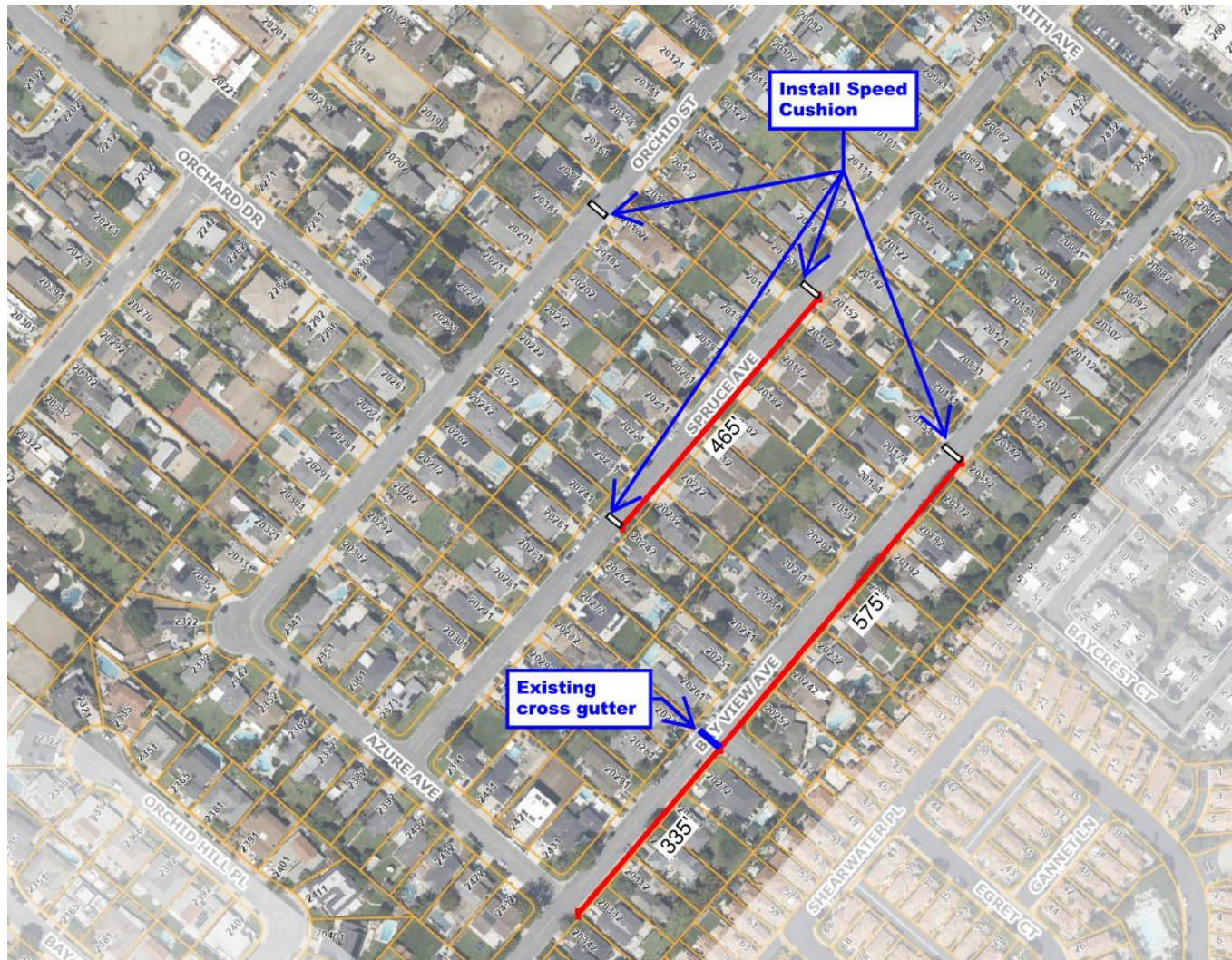
Example of
Markings



LEVEL 2 – Option One

INSTALL SPEED CUSHIONS

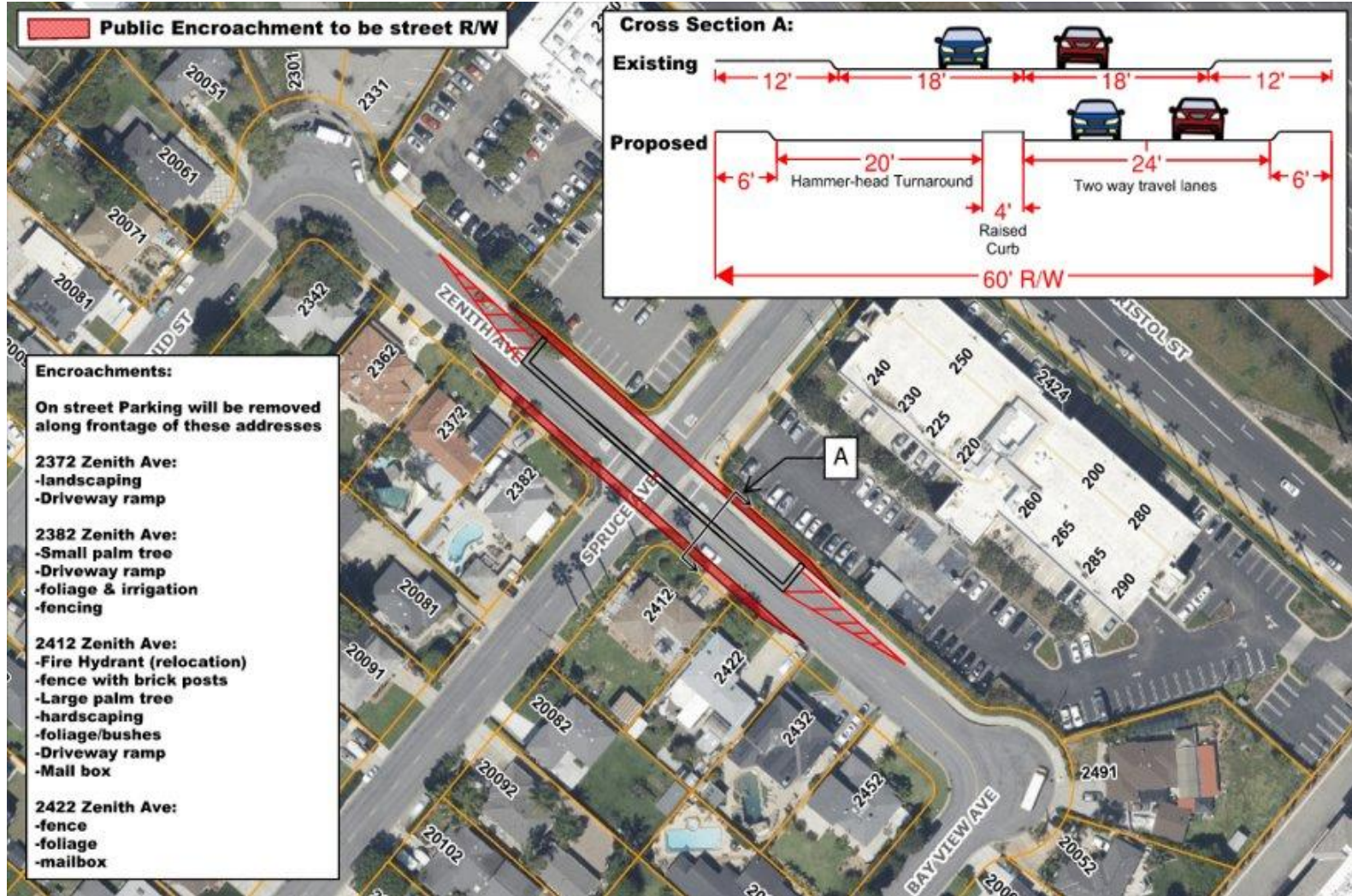
COUNCIL POLICY WAIVER REQUIRED



LEVEL 3 – Option Two

CLOSE OFF SPRUCE TO THROUGH TRAFFIC WITH HAMMER HEAD TURNAROUND

COUNCIL POLICY WAIVER REQUIRED



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT COUNCIL POLICY SUMMARY

- Traffic data collection **does not meet** City Council Traffic Management Policy (L-26) for Level 2 or 3 for either speed cushions or street closure
- Petition results **did not reach the 70% threshold** support needed.

SPEED CUSHION POLICY CRITERIA RESULT

800-FT Street Segment	✓
85 TH percentile speed met (32+)	X
Volume (ADT) 500 to 4000	Only Orchid St.
70% or greater support	X
<i>Traffic Calming Policy Not Satisfied</i>	

SPRUCE CLOSURE POLICY CRITERIA RESULT

85 TH percentile speed met (32+)	X
Volume (ADT) > 4000	X
70% or greater support	X
<i>Traffic Calming Policy Not Satisfied</i>	

PUBLIC SAFETY REVIEW

Resident also raised concerns about increased neighborhood crime

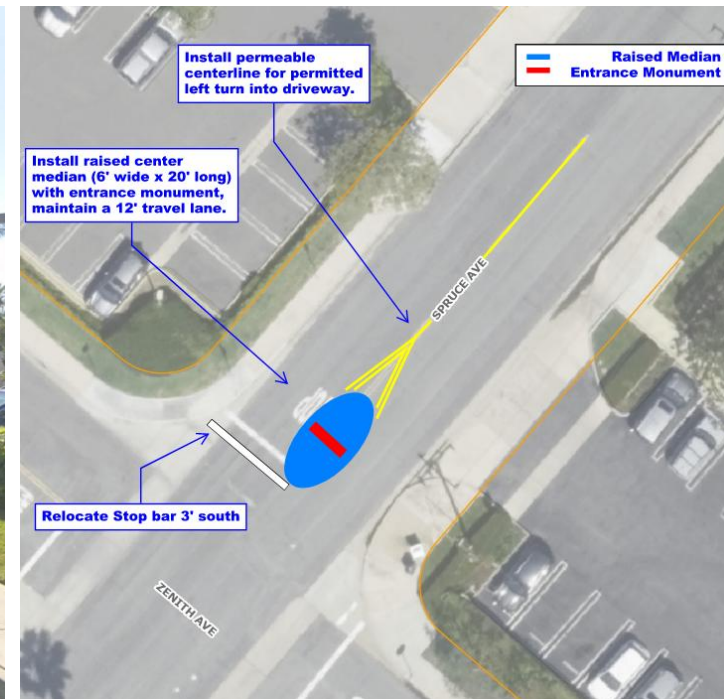
Police Department Review

- Crime and Public Safety Data
- City Flock Camera Program
- Street Closure would possibly delay response time

Fire Department Review

- Street Closure would delay possible future east bound medical delivery

NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY: RAISED CENTER MEDIAN AT SPRUCE/ZENITH



NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY: RAISED TRAFFIC CIRCLE AT SPRUCE/ZENITH



In Summary

- Staff is supportive of additional Level 1 traffic calming elements such as Edge Striping and additional Speed Legends if desired by the community.
- Staff does not recommend adding speed cushions as we do not believe they will decrease overall traffic speeds, but will add inconvenience, noise and more signage into the neighborhood.
- Staff does not recommend closing off Spruce Avenue access as it will impede overall tract circulation, cause circulation and property impacts to adjacent commercial properties, and potentially have negative effects on public safety response.



Comments / Questions

Your Public Works Department

Protecting and Providing Quality

Public Improvements and Services

NEWPORTBEACHCA.GOV/PUBLICWORKS