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Reduced Speed Limits Start School Year

Slow for Students campaign aims to increase safety around local schools

San Mateo, CA – Kids are heading back to school this week and the City of San Mateo has new reduced speed limits near 13 public elementary and middle schools as a way to improve safety for some our most vulnerable community members.

Speed limits around these schools are being reduced to 15 or 25 miles per hour to create a safer place for students and caregivers walking and biking near schools. Lowering vehicle speeds in school zones when children are present helps reduce the risk of severe or fatal collisions between drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians. It can also encourage more students and families to walk or bike to school.

“As my children and yours return to school this week, I’m excited to share our City’s progress to reduce speed limits near schools. We all play a part in keeping our streets safe whether we walk, bike, or drive in San Mateo,” said San Mateo City Mayor Amourence Lee. “This effort is part of a comprehensive approach to achieve Vision Zero and eliminate road fatalities in our City.”

The California Vehicle Code governs how speed limits are established and grants local jurisdictions the authority to establish certain speed limits on qualified streets within 500 to 1000 feet near schools. The Council approved the work earlier this year and is now being completed in phases with Phase 1 focused on public middle and elementary schools. Next, Phase 2 will address private elementary and middle schools, and then Phase 3 will focus on local high schools (public and private) in the City of San Mateo. The plan is for Phase 3 to be constructed during the school year for a total of 38 roadway segments contiguous to 23 schools.

Motorists are required to abide by the new posted speed limit when children are present. A map is available on the City of San Mateo website showing where new reduced speeds are posted at: www.cityofsanmateo.org/slowforstudents.

Learn more about the City’s other roadway safety initiatives at www.cityofsanmateo.org/roadwaysafety.

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School Zone Speed Limit Phase 1 Location Map

