



# The Greenbelt

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## ROAD UPDATES

News and commentary by Cynthia Suverkrop

### Inside the Hood

Our Oak Hills neighborhood may finally be getting some help fighting speed problems along Charter Oak Boulevard. The Monterey County Public Works Department is in the process of moving forward in purchasing a radar speed reading machine to be permanently placed along the main street of Oak Hills. Radar speed reading technology has been shown to be a highly effective tool in reducing driving speeds in problem areas.

This machine will be solar powered and will have the capability of being programmed to gather information about the cars that pass within its response field. For example, it will be able to record how many cars pass per day, per hour and at what speeds they are travelling. With this data, the county will be able to make more informed decisions on whether the current speed limit is adequate, too low, too high, or if some other measures need to be explored in order to keep the road safe for all. Barring any unforeseen problems, the machine will be installed before the next school year.

I first proposed the radar speed idea to the county in 2012, where it was positively received. However it languished at the county level for various reasons, despite my periodic inquiries into its progress. Most recently, I sought out the help of Supervisor John Philips and his aid Josh Stratton. They have both been very helpful in getting the Department of Public Works to put the proposal back on the "to do list."

### Outside the Hood

#### Not so fast with that Toll Road

---We'd like some more facts, please

The people of the North Monterey County have been heard, or that's what it seems like. For more than two years, ever since the very first mention of a four lane toll road being built to the south of the current 156, locals have been singing the same tune.

"We're worried about diversionary traffic and its effects on local roads" and

"We don't think locals should have to pay for a toll road. "

Well, someone is listening. The SR 156 Ad Hoc Committee has gotten TAMC to take its foot off the gas on the toll road project. Instead, they asked for and got a one year stall on the project for the purpose of completing a much needed study to investigate some of the key concerns raised by locals over the toll road.

Dubbed as a Level 2 Traffic and Revenue Study, the investigation will begin this summer and will take a year to complete. They will collect traffic data along Highway 156, look at a range of possible diversionary routes, toll rates, and toll discounts for locals. After the study is complete, and the data has been analyzed, TAMC will then have to decide on how to proceed.

The AD HOC Committee is headed by District 2 Supervisor Philips and includes representatives from the cities and communities of Monterey, Salinas, Carmel, Oak Hills, Prunedale and Castroville.

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