

# Speed Limits and Speed Study Requests

December 9, 2020

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PBAC // Purpose and Objectives

## Purpose and Objectives

- Definitions
- Past vs. Present
- How are speeds set?
- Misconceptions
- Speed Zone Process
- When should it be done?
- FAQ's
- Questions



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PBAC // Purpose and Objectives

## A LOT of Definitions

- Statutory Speed Limits
- Posted Speed Limits
- Special Conditions Speed Limits
- The Basic Rule
- Design Speed
- Operating Speed
- 85th percentile speed
- 50th percentile speed



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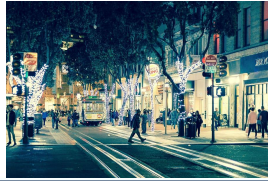
## PAST

- Roads were built to move motor vehicles quickly
- Mobility was the highest value - get there faster



## Present

- Many different users
- Local road authorities are desiring to slow speeds to meet community values
- Equitable communities



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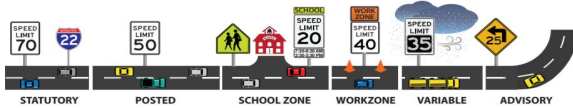
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## How are speeds set in Oregon?

Some by state statute (Statutory Speed Limits)

- 15 mph Alleys or Narrow residential roadways (less than 18' wide)
- 20 mph Business district, school zones and on some residential roads.
- 25 mph Residential districts, public parks and ocean shores
- 55 mph Rural highways (and not posted elsewhere)
- 60 mph trucks on most interstates and some rural highways (65 mph on some interstates and rural highways)
- 65 mph Passenger vehicles, light trucks on interstate highways (70 mph on some Interstates)



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## How are speeds set in Oregon?

Some by local agencies (Cities, Counties)



Set Emergency and Temporary Speed Zones



Local and road authorities can set speeds on low volume local roads



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## How are speeds set in Oregon?

Some by designating speeds

15 MPH - 25 MPH

Need Investigation  
to determine

55 MPH - 70 MPH



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## Misconceptions

- The Federal Government does NOT set or enforce speed limits; this authority belongs to the State and local agencies that have jurisdiction over the road.
- The 85th percentile speed is not the only factor practitioners evaluate when determining an appropriate speed limit; they complete engineering speed studies and also look at the 50th percentile speed.
- Simply lowering the speed limit does not guarantee motorists will drive slower; speed management countermeasures may have to be implemented along the roadway



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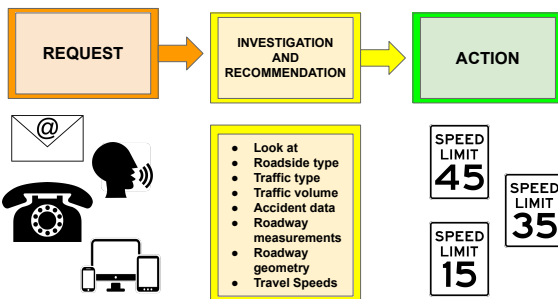
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Whereas, pursuant to ORS 810.180, the Oregon Department of Transportation has been requested to establish designated speed(s) for the below described section(s) of state, county, city or federal agency highway as defined by ORS 801.300, and

Whereas, the State Traffic-Roadway Engineer has been authorized to act on behalf of the Oregon Transportation Commission in matters regarding speed, and

Whereas, pursuant to ORS 810.180, an engineering and traffic investigation has been made, the data, facts, and information obtained in connection with said engineering and traffic investigation are on file in the office of the State Traffic-Roadway Engineer at the Oregon Department of Transportation in Salem,

Whereas, based upon said engineering and traffic investigation, the Traffic-Roadway Engineer has found that the speed designated in ORS 811.105 or ORS 811.111 is greater than is reasonable under the conditions found to exist upon the section(s) of highway for which a lesser speed is hereby designated or that the speed designated in said statute is less than is reasonable under the conditions found to exist upon the section(s) of highway for which a greater speed is herein designated; and

Whereas, the provisions of ORS 810.180 respecting notice and hearing have been complied with:

It is Therefore Ordered that the designated speed for the following section(s) of highway be as follows:

Name SE 174th Avenue 1 SE Jennie Road

LOCATION OF TERMINI		Designated Speed (m.p.h.)
From	To	
On SE 174th Avenue	Springwater Corridor Trail	35
SE Powell Boulevard (US 26)	Springwater Corridor Trail	35
On SE Jennie Road	SE Foster Road	35
Springwater Corridor Trail	SE Foster Road	35

School speed zones may be posted within the limits of this order as determined to be appropriate by the Road Authority based on ORS 811.117 and an engineering investigation as per the provisions of ORS 810.205.

This records Joint Order 2014 of 5/23/2008

Be it further ordered that the roadway authority or authorities responsible for the above section(s) of highway install appropriate signs giving notice of the designated speed(s) hereinafter as per ORS 810.180, Subsection (b).

Be it further ordered that signs installed pursuant to this order comply with the provisions of ORS 810.210 and 810.220.

## WHEN SHOULD A SPEED STUDY BE CONDUCTED?

- A new development is under construction and it will generate substantial new traffic.
- An existing transportation problem such as a high crash location is evident.
- At the judgment or discretion of jurisdiction staff based on unusual circumstances.
- New construction or reconstruction of a roadway has been completed.

## FAQ's

- WON'T LOWERING THE POSTED SPEED REDUCE SPEEDS?



## FAQ's

- WILL LOWERING THE POSTED SPEED REDUCE CRASH FREQUENCY?



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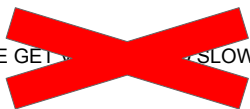
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## FAQ's

- HOW DO WE GET ~~VEHICLES~~ SLOW DOWN?
- HOW DO WE IMPROVE SAFETY?



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Questions?



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