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Policy 817**

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COUNTY ROAD SPEED LIMITS

.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define how speed limits are established for County Roads, considered for review, and potentially changed.

It is the County's intent to establish and review speed limits based on sound traffic engineering practices and accepted standards, community planning practices, and with consideration of public input. Speed limits affect public safety, traffic mobility, and transportation of freight and goods from point to point.

.2 APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all Clallam County road speed limits and supersedes previous policies or resolutions pertaining to setting or changing speed limits.

.3 DEFINITIONS

"Accident Rate" means the number of accidents at a particular location on a roadway or section of roadway divided by the number of vehicles using the roadway, normally expressed in the number of accidents per million vehicle miles driven.

"Average Daily Traffic" (ADT) means the total volume of vehicle traffic in both directions at a particular location on a road.

"Average Speed" means the summation of the spot measured speeds at a specific location of vehicles divided by the number of vehicles measured.

"Clear Zone Obstruction" means an object larger than a certain size that will damage a vehicle traveling in the roadside border area starting at the edge of the traveled way that is available for the errant driver to stop or regain control of a vehicle.

"85th Percentile Speed" means the speed at or below which 85 percent of the motor vehicles travel.

"Horizontal Curve" means an area of the roadway where the vehicle's direction of travel changes on a horizontal plane.

"Lane Width" or "Traveled Way" means the width of the road from the marked centerline to the edge marking if present or the edge of the road surfacing material.

"Pace Speed" means the 10 mph speed range representing the speeds of the largest percentage of vehicles in the traffic stream.

“Speed Limit” means the maximum speed applicable to a section of roadway as established by law.

“Vertical Curve” means an area of the roadway where the vehicle’s direction of travel changes in a vertical plane.

.4 STATE ENABLING LEGISLATION

RCW 46.61.400 establishes a maximum speed limit of 50 mph on County Roads unless determined otherwise as described in RCW 46.61.415.

RCW 46.61.415 authorizes Counties to determine and declare reasonable and safe maximum speed limits for County Roads other than the 50 mph listed above, and if they do they must do so based on an engineering and traffic investigation.

.5 SPEED LIMITS ON COUNTY ROADS (CCC 11.04)

County Road speed limits are established by ordinance and codified at CCC 11.04.

The process for adopting an ordinance is described in the Home Rule Charter and for amending an ordinance is described in CCC 1.01 and Policy 110.

.6 ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS ON NEW COUNTY ROADS

Proposed speed limits for new County Roads are initiated by the following methods:

6.1 If the speed limit of 35 mph is deemed appropriate by the County Engineer, according to CCC 11.04, then no further action is necessary and the speed limit is set at 35 mph.

6.2 If a speed limit other than 35 mph is to be considered, the County Engineer shall prepare an Investigative Report (Appendix A) which evaluates:

- Road surface, shoulder condition, grade, alignment, sight distance
- ADT and road classification
- Existing speed limit
- The 85th percentile and pace speeds
- Roadside development and environment
- Parking practices and pedestrian activity
- Reported accident rate or crash experience
- Sheriff’s Department review and recommendations for the section of road

The report will include the County Engineer's conclusions and recommendations and a proposed ordinance amending CCC 11.04 will be presented to the Board in compliance with Administrative Policy.

.7 CHANGING ESTABLISHED COUNTY ROAD SPEED LIMITS

Speed limit changes may be requested or initiated by the following methods:

7.1 County Engineer Request

The County Engineer may perform an investigation according to .6 above, on any County Road section, and upon completion of the investigative report submit a recommendation for a change in speed limit for a section or group of County Roads.

A proposed ordinance amending CCC 11.04 will be presented to the Board in compliance with Administrative Policy.

7.2 Sheriff's Department

The Sheriff's Department may submit a request for a speed limit change on any section of County Road to the County Engineer for consideration, who will investigate the request in accordance with .6 above and respond to the Sheriff with a recommendation. If there is a change needed and the County Engineer agrees with the request, the County Engineer will forward the request for Board consideration when other speed limit changes are considered.

7.3 Citizen Request

A citizen shall submit a request by letter to the County Engineer containing a draft Investigative Report. The County Engineer shall consider the request to the degree considered appropriate and respond to the citizen in a timely manner:

- a. As to why the request is denied; or
- b. That the County Engineer has decided to further consider the request pursuant to sub-sections (1) and (2) above, and that following consideration the citizen will be informed of the outcome.
- c. If a citizen is not satisfied with the response provided by the County Engineer, they are encouraged to write a letter to the Board of Commissioners expressing the reasons for their dissatisfaction. The Board may, but are not required to, ask the County Engineer to further investigate the matter. In any event, the citizen shall be informed whether further investigation is necessary.

APPENDIX A – INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

SPEED LIMIT CHANGE REPORT

DATE:

Road Name:		Road Number:
Location of requested change:		Land Use Designation:
Mile posts of requested change:		
Current Speed Limit: XX which is xxth percentile		Requested Speed Limit:

This speed limit change was requested by: *describe how the request was originated - example, "by petition signed by 25 people"*

Arterial, collector, or access?	
Existing ADT: <i>add second location if we have one</i>	Location of count:
Average speed:	Location of measure:
Pace speed: _____ to _____	Location of measure:
85th percentile speed:	Location of measure:
Existing lane width:	Design lane width if built new today:
Existing shoulder width:	Design shoulder width if built new today:
Surface type: ACP ___ BST ___	Friction issue such as bleeding or flushing?
No. of accidents last 10 years: _____	Accident rate: _____ County average _____
Concentration of accidents? Yes ___ No ___	If yes, where?
No. of driveways:	No. of driveways per mile
No. of stop signs:	No. of county or major road intersections:
Mailboxes: Any problems?	No. of mailboxes per mile:
Roadside hazards not listed (poles, trees, bridge, etc)?	Discuss:
Driveway slopes and culvert bevels:	Well sloped and beveled? Yes ___ No ___
Steep roadside slopes?	Discuss:
Vertical curve issues?	Discuss:
Horizontal curve issues? Ball bank speed: ___	Discuss:
Sight distance issues?	Discuss:
Centerline stripe? Yes ___ No ___	Edge stripe? Yes ___ No ___
Through route?	Yes ___ No ___
Heavy mixture of commercial traffic w/ residential?	Yes ___ No ___
Level of pedestrian activity:	High ___ Med ___ Low ___
Factors that may not be apparent to the typical driver:	
Sheriff's Department comments:	
Established planning goals:	
Recommended speed limit:	
Public input (summary of written and oral):	
Commissioners' decision:	