



Traffic Engineering and Parking Divisions

David C. Dryer, P.E., City Traffic Engineer and Parking Manager

Suite 100
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
P.O. Box 2986
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2986
PH 608 266 4761
TTY/Textnet 866-704-2315
FAX 608 267 1158

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Re. Review of speed limit on Anderson Rd between Stoughton Rd & Hoffman St

Posting speed limits is one tool we have to promote safety on our streets. When setting the limits it's important to be reasonable, consistent, and compatible with people's expectations all the while considering the street-side environment. That way compliance is more easily achieved and MPD is better able to conduct enforcement. When setting a speed limit we typically look at several factors but the two most important are the measured 85% speed and the crash history. Speed limits that are set arbitrarily and without persistent enforcement are rarely observed and often seen by the public as unrealistic or "traps".

Staff determine what drivers perceive as the reasonable speed limit by measuring the speeds and calculating the 85% speed. This represents the speed that most drivers are traveling and what the "perceived" speed limit should be.

Our policy for setting speed limits is consistent with Federal and State guidelines which recommend that a speed limit for a roadway should be set at or near the 85% speed.

A three year analysis of crashes in this corridor shows that most crashes occur near the intersection of Anderson Rd & Wright St and the most common factors are; Failure to Yield, Inattentive Driving, and Following Too Close. These types of crashes are seen at all signalized intersections and are typically not speed related. There were no pedestrian or bicycle crashes.

Since the measured 85% speed on Anderson Rd at two locations between Stoughton Rd and Hoffman St was 33mph & 36mph and the crash history doesn't reveal any speed related issues, staff recommends no changes at this time and recommends maintaining the current posted speed limit of 35mph. If pedestrian and bicyclist related crossing problems become manifest, the posted speed limit can be revisited.

Speed Study #1

Jan 15, 16 2013
 Sample Size = 12,600 vehicles per day
 85% Speed = 36mph
 Avg Speed = 31mph

Speed Study #2

Jan 15, 16 2013
 Sample Size = 12,000 vehicles per day
 85% Speed = 33mph
 Avg Speed = 29mph

