



December 15, 2023

Tabbetha Van Horn-Price
Borough of Freeburg
P.O. Box 308
Freeburg, PA 17827
pattab@ptd.net

Re: Snyder County
Borough of Freeburg
State Route (S.R.) 35
Speed Limit Study Request

Dear Tabbetha Van Horn-Price:

Thank you for your correspondence we received on October 25, 2023, regarding your request for a speed study on S.R. 35 in the Borough of Freeburg, due to drivers traveling above the posted speed limit.

Speed limits in Pennsylvania are established in accordance with the provisions of Title 75, Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, §3362 and §3363, and in conjunction with our statewide regulations found in 67 Pennsylvania Code, Chapter 212, Section 212.108. The Department's statewide regulations require that speed limits be set within 5 miles per hour (mph) of the 85th percentile speed; the speed at which 85 percent of the motorists traveling a given road are driving at or below, unless, the major portion of highway has inadequate stopping sight distance, a majority of the crashes are related to excessive speed, and the actual crash rate is greater than the expected crash rate throughout the study area.

The speed limit study results indicate that lowering the existing speed limit on the requested roadway is not justified due to the following factors:

- The 85th percentile speed already exceeds the current posted speed limit in the study area.
- The major portion of the highway has adequate stopping sight distance.
- Most of the crashes are not related to excessive speed in the study area.

Artificially lowering the speed limit has the potential of increasing crashes. Despite the presence of speed limit signing, motorists typically drive at speeds they feel comfortable.

Tabbetta Van Horn-Price

December 15, 2023

Page 2

Roadways that are relatively wide, straight, and with good sight distance are more comfortable for drivers to drive at higher speeds. The conscientious motorists who are likely to abide by the lower speed limit and the persons who currently violate the existing speed limit are unlikely to change their current driving habits.

The combination of these two occurrences creates a larger differential in speeds, which would contribute to rear end type crashes on the mainline and angle crashes at the intersections. As the variance in motorists' speeds increases, so does the rate of the crashes. This phenomenon is documented through research conducted by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

Enforcement is the most effective method of decreasing motorists' speeds. The purpose of speed enforcement is to change the dangerous habits of motorists who choose to drive at unsafe speeds above the posted speed limit. We are sending a copy of this letter to the Pennsylvania State Police in Selinsgrove to make them aware of your concern.

Additionally, the Department owns a portable speed display trailer and will place it on S.R. 35, entering the Borough of Freeburg, for both the northbound and southbound directions for a duration of one week for each direction, to make motorists more aware of their speed in relation to the posted speed limit. The trailer is scheduled to be placed at this location in the Spring of 2024.

During our study, it was noted there were crashes involving parked vehicles along S.R. 35 within the borough. Please be advised, if the borough wishes to restrict parking along S.R. 35, local municipalities have the authority to restrict parking without Department approval in accordance with Title 67 Pa. Code § 212.5 (b)(1)iv)(A).

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts regarding this issue. Should you require any additional information, please contact District Traffic Engineer Zachary M. Whitenight, P.E. or Acting Traffic Control Specialist Supervisor Thomas J. Squires at 570.368.4360.

Sincerely,

Eric E. High, P.E.
District Executive
Engineering District 3-0

cc:
Pennsylvania State Police
Selinsgrove Barracks
204 Universal Road
Selinsgrove, PA 17870