

WHY NOT LOWER THE SPEED LIMIT TO REDUCE HAZARDS IN OUR AREA?

An unrealistically low speed limit can actually lead to crashes. Here's why:

- First, many studies conducted over several decades in all parts of the country have shown that a driver's speed is influenced more by the appearance of the roadway and the prevailing traffic conditions than it is by the posted speed limit.
- Second, some drivers will obey the lower posted speed while others will feel it's unreasonable and simply ignore it. This disrupts the uniform traffic flow and increases crash potential between the faster and the slower drivers.
- Third, when traffic is traveling at different speeds, the number of breaks in traffic to permit safe crossing is reduced. Pedestrians also have greater difficulty in judging the speed of approaching vehicles.

Florida Statutes, Chapter 316.183, is entitled "Unlawful speed."

Section 316.183(1), states "No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions, and having regard to the actual and potential hazards, then existing."

Section 316.183(2) states "On all streets or highways, the maximum speed limits for all vehicles must be 30 miles per hour in business or residence districts, and 55 miles per hour at any time at all other locations. However, with respect to a residence district, a county or municipality may set a maximum speed limit of 20 to 25 miles per hour on local streets and highways after an investigation determines that such a limit is reasonable."

Florida Statutes, Chapter 316.187 is entitled "Establishment of state speed zones."

Section 316.187(1) authorizes the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to set maximum and minimum speed limits. Section 316.187(2)(a) states "The maximum allowable speed limit on limited access highways is 70 miles per hour."

Florida Statutes, Chapter 316.189 is entitled "Establishment of municipal and county speed zones."

Section 316.189(1) states "The maximum speed within any municipality is 30 miles per hour." It also states "A municipality may set speed zones altering such speeds, both as to maximum, not to exceed 60 miles per hour, and minimum, after investigation determines such a change is reasonable and in conformity to criteria promulgated by the Florida Department of Transportation..."

Section 316.189(2) states "The maximum speed on County roads is: (a) In a business or residence district, 30 miles per hour in the daytime or nighttime; provided that with respect to districts a county may set a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour after an investigation determines that such a limit is reasonable..." This section also states "However, the board of county commissioners may set speed zones altering such speeds, both as to maximum and minimum after such investigation determines such a change is reasonable and in conformity to criteria promulgated by the Florida Department of Transportation, except that no such speed zone shall permit a speed of more than 60 miles per hour."

The Florida Statutes can be found on the web at:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Statutes/>