Speed Limit Discussion

Garfield County
Energy Advisory Board
May 7, 2015
Speed Limit
What is it?
How is it set?
How is it changed?

FHWA
MUTCD (USDOT)
State of Colorado
Garfield County
Local Jurisdictions
Speed Limit
What is it?

“No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing.”

Speed Limit

How is it set?

“Operating” Approach
85th Percentile Speed

Factors:

• Narrow roadway or shoulder width
• Horizontal and vertical curves
• Roadway surface type
• Driveways and other roadside development
• Rural residential or developed areas
• High crash rate
Speed Limit How is it changed?

Request made to local jurisdiction

Procedure:
• Evaluate a segment of roadway, not just a “spot”
• Collect traffic data including speeds and volumes
• Collect other geometric and site specific data
• Determine the existing 85\textsuperscript{th} Percentile speed
• Test runs through the zone
• Document and post speed change
Special Situations:
• Advisory Speeds
• Nighttime Speed Limits
• School Zone Limits
• Truck Speed Limits

“The safety effectiveness of differential speed limits for trucks is inconclusive.”
Requirements:
• All engine compression brake devices shall be equipped with proper mufflers
• $500 fine
• Enforced by local authorities
• Can not be restricted for safety reasons
Thank you & Drive Safely!

"Couldn't you have just called me on my cell phone and tell me to slow down?"

Lee Barger
SGM, Inc.
970.945.1004
leeb@sgm-inc.com