

REPORT OF ENGINEERING and TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION and PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT CHANGE

ROAD NAME and NUMBER: Prospect Ave., County Road No. 680609
TERMINI: From Kala Point Dr. Mile Post (M.P.) 1.03 to End of Road, M.P. 1.38
EXISTING MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT: 40 Miles per Hour (MPH)
PROPOSED MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT: 25 MPH
DATE OF STUDY: June 2010

The reason for this speed study was due to a 36 signature petition and letter from residents living along or adjacent to Prospect Ave. Their concerns are the ongoing growing development, speeding, increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and the continued development along and adjacent to this section of roadway north of a Kala Point Dr intersection.

RCW 46.61.400, Basic Rule and Maximum Limits, specifies the maximum speed limit on county roads to be fifty miles per hour. This section also states that the maximum speed limits set forth in this section may be altered as authorized in RCW 46.61.405, 46.61.410 and 46.61.415. RCW 46.61.415, when local authorities may alter maximum limits, allows local authorities to increase the limit but not to more than sixty miles per hour or decrease the speed limit to no lower than 20 miles per hour. Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall determine by an engineering and traffic investigation the appropriate speed for all roadways.

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices states the main criteria for determining the proper speed limits on public roads is the 85th Percentile speed. Also, consideration should be given to roadway characteristics, roadside development, safe speed on curves, pedestrian activity and reported accident history for a recent 12-month period. The following analysis has been completed for this roadway segment.

ANALYSIS

85TH PERCENTILE SPEED

The 85th percentile speed is as follows:

M.P.	Eastbound	Westbound
1.140	35.7 MPH	36.0 MPH

ROADWAY CHARACTERISTICS

This road is characterized by one long straight tangent with an uphill grade at the westerly portion and a 90 degree curve at the easterly portion. The eastern most horizontal curve is a “sharp” bend to the left with Lilly Ln a County Road to the right. The section of the roadway north of the 90 degree curve is short leading to a dead end. This 0.30 mile roadway section has eight driveways, five private roads and two county road intersections. The Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) is 179 vehicles per day with projections to increase in the following years as development continues.

ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT

Roadside development consists of mostly residential adjacent to both the private and County Roads that intersect this section of roadway. Lyter Ave is a short residential street that provides access to the new development north of Prospect Ave and intersects Prospect in its easterly section. Residential development adjacent to the roadway and those accessing off of the intersecting roads has been and will increase over time.

CRASH HISTORY

The history shows no crashes in the last five years.

CONCLUSIONS

The 85th percentile for this section of the roadway is below the posted speed limit of 40 MPH; other considerations must be taken into account. The adjacent residential development, the lane width, the shoulder width, the AADT, the number of private and County road approaches, the sight distance of the approaches, and the increased pedestrian traffic that affects the motorists ability to be prepared for possible conflicts are all factors that accumulatively lead to the decision to lowering the maximum posted speed limit of this segment of Prospect Ave. to 25 MPH from the current 40 MPH. A posted speed of 25 MPH in a residential neighborhood with the potential build out of this area is appropriate. This change will bring consistency to the speed limits in this neighborhood, making the entire area 25 mph. Thirty six residents, who are the prime users of this roadway, have expressed support for this change. Given the short length of this segment, there will be negligible impact to mobility with this speed limit change.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the maximum speed limit on this segment of Prospect Ave. (M.P. 1.03 to M.P. 1.38) be lowered to 25 MPH. Based on the amount of intersecting roads and driveways, pedestrian traffic, it's residential characteristics and the future build out of this area.