



Jefferson County Department of Public Works

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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Speed Limits to be Adjusted on Select County Roads

Port Townsend, WA— Regulatory speed limits on some Jefferson County roads have changed and new signs will be installed this month.

Most of the changes affect short segments of gravel roads and other low-volume roadways. There are four changes that will affect a greater number of drivers.

The speed limit on South Jacob Miller Road from Hastings Avenue to South Discovery Road has been lowered from 40 mph to 35 mph. Reasons include continued development adjacent to the roadway, public concern about safety at the intersection with Landfill Road, and the narrowness of the roadway north of that intersection. Much of the road already has lower advisory speeds due to curves and limited visibility. The 35-mph speed limit is consistent with other similar roadways in the county.

The speed limit for the segment of Cook Avenue Extension from Hastings Avenue to the Port Townsend city limit has been lowered from 35 mph to 25 mph. This change comes about after consideration of the narrow driving surface, minimal roadside clear zone, horizontal and vertical alignment, traffic volume, adjacent land use and driveway density, presence of Jefferson Transit buses, and for consistency with the adjacent city segment. The new speed limit matches the speed limit on Cook Avenue within the city.

The speed limit on Prospect Avenue from Kala Point Drive to the dead end at the bluff overlooking Port Townsend Bay has been lowered from 40 mph to 25 mph. This is a short section of street in a residential neighborhood where all other streets are already posted at 25

mph. Public Works conducted a speed study after receiving a 36-signature petition and letter from residents living along or adjacent to Prospect Avenue raising concerns about speeding.

The speed limit on Upper Hoh Road between mileposts 2.86 and 4.45 has been lowered from 45 mph to 35 mph. Reasons include the narrow driving surface, minimal roadside clear zones, traffic volume during the summer months, sharp horizontal and steep vertical alignment, adjacent land use and a significant portion of this section already being advised at 25 mph. A 35-mph speed limit is consistent with the majority of the remaining segments of Upper Hoh Road.

“Most of these speed limit adjustments are ‘housekeeping,’” explains County Engineer Monte Reinders. “The changes on South Jacob Miller Road, Prospect Avenue, Cook Avenue Extension and Upper Hoh Road, together with effective law enforcement, will improve safety for all road users.”

The Board of County Commissioners modified speed limits for a number of county roads through Resolution 39-10 adopted on September 27, 2010, following a Public Works staff presentation and public hearing.

In making a recommendation for speed limits on a particular segment of roadway, Public Works analyzes some or all of the following elements: speed studies, traffic counts, roadway characteristics, roadside development and environment, safe speed on curves, and crash history.

For more information about the setting of speed limits, visit the County website at this location: <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/publicworks/roads>.

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