



# **SPEED LIMIT CHANGE POLICY**

## SPEED LIMIT CHANGE POLICY

### PURPOSE:

It is the intent of the City of Concord to maintain speed limits on City streets that promote public safety and have a reasonable expectation of driver adherence. The purpose of this policy is to establish the criteria used to evaluate requests to reduce or increase the speed limit from the state statutory speed limit of 35 MPH on streets under the jurisdictional control of the City of Concord.

### POLICY:

- Citywide Speed Limits are set by the Code of the City of Concord Section 58-165, which is consistent with North Carolina General Statute 20-141:
  - (1) Twenty miles per hour in any business district;
  - (2) Thirty-five miles per hour in any residential district;
  - (3) Forty-five miles per hour in places other than those named in subsections (1) and (2) of this section for vehicles other than passenger cars, regular passenger vehicles, pickup trucks of less than one-ton capacity, and school buses loaded with children;
  - (4) Fifty-five miles per hour in places other than those named in subsections (1) and (2) of this section for passenger cars, regular passenger carrying vehicles, and pickup trucks of less than one-ton capacity.
- In accordance with the Code of the City of Concord Section 58-87, the Transportation Director is authorized to reduce and post speed limits by not more than ten (10) MPH at the request of nearby citizens as may be deemed advisable.
- All requests for proposed speed limit reductions greater than ten (10) miles per hour (MPH) below the current speed limit, and requests for speed limit increases will require City of Concord Council Approval.
- In accordance with NC GS 20-141, no speed limit greater than 55 MPH shall be set on streets not part of the State highway system.
- Requests will be considered based on the order received unless the Transportation Director determines a particular area merits immediate consideration due to public safety concerns.
- For residential subdivisions currently posted 25-mph only at the entrances, staff will study the streets and install the appropriate regulatory signage maintaining 25-mph within the subdivision, if appropriate, without requiring the petition process specified in Step 3) of this policy.
- This Policy does not apply to non-residential facilities such as business parks, commercial developments, etc. in the City of Concord.
- Any newly erected signs will be on standard u-channel posts. Neighborhoods with decorative signs will be responsible for installing decorative materials in accordance with their respective encroachment agreements.
- If it is discovered that decorative signs exist in neighborhoods, or other areas and a valid encroachment agreement does not exist, the HOA or other organization will be required to request an agreement from the City of Concord or remove all decorative elements and replace them with standard materials at the expense of the HOA or other entity.

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- Repeated requests for speed limit changes will not be considered within a 36 month time period without sufficient cause. Sufficient cause is determined at the discretion of the Transportation Director and/or the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC).
- Requests for speed limit reduction to address law enforcement or issues other than traffic safety will not be considered under this Policy.

### IMPLEMENTATION:

**Step One:** Citizens or Neighborhood Organizations (hereafter “Applicant”<sup>1</sup>) requesting a speed limit reduction or increase for an individual street should submit a Speed Limit Change Request Form to the Transportation Department where their request will be registered. Staff will initiate a study to investigate the request(s) and make a determination as to whether or not the following criteria are satisfied:

- 1) The entire length of all street segments must be in the City of Concord Street System for maintenance with no part being under the jurisdiction of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) or privately maintained.
- 2) The street should not be designed to be reasonably and safely traveled at the current speed limit.
- 3) Changing of the existing speed limit should meet sound engineering principles and judgment for public safety with consideration given to the following:
  - Reasonable expectation of driver adherence to proposed speed limit
  - Presence of pedestrian elements (i.e. sidewalks and designated crosswalks)
  - Hazards – water bodies, embankments, fill sections, obstructions, etc.
  - Proximity to significant pedestrian generators – parks, schools, etc.
  - History of crashes with contributory elements of speeding
  - Measured 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile speeds
  - Presence of on-street parking
  - Sight constraints
  - Street geometrics
  - Density and type of access
  - Other Applicable factors

The Transportation Department will perform data collection, field observations, and applicable analyses within 30 days of receipt of the Speed Limit Change Request where possible. In an effort to get the best representative data, school schedules, equipment availability, weather and other factors will be considered and may extend the time required to complete data collection.

**Step Two:** Once the applicable data has been collected and subsequent analyses are complete, the results will be reviewed at the next feasible Transportation Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) monthly meeting. The Applicant will be notified of any recommendations within 5 business days from the TSAC meeting in which the request is discussed. Typical recommendations include but are not limited to:

- 1) The street segments do not meet criteria and are not eligible for a speed limit change under this policy. OR:
- 2) The street segments meet criteria for consideration of a speed limit change under this policy; however the Transportation Director along with the TSAC do not recommend a change at this time. OR:

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant – Resident, petitioner, neighborhood association, or other entity initiating the request

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- 3) The street segments meet criteria and it has been determined that a speed limit change is advisable by the Transportation Director along with TSAC. A speed limit change will be implemented in accordance with this policy and Section 58-87 of the City of Concord Code of Ordinances. AND/OR:
- 4) Further Traffic Calming measures should be considered and a copy of the Traffic Calming Policy will be sent to the Applicant.

**Step Three:** If a street segment meets criteria but is not recommended for a change, or a speed limit change of more than 10 MPH is requested, it is the Applicant's responsibility to obtain the signatures of at least 75% of the property owners<sup>2</sup> (one per property) on the entire street(s). Names, addresses, and telephone numbers are required on the Speed Limit Change Petition Form. Once the petition form is returned to the Transportation Department along with a verification statement from the applicant, City staff will validate the petition and will schedule a Public Hearing before City Council.

Failure to return a complete and valid petition in support of the requested speed limit change containing the required 75% of property owners represented within 6 months will cause the request to be denied and ineligible for re-evaluation for a period of 36 months.

**Step Four:** If approved, appropriate regulatory signs will be installed and Concord Police will be advised of the change. If a speed limit has been reduced, temporary radar speed displays will be put in place for a period of approximately 2 weeks along the street segment to help inform drivers of the change and make them more aware of their travelling speed.

Periodic speed data will be collected for several months following a speed limit change to determine if the new limit is being complied with. If it is determined that a speed limit is artificially low as shown by an unreasonable level of non-compliance then the Transportation Director reserves the right to return the speed limit to its previous level.

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<sup>2</sup> Property Owner – Individual or entity in possession of title for the land, building, or other. Renters/ Tenants will not be considered.



**Request for Speed Limit Change**

(Please Read the City's Speed Limit Change Policy Prior to Submitting Request)

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Subdivision: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood association (HOA) if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your neighborhood have decorative signs? \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes/No/Unsure)

Does a valid encroachment agreement exist for decorative signs? \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes/No/Unsure)

Current Speed Limit: \_\_\_\_\_ MPH

Is the speed limit currently posted? \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes/No)

Requested Speed Limit: \_\_\_\_\_ MPH

Please tell us about the reason for the Speed Limit Change request:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the City of Concord Speed Limit Change Policy and agree to be the named Applicant for this request. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant

Please submit your request by mail, or email to [edwardsg@concordnc.gov](mailto:edwardsg@concordnc.gov). Further contact information for the Administrative Division can be found on the Transportation Department Contacts page on the City of Concord website at <https://www.concordnc.gov>.

Transportation

635 Alfred Brown Jr. Court SW., P.O. Box 308, Concord, NC 28026

Phone (704) 920-5338 • Fax (704) 795-0404



**SPEED LIMIT CHANGE PETITION  
VERIFICATION STATEMENT**

There are a total of \_\_\_\_\_ properties along \_\_\_\_\_.  
There are \_\_\_\_\_ valid signatures on the Speed Limit Change Petition Form, which represent  
\_\_\_\_\_ % of the properties along the identified street segment(s).

I verify the signatures on the Speed Limit Change Petition Form are those of the property owners of record, that they are valid, and that only one signature per property/business has been considered in the above percentage.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

