

Raising and Lowering Speed Limits

Prior to adjusting a speed limit, a speed study should be conducted, and several factors should be taken into consideration, such as the safety performance of the roadway, existing traffic and roadway characteristics, and the need for infrastructure improvements. Speed studies and speed limit reviews should be led by MoDOT but, when necessary, include appropriate partners (local officials, law enforcement, emergency services, schools, business owners, etc.).

Before raising a speed limit, certain Infrastructure improvements may need to be constructed, including but not limited to:

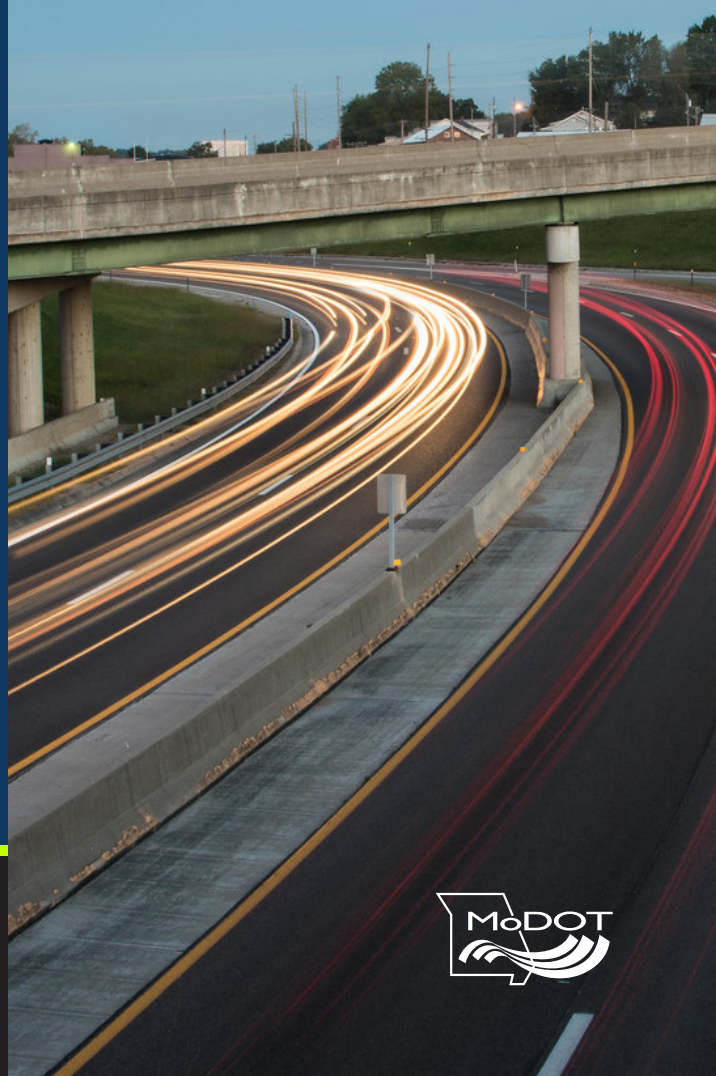
- Wider lanes or paved shoulders with rumble strips
- Turn lanes
- Acceleration and deceleration lanes
- Changes in access to limit cross traffic and entering traffic
- Realignment of the roadway to straighten curves
- Median guard cable or adequate recovery areas
- Edge treatments

When necessary infrastructure improvements are identified, they should be prioritized alongside other regional needs through the normal planning process. Costs for necessary improvements can be significant, and this process ensures available funding is distributed throughout the state according to a region's highest prioritized needs.

Want to know more? If you are interested in discussing plans in your area for potential improvements, please contact your local planning organization by visiting www.modot.org/pps.

MoDOT

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT SPEED LIMITS



MoDOT



Missouri averages nearly 1,000 traffic crash fatalities each year. Approximately 35% of these fatalities involve excessive speeds. Research shows increased vehicle speeds contribute to higher levels of severity in roadway crashes. Speed limits are established to promote safe driving behaviors that minimize the risk of severe crashes while maintaining traffic flow.

Speed Limits

State Law and Speed Limits

Uniform maximum speed limits in Missouri are set by state statute. The following maximums are established according to roadway classification and population density:

- Interstates and freeways in rural areas: 75 mph
- Interstates, freeways, and expressways in urbanized areas: 60 mph
- Expressways in rural areas: 65 mph
- State lettered routes: 55 mph
- All other roads: 60 mph

By statute, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission may set a speed limit higher or lower than these maximum speed limits based on engineering judgment.

Typical safety, traffic and roadway characteristics to consider when establishing speed limits include:

- Crash history
- Traffic volumes
- Lane and shoulder widths
- Roadway alignment and grade (curves and hills)
- Sight distance (e.g., unobstructed views for drivers)
- Presence of traffic control devices (signals, signs, stripes, etc.)
- Presence of safety enhancements (rumble strips, guard cables, etc.)