



# City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

## Agenda

### Law & Public Safety Committee

*Chairperson Christopher Smitherman*  
*Vice Chair David Mann*  
*Council Member Betsy Sundermann*  
*Council Member Jan Michele Kearney*  
*Council Member Greg Landsman*  
*Council Member Steven Goodin*  
*Council Member Liz Keating*

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Tuesday, October 26, 2021

9:00 AM

Council Chambers, Room 300

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## PRESENTATIONS

### NORTHSIDE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

John Brazina, Director, City of Cincinnati Department of Transportation and Engineering

Captain Craig Gregoire, Cincinnati Police Department

### AGENDA

- [202102921](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Smitherman, Councilmembers Goodin and Sundermann, **WE MOVE** that a traffic study be conducted on Hamilton Ave. with a focus on the intersection of Hamilton Avenue, Teakwood Avenue and Harbeson Avenue. **WE FURTHER MOVE** that the instillation of a traffic light be considered as a potential traffic calming measure.  
**Sponsors:** Smitherman, Goodin and Sundermann  
**Attachments:** [Motion](#)
- [202103034](#) **COMMUNICATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Smitherman, from Ohio Department of Transportation regarding 2021 Speed Zoning Updates.  
**Sponsors:** Smitherman  
**Attachments:** [2021-10-21 ODOT letter to Cincinnati re Northside Speed Limit](#)  
[Speed Zone Process Map Locals Only](#)  
[2021 SpeedZoningUpdates](#)  
[2020 SpeedZoning Update](#)

ADJOURNMENT



202102921

**Christopher E. C. Smitherman**  
*Cincinnati Vice Mayor*

October 7, 2021

## MOTION

**WE MOVE** that a traffic study be conducted on Hamilton Ave. with a focus on the intersection of Hamilton Avenue, Teakwood Avenue, and Harbeson Avenue.

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the instillation of a traffic light be considered as a potential traffic calming measure.

Vice Mayor Christopher Smitherman

Councilmember Steven Goodin

Councilmember Betsy Sundermann

## COMMITTEES



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mike DeWine, Governor

Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D., Director

## District 8

505 S. State Route 741, Lebanon, OH 45036

513-933-6568

transportation.ohio.gov

October 21, 2021

John Brazina, P.E.  
Director, DOTE  
801 Plum Street, Suite 450  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Director Brazina:

Thank you for your invitation to the upcoming Law & Public Safety Committee meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2021. Earlier this month, a crash involving a pedestrian occurred at the intersection of Hamilton Avenue (US-127) and Pullan Avenue, and I understand that the committee is planning to discuss pedestrian safety improvements and a potential speed limit reduction in this area. Unfortunately, due the timing of the meeting, representatives of our District 8 Office are not able to attend the meeting in person, and I am writing to provide a few key points related the process for revising speed limits.

In response to your inquiry, our Traffic Studies staff reviewed our speed zone files for this portion of Hamilton Avenue (US-127) and found that the legal speed limit was established as a 30mph speed zone in 1955. This zone extends along Hamilton Avenue (US-127) from north of Chase Avenue to the intersection of Robinson and Stanford Drive.

If the City would like to consider lowering the speed limit, the City needs to complete a speed zone study per Section 1203 of the ODOT Traffic Engineering Manual and submit the required information to Brianne Hetzel, ODOT District 8 Traffic Studies Engineer. ODOT staff will then review the information and notify the City of ODOT's final action on the proposed speed zone.

Recently, in 2021, ODOT implemented a few important changes to our speed zone study process to place a higher emphasis on pedestrian safety. The process now provides a quantitative approach to account for vulnerable road users. Please find the attached files with more information about this newly updated, process.

Finally, Pete Metz, the chair of Northside's Community Development Corporation (NEST), contacted ODOT and asked for a meeting to discuss potential safety improvements in this area as well. ODOT District 8 staff are working to schedule a meeting with Mr. Metz and will be sure to include the DOTE in this discussion.

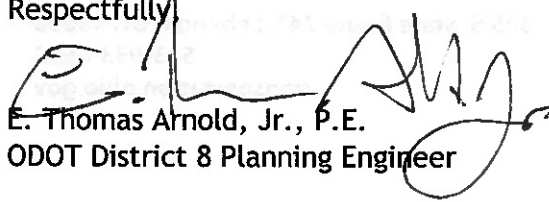
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If you have any questions during review of this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 513-933-6588 or at [tom.arnold@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:tom.arnold@dot.ohio.gov).



Respectfully,

  
E. Thomas Arnold, Jr., P.E.  
ODOT District 8 Planning Engineer

Attachments

C: file, T. Campbell, S. Spinoso, B. Hetzel, W. O’Gorman

October 2, 2017  
John E. Arnold, Jr.  
District 8  
511 East Broad Street, 100  
Columbus, OH 43260

Phone: 614-467-2100

1. The purpose of this document is to provide information regarding the proposed project. The project is located in the area of [redacted] and is intended to [redacted]. The project is being undertaken by [redacted] and is expected to be completed by [redacted].

2. The project is being undertaken by [redacted] and is expected to be completed by [redacted]. The project is being undertaken by [redacted] and is expected to be completed by [redacted].

3. The project is being undertaken by [redacted] and is expected to be completed by [redacted]. The project is being undertaken by [redacted] and is expected to be completed by [redacted].

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# ODOT

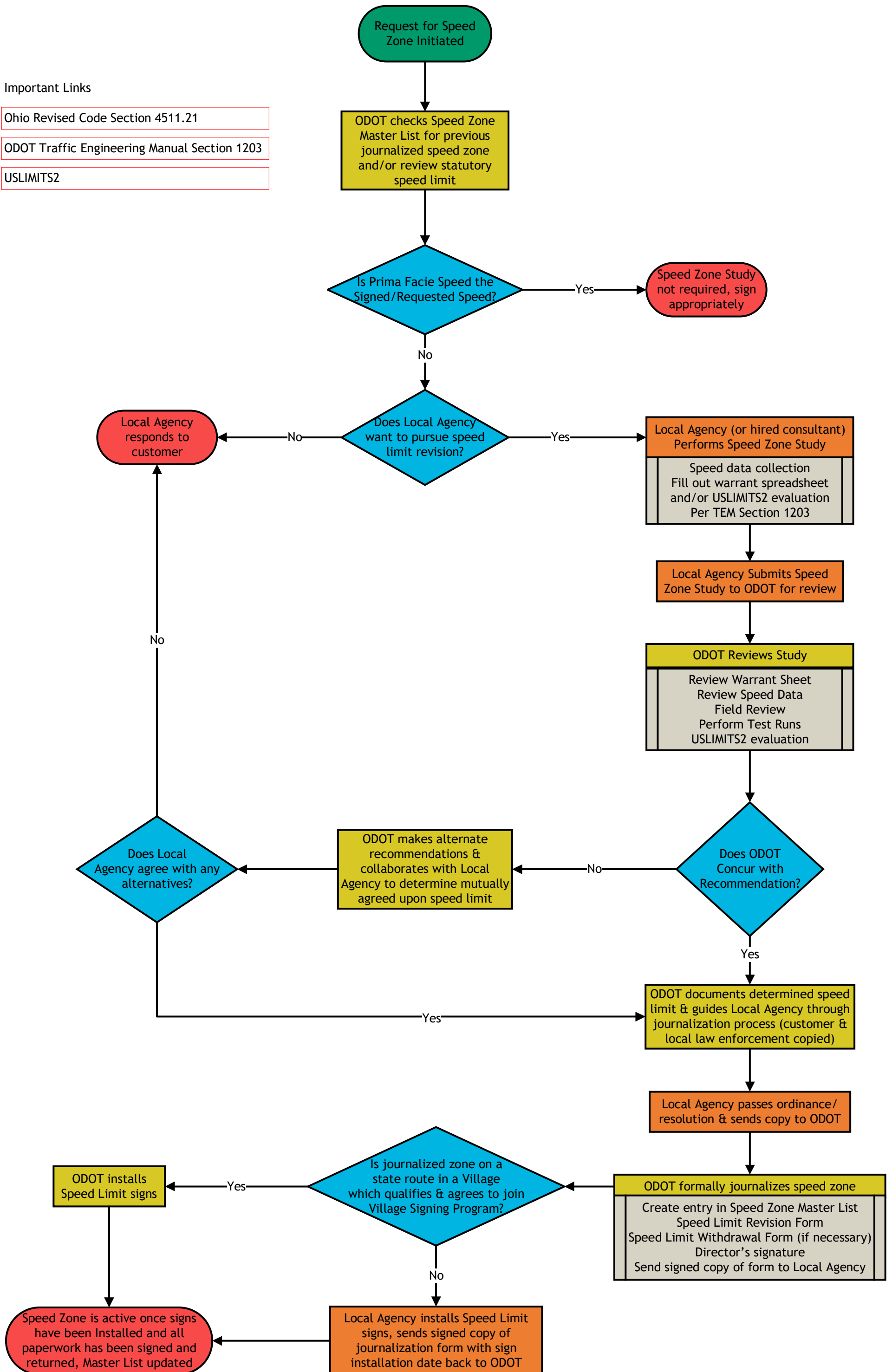
## Speed Zone Process for Local Roadways

### Important Links

[Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.21](#)

[ODOT Traffic Engineering Manual Section 1203](#)

[USLIMITS2](#)



## Committee Structure

In 2020/2021 Ohio convened a new committee focused on updating the speed zoning process.

Speed Zoning Committee Members	
ODOT central office	ODOT district speed zone coordinators
MPOs & local municipalities	Ohio Township Association
FHWA	Vision Zero representative
Bike/ped advocacy group	County Engineer’s Association of Ohio

## Updates Adopted in 2021

The committee is adopting a few policy/philosophy changes in conjunction with the July 2021 Traffic Engineering Manual (TEM) update:

- **Vulnerable Road Users** (VRUs) will now have a quantitative impact on the calculated speed limit.
- **50<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds** will be used in lieu of 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed when there is a high presence of VRUs, *and* the study is inside an urban area.
- The speed limit recommendation from **FHWA USLIMITS2** product is required as a check for every speed study in Ohio.

## ODOT Speed Zone Coordinators

1	Eric Pfenning
2	Chris Waterfield
3	Jeremy Adato
4	Aaron Conley
5	Josh Otworth
6	Andrew Hurst
7	Justin Yoh
8	Brianne Hetzel
9	Patricia Wetzel
10	Eric Davis
11	Chris Varcolla
12	Anthony Toth

## Background

In Ohio, speed limits are established by statute under ORC 4511.21 in conjunction with definitions of various conditions contained in ORC 4511.01. The ORC provides ODOT the ability to establish a speed zone, based on an engineering study, that alters speed limits. The ORC also allows local authorities to request that ODOT establishes a speed zone on certain roadways under their jurisdiction. The current speed zoning process is documented in the ODOT Traffic Engineering Manual.

ODOT recognizes the need to revisit the overall speed zoning process, update guidance documents, and provide expanded training.

## Current Challenges & Opportunities

A few challenges exist with the current speed zoning process:

- A lack of clear, laymen's term interpretations of statutory speed limits established by the ORC.
- A lack of education on the overall speed zoning process.
- The existing study process and forms are, in some cases, overly complicated.
- New data sources and tools exist that could be incorporated into ODOT's current processes.
- Bike and pedestrian data do not have much of an impact on the recommended speed limits within the current process.
- New guidance material is available to help agencies determine the relationship between operating, design, and posted speeds and how they impact safety performance.

## Committee Goals

ODOT is kicking off a new committee to revisit this topic. The committee is expected to be comprised of: ODOT, local municipalities, MPOs, FHWA, and the County Engineers Association. The group intends to focus on the following goals & objectives:

- Provide updated, clear guidance material on the speed limits established by the ORC.
- Review recent research on setting speed limits.
- Update the speed zoning study process to focus on only the necessary data.
- Investigate new data sources and tools for opportunities to incorporate into the current speed zoning processes.
- Provide updated and simplified study templates, along with new training materials.
- Incorporate bike and pedestrian data into the speed limit criteria where appropriate.
- Provide educational material on common misconceptions of posted speed limits.

## Committee Members

Member	Association
<b>Mike McNeill</b>	ODOT Central Office
<b>John MacAdam</b>	ODOT Central Office
<b>Lauren Cardoni</b>	MORPC
<b>Brian Blayney</b>	NOACA
<b>Marisa Myers</b>	Ohio Township Association
<b>Darren LeBrun</b>	County Engineers Association of Ohio
<b>Chris Waterfield</b>	ODOT District 2
<b>Letty Schamp</b>	City of Hilliard
<b>Ron Garczewski</b>	FHWA
<b>Matt Zone</b>	City of Cleveland
<b>Jess Matthews</b>	Epic Consulting
<b>Julie Cichello</b>	ODOT District 3
<b>Aaron Conley</b>	ODOT District 4