

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