

State of Vermont
Operations & Safety Bureau
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Agency of Transportation

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August 19, 2020

Seth Gardner
Chair, East Montpelier Selectboard
40 Kelton Rd / PO Box 157
East Montpelier, VT 05651

RE: Reduced Speed Limit, US-2, East Montpelier

Dear Mr. Gardner:

This letter is in response to your March 30, 2020 letter requesting a review of the speed limit on US-2 in the vicinity of the Towne Hill Road intersection and, through subsequent discussion extending to include the village of East Montpelier.

The Traffic Operations unit has conducted an engineering study through the area. We found that the 85th percentile speed (the speed below which 85% of traffic is traveling) in the 50 mph speed zone near Codling Road to be 54 mph, and in the 35 mph speed zone near Mekkelsen's to 38 mph. There have been 42 reported crashes in the 5-year period from 2015-2019; twenty-three of which are unreportable crashes. (Less than \$3,000 in damages). The Towne Hill Road intersection has been listed as a High Crash Location (HCL).

Traffic Operations recommends reducing the speed limit through the Village of East Montpelier to 30 miles per hour and creating a 40 mph transition zone on each side. The 40 mph zone on the west side of the village is recommended to begin 830 feet west of Towne Hill Road and extend to a 30 mph zone beginning east of Mekkelsen's at the location of the existing 35 mph zone, and extending through the village at 30 mph. The 40 mph transition zone on the east end of the village will begin at the location of the existing 35/50 transition, and extending approximately 1200 feet easterly.

We will forward this recommendation to the Vermont Traffic Committee, who makes the final decision. This topic will be on the agenda of the next Traffic Committee meeting on Tuesday September 15, 2020 at 1:00 pm. Due to the Stay Home, Stay Safe Order, this meeting will be held virtually. You will be receiving an email invite with a meeting link. You may forward this link to others who request to attend, and there will also be a call-in option available. Please attend if you wish to present testimony on behalf of the town. If you have any data you would like to share, please do so through email prior to the meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (802) 371-8827 or at ian.degutis@vermont.gov if you have any questions or require additional information, or with any questions or concerns regarding the virtual format of this meeting.

Sincerely,

Ian Degutis, PE, PTOE
Traffic Operations Engineer

cc: Kevin Gadapee, DTA VTrans District 7 (via e-mail: kevin.gadapee@vermont.gov)
Ashley Andrews, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (via email: aandrews@cvregion.com)
Zoe Neaderland, VTrans Transportation Planning Coordinator (via email: zoe.neaderland@vermont.gov)
File, via S. Lemieux