

# TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER US ROUTE 2 TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

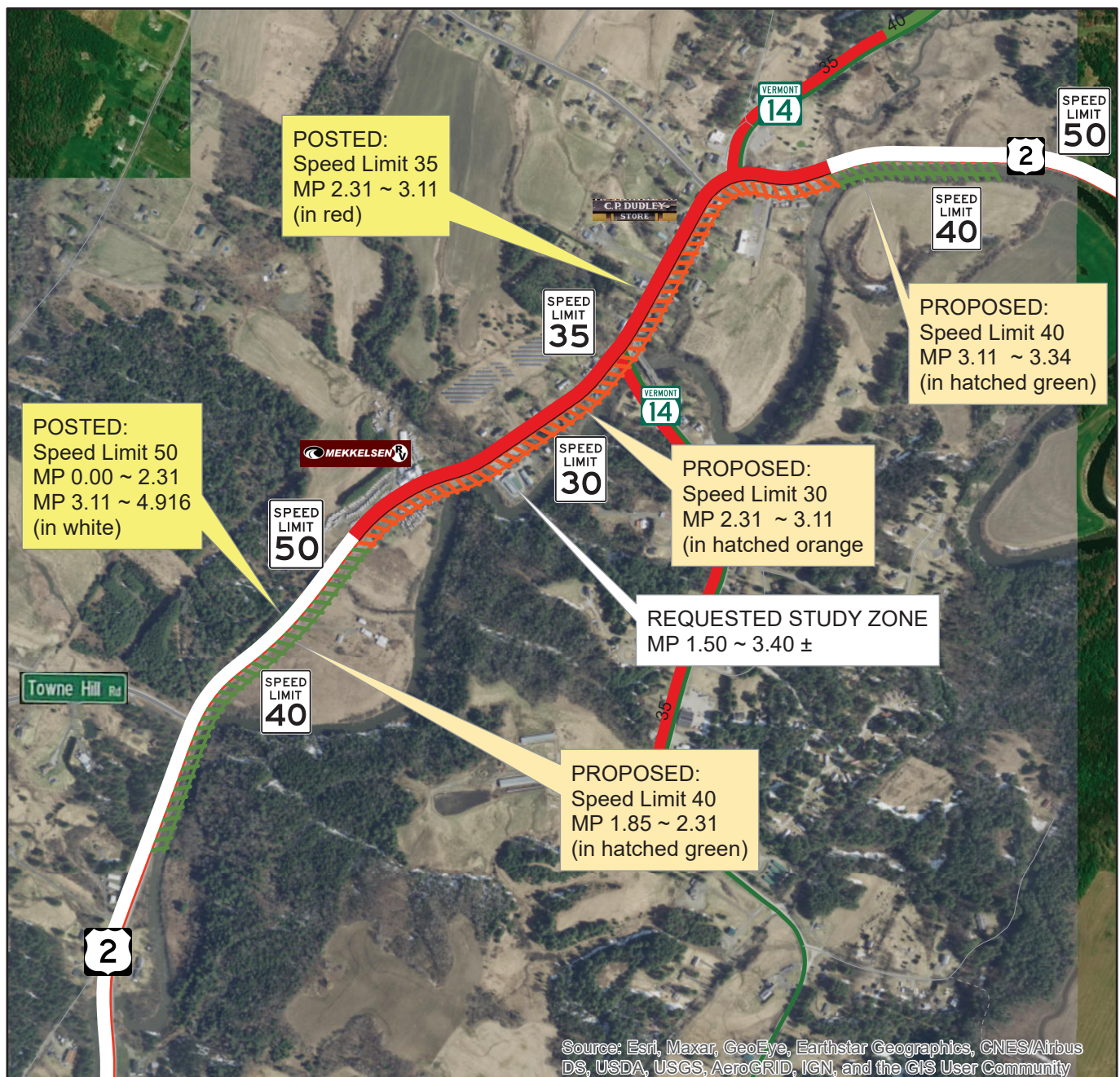
CRASH DATA 2015-2019

CRASHES - 42

STUDY AREA - MILEPOINT 1.5 ~ 3.4

2019 AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC - 9829

2019 PEAK HOUR TRAFFIC - 1100



TOWN OF  
EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT  
SELECTBOARD

Amy Willis (2020 – 2021)  
Jon Jewett (2020 – 2022)

Casey Northrup (2020 – 2023)  
Carl Etnier (2019 – 2022)

Chair, Seth Gardner (2018 – 2021)

March 30, 2020

Ian Degutis, Traffic Operations Engineer  
VTrans Traffic Operations Unit

By email: [ian.degutis@vermont.gov](mailto:ian.degutis@vermont.gov)

Re: Study of US Rte. 2 speed limit around Towne Hill Road intersection in East Montpelier

Dear Mr. Degutis:

The Town of East Montpelier would like to request consideration for a traffic safety study of the US Rte. 2 segment running from Mekkelsen RV Sales & Rentals to Codling Road in East Montpelier, focusing in particular on the dynamics around the Towne Hill Road intersection.

US Rte. 2 is part of the federal highway system and is by far the busiest road in East Montpelier. Towne Hill Road is a major point-to-point commuter and local traffic highway running from US Rte. 2 west to its terminus at Main Street in Montpelier. The Towne Hill Road approach to this intersection is a steep descent with woods on both sides to a T-intersection with the Winooski River lurking just to the east. The sight lines and viewshed to the north on US Rte. 2 from the intersection are challenging at all times, and worse in both summer growth season and winter snowbank periods. This is a two-lane road section, with enough room on US Rte. 2 to loop around turning vehicles, creating another opportunity for trouble. There have been a number of accidents involving injuries in the intersection zone. Just two weeks ago there was a scary t-bone crash that avoided injuries thanks to some deft driving on the part of one of the parties.

The town would like to see a lowering of the US Rte. 2 speed limit of 50 mph for the segment starting at the current point of increase from 35 mph at Mekkelsen RV Sales & Rentals to a point near Codling Road, well south of the Towne Hill Road intersection. The US Rte. 2 conditions of high speeds and traffic volumes, challenging site lines, and turning vehicles coupled with pressure from traffic lining up behind create an atmosphere for the Towne Hill Road driver that is not conducive to a safe entrance onto US Rte. 2.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Seth B. Gardner  
East Montpelier Selectboard Chair



**State of Vermont**  
**Operations & Safety Bureau**  
2178 Airport Rd  
Barre, VT 05641  
**vtrans.vermont.gov**

*Agency of Transportation*

[phone] 802-371-8827  
[fax] 802-828-2437  
[ttd] 800-253-0191

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 85<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:kevin.gadapee@vermont.gov))  
Ashley Andrews, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (via email: [aandrews@cvregion.com](mailto:aandrews@cvregion.com))  
Zoe Neaderland, VTrans Transportation Planning Coordinator (via email: [zoe.neaderland@vermont.gov](mailto:zoe.neaderland@vermont.gov))  
File, via S. Lemieux

**State of Vermont  
Agency of Transportation  
Traffic Engineering Report for a SPEED LIMIT**

**New** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Repeal** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Revise Existing**   x  

By: S. Lemieux

Date: 6/25/2020

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**Study Location**

Town	<u>East Montpelier</u>	Route	<u>US-2</u>
Village	<u>East Montpelier</u>	From MP	<u>1.5</u>
County	<u>Washington</u>	To MP	<u>3.4</u>
		Length	<u>1.9</u>

**Recommendation**

It is recommended to change speed limits from the current 50-35-50 mph zone to a 50-40-30-40-50 mph. The proposed speed change would start at MM 1.85 for the 40-mph, at MM 2.31 the 30-mph zone would begin and end at MM 3.11, leading 40-mph which would end at MM 3.34.

Recommended by: S.Lemieux & K. Driscoll

Date: 6/26/2020

**Speed Studies**

Setup #	Milepoint	Posted	85th %ile	Comments
		Speed	Speed	
1	2.42	35	38	
2	1.78	50	54	
3				
4				

**Crash Data**

From Year	<u>2015</u>	Total Number	<u>42</u>
To Year	<u>2019</u>	Injury Number	<u>8</u>
Crash Rate/Critical Rate	<u>1.592</u>	Fatality Number	<u>0</u>
Types of crashes (number)	<u>Followed to Close -5, Failed to yield right - 4,, circumstance not documented -19</u>		
	<u>Disregard signs -1, Too fast- 4, inattention -2, under influence-1, Defective Equip. - 1</u>		

**Roadside Characteristics**

	<b>Left</b>	<b>Right</b>
State/Town Highway Junctions	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
Number of Drives	<u>24</u>	<u>28</u>
Number of Houses	<u>13±</u>	<u>19±</u>
Number of Small Businesses	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
List Major Businesses	<u>Mekkelsen</u>	<u>Mekkelsen</u>
	<u>Dudley store/Valero Gas</u>	<u>Bailey timber work</u>
	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>E. Montpelier Home center</u>
	<u>Pink Shutter</u>	<u>U-haul</u>
		<u>Buy Rite Auto</u>

**Pedestrian Crossings**

Milepoint	Marked	Unmarked	School	Midblock	Intersection
3.011	x				x
2.465		x		x	

**State of Vermont**  
**Agency of Transportation**  
**Traffic Engineering Report for a SPEED LIMIT**

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Town **East Montpelier**  
Route **US-2**  
From MP **1.5**  
To MP **3.4**

Roadway Characteristics	Left	Right
No. of Roadway Lanes	1	1
Roadway, Width (feet)	12	12
Roadway, Surface Type	paved	paved
Roadway, Condition	good	good

Shoulder, Width (feet)	3-10 ave	3-10 ave
Shoulder, Surface Type	paved	paved
Shoulder, Condition	good	good

Sidewalk, Width (feet)	5	5
Sidewalk, Surface Type	concrete	concrete
Sidewalk, Condition	good	good

Curbing, Type of	granite	granite
Curbing, Condition	good	good

Turning Lane, Width (feet)	11	11
Turning Lane, Length (feet)	344	106
Turning Lane, Condition	good	good
Turning Lane, Surface Type	paved	paved

Parking Info	Left	Right
From MP	n/a	n/a
To MP	n/a	n/a
Meets Needs?	n/a	n/a
Signs	n/a	n/a
Markings	n/a	n/a
Meters	n/a	n/a
Comments		

No Parking Zones	Left	Right
From MP	n/a	n/a
To MP	n/a	n/a

**Passing Zones**

Direction	From MP	To MP
wb	1.867	1.994
wb/eb	1.817	1.867
wb	1.867	1.994

**Legal No Passing Zones**

Direction	From MP	To MP
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a

**Alignment**

**Curves**

	From MP	To MP	Degree	advisory speed posted	proposed
	1.5	1.55	3	50	50
	1.6	1.7	4	50	50
	2	2.1	7	50	40
	2.3	2.4	5	50	30
	2.5	2.6	4	35	30
	2.65	2.7	10	35	30
	2.7	2.75	4	35	30

\* not all curves entered  
only highest degrees

**Grades**

	From MP	To MP	Length	Percent
	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!	N/A
	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!	N/A
	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!	N/A

**Bridges**

ID #	Milepoint	Width
70	1.65	38.3
71	2.25	12
73	3.15	15

# Vermont Agency Of Transportation Spot Speed Survey Field Report

Town	East Montpelier	Date	06/25/20
Route	US-2	Day	Thursday
Speed Limit	50	Time	11:15-12:15
		Survey Area	
Setup No.	1	From M.P.	1.72
Setup M.P.	1.78	To M.P.	1.78

MPH	Cars	Cars	Total Cars	Trk. & Bus	Trk. & Bus	Total Trk. & Bus	Total Vehicles	Accum. Vehicles	Accum. Percent
	EB	WB		EB	WB				
70								212	100.0
69								212	100.0
68								212	100.0
67								212	100.0
66								212	100.0
65								212	100.0
64	1		1				1	212	100.0
63								211	99.5
62	1		1				1	211	99.5
61	2	1	3				3	210	99.1
60	1		1				1	207	97.6
59	1	1	2				2	206	97.2
58	1	2	3	1		1	4	204	96.2
57	5		5	1		1	6	200	94.3
56	1	3	4	3		3	7	194	91.5
55	4	3	7				7	187	88.2
54	9	5	14	3	1	4	18	180	84.9
53	16	4	20	1	1	2	22	162	76.4
52	12	1	13	4		4	17	140	66.0
51	13	4	17	3	2	5	22	123	58.0
50	7	12	19	2	4	6	25	101	47.6
49	8	10	18	5	1	6	24	76	35.8
48	6	8	14	2		2	16	52	24.5
47	8	8	16	2		2	18	36	17.0
46	3	4	7	1	1	2	9	18	8.5
45	3	1	4				4	9	4.2
44		1	1		1	1	2	5	2.4
43		2	2				2	3	1.4
42		1	1				1	1	0.5
41									
40									
39									
38									
37									
36									
35									
34									
33									
32									
31									
30									
29									
28									
27									
26									
25									
24									
23									
22									
21									
Totals	102	71	173	28	11	39	212		

# Vermont Agency Of Transportation Spot Speed Survey Summary

Town	East Montpelier
County	Washington
Route	US-2
Speed Limit	50

Date	06/25/20
Day	Thursday
Time	11:15-12:15

Setup No.	1
Setup M.P.	1.78

ADT	11000
Year ADT	2020
DHV	1200

Survey Area	
From M.P.	1.72
To M.P.	1.78

Weather	Sunny, dry,
Observer	K.Driscoll, S Lemieux

Passing Zones				
Direction	EB	Begin M.P.	1.72	End M.P. 1.81
Direction		Begin M.P.		End M.P.
Direction		Begin M.P.		End M.P.
Direction		Begin M.P.		End M.P.

	Cars, Vans, Light Trucks	Trucks & Buses	All Vehicles
Median Speed	50	50	50
85TH Percentile Speed	54	54	54
Modal Speed	53	50	50
Percent In Pace	84	87	84
10 Mile Pace	46 - 55 0 - 0	47 - 56 0 - 0	46 - 55 0 - 0
Recommended Speed Limit ( All Vehicles)			52 0

MPH	Cars, Vans, Light Trucks	Acc. Pct.	Trucks And Buses	Acc. Pct.	All Vehicles	Acc. Pct.
Over 60	5	3	0	0	5	2
56-60	15	12	5	13	20	12
51-55	71	53	15	51	86	52
46-50	74	95	18	97	92	96
41-45	8	100	1	100	9	100
36-40	0	100	0	100	0	100
31-35	0	100	0	100	0	100
26-30	0	100	0	100	0	100
Under 26	0	100	0	100	0	100
Totals	173	100	39	100	212	100

General Remarks On Traffic (Only For The Area Covered By This Spot Speed Survey)
Setup Location Description
At end guardrail run in eastbound lane MM. 1.778.

# Vermont Agency Of Transportation Spot Speed Survey Field Report

Town	East Montpelier	Date	06/25/20
Route	US-2	Day	Thursday
Speed Limit	35	Time	12:40 -1:30
		Survey Area	
Setup No.	2	From M.P.	2.42
Setup M.P.	2.42	To M.P.	2.51

MPH	Cars	Cars	Total Cars	Trk. & Bus	Trk. & Bus	Total Trk. & Bus	Total Vehicles	Accum. Vehicles	Accum. Percent
	EB	WB		EB	WB				
70								229	100.0
69								229	100.0
68								229	100.0
67								229	100.0
66								229	100.0
65								229	100.0
64								229	100.0
63								229	100.0
62								229	100.0
61								229	100.0
60								229	100.0
59								229	100.0
58								229	100.0
57								229	100.0
56								229	100.0
55								229	100.0
54								229	100.0
53								229	100.0
52								229	100.0
51								229	100.0
50								229	100.0
49								229	100.0
48	1		1				1	229	100.0
47	1		1				1	228	99.6
46	1		1				1	227	99.1
45	1		1				1	226	98.7
44	3	1	4				4	225	98.3
43	1	1	2				2	221	96.5
42	5	1	6	1		1	7	219	95.6
41	1		1				1	212	92.6
40	5	5	10	1		1	11	211	92.1
39	2	3	5	1	1	2	7	200	87.3
38	5	5	10		2	2	12	193	84.3
37	6	6	12				12	181	79.0
36	10	10	20		1	1	21	169	73.8
35	12	13	25	1	1	2	27	148	64.6
34	9	5	14	1	1	2	16	121	52.8
33	8	4	12	1	2	3	15	105	45.9
32	12	7	19				19	90	39.3
31	13	5	18	2	1	3	21	71	31.0
30	7	6	13	2		2	15	50	21.8
29	4	1	5		1	1	6	35	15.3
28	15	2	17				17	29	12.7
27	4	2	6	1		1	7	12	5.2
26	1		1				1	5	2.2
25		1	1				1	4	1.7
24	2		2				2	3	1.3
23	1		1				1	1	0.4
22									
21									
Totals	130	78	208	11	10	21	229		



# Vermont Agency Of Transportation Spot Speed Survey Summary

Town	East Montpelier
County	Washington
Route	US-2
Speed Limit	35

Date	06/25/20
Day	Thursday
Time	12:40 -1:30

Setup No.	2
Setup M.P.	2.42

ADT	11000
Year ADT	2020
DHV	1200

Survey Area	
From M.P.	2.42
To M.P.	2.51

Weather	Sunny, dry,
Observer	K.Driscoll, S Lemieux

Passing Zones		
Direction	Begin M.P.	End M.P.
Direction	Begin M.P.	End M.P.
Direction	Begin M.P.	End M.P.
Direction	Begin M.P.	End M.P.

	Cars, Vans, Light Trucks	Trucks & Buses	All Vehicles
Median Speed	34	33	34
85TH Percentile Speed	38	38	38
Modal Speed	35	33	35
Percent In Pace	75	81	74
10 Mile Pace	28 - 37 0 - 0	30 - 39 0 - 0	28 - 37 0 - 0
Recommended Speed Limit ( All Vehicles)			34 0

MPH	Cars, Vans, Light Trucks	Acc. Pct.	Trucks And Buses	Acc. Pct.	All Vehicles	Acc. Pct.
Over 60	0	0	0	0	0	0
56-60	0	0	0	0	0	0
51-55	0	0	0	0	0	0
46-50	3	1	0	0	3	1
41-45	14	8	1	5	15	8
36-40	57	36	6	33	63	35
31-35	88	78	10	81	98	78
26-30	42	98	4	100	46	98
Under 26	4	100	0	100	4	100
Totals	208	100	21	100	229	100

General Remarks On Traffic (Only For The Area Covered By This Spot Speed Survey)
Setup Location Description
Mekelsons eastbound lot.

## VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

Highway Division  
Highway Safety Data UnitDATE: 06/17/20  
(xx/xx/xx)

## CRASH ANALYSIS: \* SECTION \*

ROUTE: US-2

TOWN: East Montpelier

MILEPOINT:  
LENGTH:

BEGIN	END
1.5	3.4
1.9	

Functional Classification: 2  
(by FC code. Enter 1,2,6,7,8,9,11,12,14,16,17, or 19)

PROJECT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

BY(initials): LR

CHECKED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

	Year	Total Crashes	Injury Crashes	Number of Injuries	Fatal Crashes	Number of Fatalities
1.	2015	9	1	1	0	0 2015
2.	2016	8	3	3	0	0 2016
3.	2017	6	1	3	0	0 2017
4.	2018	7	0	0	0	0 2018
5.	2019	12	3	4	0	0 2019
TOTALS		42	8	11	0	0

☐ Y ← Y or N: Are there 5 or more crashes in the 5 year period, OR  
is there at least one crash per year in the 5 year period?

CRASH (Actual) RATE: 1.169 ACC/MILLION VEHICLE MILES(MVM)

STATEWIDE RATE: 1.1393 ACC/MILLION VEHICLE MILES(MVM)

CRITICAL RATE: 1.592 ACC/MILLION VEHICLE MILES(MVM)

\*\* CRASH (Actual) RATE/CRITICAL RATE: 0.734 RATIO

HIGH CRASH LOCATION (HCL)(RATIO &gt; 1.000): No

SEVERITY INDEX (AVE. COST(\$) PER CRASH): 27,979

**NOTE:** For a location to be considered a HCL, two criteria must be satisfied. First, five (5) or more crashes must have occurred in a five-year period or the equivalent of one (1) per year. Second, the Actual to Critical ratio must be 1.000 or higher.

REMARKS:

ROUTE: US-2		TOWN: East Montpelier	
M.P.:	BEGIN 1.50 END 3.40	LENGTH: 1.90	DATE: 06/17/20 (xx/xx/xx)
AADT 2017	LENGTH	WEIGHT	
1.	9800	0.51	4998
2.	10600	0.72	7632
3.	13300	0.23	3059
4.	12900	0.04	516
5.	8700	0.4	3480
6.			0
7.			0
8.			0
9.			0
10.			0
TOTALS	1.90		19685
WTD AADT =		10361	2015 to 2019
MIL. VEH. MI.(MVM)		35.925	
Number of years of crash data:			5

Route	Reporting Agency/Incident No.	City/Town	Mile Marker	Crash Date	Time	Weather	Contributing Circumstances	Direction Of Collision	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Untimely Deaths	Direction	Road Group
US-2	VTVSP1200/18A301507	East Montpelier	1.64	4/5/2018	2:35 PM	Clear	Failure to keep in proper lane	Single Vehicle Crash	0	0	0	N	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/18A304053	East Montpelier	1.92	9/10/2018	12:36 PM	Cloudy	Operating defective equipment- Unknown- No improper driving	Rear End	0	0	0	E	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/18A304725	East Montpelier	1.98	10/18/2018	4:50 PM	Cloudy	Followed too closely- No improper driving	Rear End	0	0	0	E- W	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/15A300369	East Montpelier	2	1/21/2015	7:43 AM	[No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision]	0	0	0		SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/15A303481	East Montpelier	2	7/19/2015	6:54 PM	[No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision]	0	0	0		SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/16A301629	East Montpelier	2	4/20/2016	12:34 AM	Clear	Disregarded traffic signs- signals- markings	Single Vehicle Crash	1	0	0	S	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/16A303786	East Montpelier	2	9/3/2016	7:51 PM	Clear	No improper driving- Failure to keep in proper lane- Driving too fast for conditions	Same Direction Sideswipe	1	0	0	W	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/16A305458	East Montpelier	2	12/15/2016	8:38 PM	[No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision]	0	0	0		SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/17A300271	East Montpelier	2	1/20/2017	5:16 PM	[No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision]	0	0	0		SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/17A303957	East Montpelier	2	9/23/2017	11:13 PM	[No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision]	0	0	0		SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/17A304076	East Montpelier	2	10/2/2017	8:30 AM	Clear	Followed too closely	Rear End	0	0	0	E	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/17A304581	East Montpelier	2	11/4/2017	4:00 PM	Cloudy	Failed to yield right of way- No improper driving	No Turns- Thru moves on	3	0	0	W	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/17A305454	East Montpelier	2	12/27/2017	6:40 AM	Clear	Driving too fast for conditions	Single Vehicle Crash	0	0	0	E	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/18A300184	East Montpelier	2	1/10/2018	2:51 PM	[No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision]	0	0	0		SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/18A304337	East Montpelier	2	9/26/2018	3:45 PM	Cloudy	Failed to yield right of way- No improper driving	Left Turn and Thru- Head	0	0	0	E- W	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/19A301973	East Montpelier	2	4/27/2019	9:01 AM	Rain	Failed to yield right of way- No improper driving	No Turns- Thru moves on	1	0	0	E- S	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/19A303948	East Montpelier	2	8/15/2019	4:19 PM	Clear	Failed to yield right of way- Inattention- No improper driving	No Turns- Thru moves on	2	0	0	S- W	SH State Owned

US-2	VTVSP1200/16A305383	East Montpelier	2.01	12/12/2016	9:06 AM Snow	Driving too fast for conditions	Single Vehicle Crash	1	0	0 E	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/19A301955	East Montpelier	2.01	4/26/2019	8:39 AM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/18A303600	East Montpelier	2.1	8/13/2018	5:05 PM Clear	Followed too closely- Inattention- No improper driving	Rear End	0	0	0 E	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/15A302135	East Montpelier	2.54	5/8/2015	2:03 PM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	SH
US-2	VTVSP1200/15A306042	East Montpelier	2.54	12/18/2015	8:04 AM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	SH SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/19A300422	East Montpelier	2.54	1/23/2019	7:19 AM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	Owned SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/19A302710	East Montpelier	2.64	6/10/2019	4:25 PM Clear	Inattention- No improper driving	Rear End	0	0	0 E	Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/15A304375	East Montpelier	2.72	9/5/2015	12:10 PM Clear	Driving too fast for conditions- No improper driving	Rear End	1	0	0 E	SH SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/16A304632	East Montpelier	2.73	10/27/2016	5:51 PM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	Owned SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/18A300022	East Montpelier	2.73	1/2/2018	4:01 PM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	Owned SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/19A304020	East Montpelier	2.73	8/19/2019	5:34 PM Clear	Failure to keep in proper lane- Followed too closely- No improper driving	Rear End	1	0	0 W	Owned SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/19A303946	East Montpelier	2.77	8/15/2019	4:10 PM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	Owned SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/19A304041	East Montpelier	2.82	8/20/2019	5:55 PM Clear	Followed too closely- No improper driving	Rear End	0	0	0 E	Owned SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/19A303173	East Montpelier	2.88	7/4/2019	12:43 PM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	Owned SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/17A302521	East Montpelier	2.89	6/23/2017	5:26 PM Clear	Followed too closely- No improper driving	Rear End	0	0	0 E	Owned SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/19A303266	East Montpelier	2.89	7/8/2019	3:02 PM Clear	Inattention- No improper driving	Rear End	0	0	0 E	Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/15A302753	East Montpelier	2.91	6/11/2015	7:55 AM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	SH
US-2	VTVSP1200/15A304767	East Montpelier	2.91	9/29/2015	4:30 PM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	SH SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/16A301908	East Montpelier	2.91	5/9/2016	4:46 PM Clear	Failure to keep in proper lane- No improper driving	Head On	0	0	0 W- P	Owned SH State
US-2	VTVSP1200/16A305726	East Montpelier	2.95	12/29/2016	12:27 PM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	Owned

US-2	VTVSP1200/19A300307	East Montpelier	2.96	1/17/2019	4:13 PM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/16A300527	East Montpelier	3	2/2/2016	12:59 PM [No Weather]		[No Direction of Collision	0	0	0	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/19A301168	East Montpelier	3.01	3/8/2019	5:00 PM Clear	Under the influence of medication/drugs/alcohol- Inattention- No improper driving	Rear End	0	0	0 W	SH State Owned
US-2	VTVSP1200/15A303943	East Montpelier	3.05	8/14/2015	2:54 PM Clear	Failure to keep in proper lane Driving too fast for conditions- Failure to keep in proper lane- No improper driving	Single Vehicle Crash	0	0	0 W	SH
US-2	VTVSP1200/15A300818	East Montpelier	3.3	2/14/2015	9:27 PM Cloudy		Head On	0	0	0 W- E	SH

Note: THIS DOCUMENT IS EXEMPT FROM DISCOVERY OR ADMISSION UNDER 23 U. S. C. 409.



# East Montpelier - US 2

Proposed speed changes.



**State of Vermont  
AOT - Traffic Operations**

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*Agency of Transportation*

April 9, 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. Since this is a regulatory issue, Traffic Operations will conduct a traffic engineering study, as required by State Law, and will forward a recommendation to the Vermont Traffic Committee, who makes the final decision. You will be notified of our recommendation 2-3 weeks prior to the Traffic Committee meeting where this issue will be discussed, in the event you wish to attend and provide testimony.

Speed limits on state highways are set by the Vermont Traffic Committee, made up of the Secretary of Transportation, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, and the Commissioner of Public Safety, on the basis of an engineering study performed by the Agency of Transportation. The Committee meets about three times per year, and the town and other interested parties may present testimony at the meetings.

This item will be added to the agenda for the next Traffic Committee meeting. A date for this meeting has not been set yet, but will likely be in late summer. Please note that this timeframe may be affected by the current COVID-19 response efforts and Stay at Home Directive.

Additionally, VTrans Traffic Operations will undertake a Traffic Investigation to review the safety of the intersection of Towne Hill Road with US-2. Review and improvements other than the speed limit are outside the purview of the Traffic Committee but the Agency recognizes your concerns with this intersection extend beyond the speed limit and will review the intersection accordingly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (802) 371-8827 or at [ian.degutis@vermont.gov](mailto:ian.degutis@vermont.gov) if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Ian Degutis, PE, PTOE  
Traffic Operations Engineer

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



**From:** [Bruce Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Degutis, Ian](#)  
**Cc:** [Gadapee, Kevin](#); [Neaderland, Zoe](#); [Driscoll, Kristin](#); [Ashley Andrews](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [Questions and Comments] Lack of Signage Towne Hill Rd E Montpelier  
**Date:** Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:18:54 PM

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hi Ian:

The current request is as your formal response indicates – covering only the road segment from Mekkelisen's RV south past the Towne Hill Road intersection to Codling Road with a focus on improving safety conditions around the intersection. The point of the email paragraph was to remind everyone that there had been a discussion between VTrans personnel, town representatives, and the public regarding an evaluation of the speed limit through the village (currently 35 mph but lowered to 25 mph during the project years) just a couple of years ago, which ended with an understanding that VTrans would study the situation at some point after the southern intersection project was completed. Since the two segments, through the village to Mekkelisen's and from Mekkelisen's to Codling, are connected we wanted to let that fact hang out there on the chance that this would be the right time to study both speed limit issues together.

Thank you for the very quick response. We look forward to seeing the results of both the safety review and the speed limit study.

Bruce

C. Bruce Johnson  
East Montpelier Town & Zoning Administrator  
40 Kelton Road  
PO Box 157  
East Montpelier, VT 05651  
(802) 223-3313 x 204  
[manager@eastmontpeliervt.org](mailto:manager@eastmontpeliervt.org)  
<https://eastmontpeliervt.org/>

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**From:** Degutis, Ian <[ian.degutis@vermont.gov](mailto:ian.degutis@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:18 PM  
**To:** Bruce Johnson <[manager@eastmontpeliervt.org](mailto:manager@eastmontpeliervt.org)>  
**Cc:** Gadapee, Kevin <[Kevin.Gadapee@vermont.gov](mailto:Kevin.Gadapee@vermont.gov)>; Neaderland, Zoe <[Zoe.Neaderland@vermont.gov](mailto:Zoe.Neaderland@vermont.gov)>; Driscoll, Kristin <[Kristin.Driscoll@vermont.gov](mailto:Kristin.Driscoll@vermont.gov)>; Ashley Andrews <[andrews@cvregion.com](mailto:andrews@cvregion.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: [Questions and Comments] Lack of Signage Towne Hill Rd E Montpelier

Good afternoon Bruce-

Please find attached a formal response to the Town's request regarding speed limits on US-2.

Can you please clarify the Selectboard's intended limits of the request? Their letter indicates they wish to have us study the area between Mekkelisen's and Codling Road, but your email suggests the request also includes the Village itself.

Please note that due to the current Stay Home directive, I am teleworking and a hard copy of this letter will not be sent. This PDF should be considered the original.

Thank you!

**Ian Degutis, PE, PTOE** | Traffic Operations Engineer  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
2178 Airport Road | Berlin, VT 05641  
802-371-8827 | [ian.degutis@vermont.gov](mailto:ian.degutis@vermont.gov)

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**From:** Johnson, CBruce <[manager@eastmontpeliervt.org](mailto:manager@eastmontpeliervt.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 3, 2020 3:37 PM  
**To:** Driscoll, Kristin <[Kristin.Driscoll@vermont.gov](mailto:Kristin.Driscoll@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [Questions and Comments] Lack of Signage Towne Hill Rd E Montpelier

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hi Kristin:

Here's the EM Selectboard letter requesting a study of the US Rte. 2 stretch encompassing the Towne Hill Road intersection. It is fully understood that the Covid-19 situation may cause a delay in any consideration and carry-out of our request.

The bottom line here is that the town would like to see an evaluation of the possibility of the EM Village speed limit dropping to 30 mph and then raised to 40 mph from Mekkelisen's to some point near Codling Road. That's the concept that was discussed during the Village Bridge & US Rte. 2/VT Rte. 14 intersection project and supposedly was to be considered by VTrans after the project's completion to give an opportunity to see how the two traffic lights played together.

Thank you for your assistance with this and hope all is well with you & yours,

Bruce

C. Bruce Johnson  
East Montpelier Town & Zoning Administrator  
40 Kelton Road  
PO Box 157  
East Montpelier, VT 05651  
(802) 223-3313 x 204  
[manager@eastmontpeliervt.org](mailto:manager@eastmontpeliervt.org)  
<https://eastmontpeliervt.org/>

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**From:** Driscoll, Kristin <[Kristin.Driscoll@vermont.gov](mailto:Kristin.Driscoll@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2020 2:52 PM  
**To:** Bruce Johnson <[manager@eastmontpeliervt.org](mailto:manager@eastmontpeliervt.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: [Questions and Comments] Lack of Signage Towne Hill Rd E Montpelier

Bruce,

I just took a quick look though the file, when was the last time the Town requested to lower the speed limit here? I didn't see anything all the way back to 2008...

Speed limits on State Highways in Vermont are set by the Vermont Traffic Committee, on the basis of an engineering study performed by the Traffic Operations unit. This process is begun by the town making a formal request to Ian Degutis (Vtrans Traffic Engineer); once such a request is received we will undertake a study and present our recommendations to the Traffic Committee. Speed limits must, by law and in accordance to the federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), be set on the basis of an engineering study. The study will take into account the current speeds, particularly the 85th percentile speed, which is the speed below which 85 percent of the drivers are traveling. The speed limit should be set at the 85th percentile speed, rounded to the nearest 5 mph, unless there are other factors that necessitate a different speed limit.

The reason for this is because research has shown drivers generally drive at the speed they feel comfortable, and reducing the speed limit far below the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed generally does not lower travel speeds significantly. Posting speed limits which are not likely to be obeyed does little to address the concerns in the area, but breeds disrespect for the signs and makes enforcement more difficult.

If the select board would like to make such a request they could email or write a letter addressed to Ian (it could come through me to forward on). However, I will advise you that having conducted a brief desk review of this location, I would not expect the engineering study to recommend lowering the speed limit on this stretch of road. The road appears to have a similar character, and similar set of hazards, to many roads across Vermont which are currently signed at 50 mph. I am on vacation for the next week, but we can touch base on this after if you have any questions.

Thanks!

**Kristin Driscoll**  
Traffic Investigation Supervisor/NE Region  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
2178 Airport Road | Berlin, VT 05641  
802-424-6338 | [kristin.driscoll@vermont.gov](mailto:kristin.driscoll@vermont.gov)

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**From:** Bruce Johnson <[manager@eastmontpeliervt.org](mailto:manager@eastmontpeliervt.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2020 2:23 PM