
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

**Subject: Discuss speed limit on South Grand Avenue
(US Hwy 18) from Old Hwy Road to south City limits**

Background Summary:

Councilman Keith Starr is requesting to discuss this item for possible referral to the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) for study to determine if a lower speed limit is warranted.

South Grand Avenue from Old Highway Road to the south City limits consists of three separate speed limit zones. North of CUSB Bank the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour (MPH). From CUSB Bank to Molstead Motors the speed limit is 45 MPH. South of Molstead Motors the speed limit is 55 MPH. Please refer to the attachment that provides a visual of the speed limit zones.

Since Highway 18 is on the primary highway system, the DOT is responsible for setting the speed limit on the roadway. Consideration for changing the speed limit begins by requesting that the DOT study the existing conditions as part of a traffic investigation. We make that request through the local district office.

The DOT considers a speed study as an important part of the traffic investigation. When choosing a speed, drivers take many roadway environment factors into consideration. Therefore, the DOT regards the speed that the majority of people consider prudent is an important value. The speed of the traffic is collected and an analysis is performed on the results to determine the 85th percentile. This is the value indicating the speed which most (85%) drivers are traveling at or below. The DOT's experience has shown that traveling much faster or slower than this value can increase the chance of accidents.

The DOT has prepared a short video that explains why and how speed limits are set. We will review this video during Tuesday's planning session. If you want to watch the video prior to the meeting, the link to the video is: [Traffic and Safety Bureau | Iowa DOT](#).

South Grand Avenue (US Hwy 18) Speed Limit Zones

