

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM II



**CITY OF FRANKLIN  
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

*October 6, 2014 City Council Meeting*

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**SUBJECT: NHDOT will address Mayor and Council concerning Speed Study performed on Route 3/Main Street.**

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**Mr. Bill Lambert with the Traffic Division, NHDOT will address the Speed Study for Route 3, Main Street.**



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



CHRISTOPHER D. CLEMENT,
SR.
COMMISSIONER

JEFF BRILLHART, P.E.
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

October 1, 2014

Ms. Elizabeth A. Dragon, City Manager
City of Franklin
316 Central Street
Franklin, NH 03235

Re: US Route 3 speed limit

Dear Ms. Dragon:

The following summarizes the points to be discussed with the city council on Monday, October 6, 2014:

- The city council requested in September, 2013 that an engineering and traffic investigation be conducted with regard to the speed limit along US Route 3 near the intersection of Holy Cross Road and Smith Hill Road and in the area of the industrial park.
Several speed studies have been conducted along the segment from US Route 4 in Boscawen to the urban compact in Franklin (posted at 30 mph) over the past several months, copies of the speed study summaries are attached, and are summarized below:

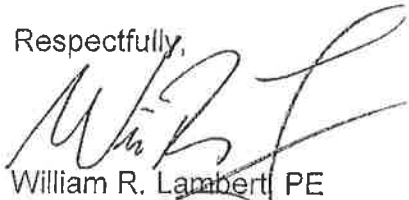
Table with 3 columns: Location of study, 85th percentile, Average speed. Rows include Boscawen, south of Goodhue Road; Boscawen, north of Forest Lane; Franklin, north of Holy Cross Road; Franklin, north of Punch Brook Road.

- In general, posted speed limits are recommended to be set at, or near, the 85th percentile speed of free flowing traffic on a given highway segment (within 5 mph). This presumes that most drivers, assumed to be 85%, will drive at a speed that is "reasonable and prudent for conditions" so that speed enforcement can focus on the remaining 15%.
In reviewing the results of these studies with interested stakeholders, noting that the studies did not seem to support reducing the speed limit as some have requested near Holy Cross Road, it was pointed out that there was an existing 40 mph speed limit on a similar segment of the same road near the Merrimack County nursing home and prison. This resulted in the additional speed studies shown above.

- The NHDOT and the Town of Boscawen have agreed to eliminate the existing 40 mph speed limit described above, but will post a 45 mph speed limit from approximately Forest Lane to US Route 4 as a reasonable transition that reflects the increased number of turning conflicts associated with residential drives and public roads along this segment.
- The intent of the city council meeting is to discuss the results of the engineering and traffic investigation and determine what action, if any, is warranted along US Route 3.

I look forward to meeting with the city to discuss the results so that we can come to terms on action that best serves the people that live along this route and those that travel it on a regular basis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. R. Lambert', is written over the typed name.

William R. Lambert PE  
Traffic Engineer/Administrator  
(603) 271-1679  
[wlambert@dot.state.nh.us](mailto:wlambert@dot.state.nh.us)

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

- INTRA-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION -

DATE: July 24, 2013

FROM: Robert E. Bollinger, P.E., PTOE

AT (OFFICE)  
Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Traffic

SUBJECT: Track-It 1975  
Franklin; US Route 3 Speed Data

TO: William R. Lambert, P.E.  
Bureau of Traffic

## MEMORANDUM

Per your request, the Research group of the Bureau of Traffic has completed a spot speed study on US 3 in Franklin. Specifically, data were on Tuesday, July 23, 2013 on US 3 in the existing 50 mph zone, south of Doucette Drive, and north of Holy Cross Road. The results are summarized below, and the raw data sheets are attached for your use and review.

### US 3, south of Doucette Drive & north of Holy Cross Road

Measurement	NB	SB	Combined
Observations	249	276	525
Average Speed	47 mph	47 mph	47 mph
50th Percentile Speed	48 mph	47 mph	48 mph
85th Percentile Speed	53 mph	53 mph	53 mph
10 mph pace	45-55 mph	40-50 mph	45-55 mph
Posted Speed Limit	50 mph	50 mph	--

Should you require any additional information or clarification on this matter, please contact me directly.


Attachments

Cc: A. Hanscom, District 2  
S. Gunn, Bureau of Traffic  
Townfile  
Track-It 1971  
Track-It 1754  
Track-It 1755

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

- INTRA-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION -

DATE: May 20, 2014

FROM:  Robert E. Bollinger, P.E., PTOE

AT (OFFICE)  
Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Traffic

SUBJECT: Track-It 2316  
Boscawen-Franklin - US 3  
Speed Data

TO: William R. Lambert, P.E.  
Administrator, Bureau of Traffic

## MEMORANDUM

Per your request, the Research group of the Bureau of Traffic has completed two speed studies on US 3, in the towns of Boscawen and Franklin. Data were collected on May 15-16, 2014. The results are summarized below, and the raw data sheets are attached for your use and review.

### Location 1 - Boscawen - US 3, north of Forest Lane.

<u>Measurement</u>	<u>NB</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>Combined</u>
Observations	2,449	2,446	4,895
Average Speed	49 mph	44 mph	47 mph
50th Percentile Speed	49 mph	44 mph	47 mph
85th Percentile Speed	55 mph	49 mph	53 mph
10 mph pace	45-55 mph	40-50 mph	40-50 mph
Posted Speed Limit	40 mph	40 mph	--

### Location 2 - Franklin - US 3, north of Punch Brook Road.

<u>Measurement</u>	<u>NB</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>Combined</u>
Observations	2,451	2,401	4,852
Average Speed	45 mph	49 mph	47 mph
50th Percentile Speed	46 mph	50 mph	47 mph
85th Percentile Speed	51 mph	56 mph	54 mph
10 mph pace	40-50 mph	45-55 mph	40-50 mph
Posted Speed Limit	50 mph	50 mph	--

Should you require any additional information or clarification on this matter, please contact me directly.

Attachments

Cc: S. Gunn, Bureau of Traffic  
I. Wong, Bureau of Traffic  
File

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

- INTRA-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION -

DATE: August 13, 2014

FROM:  Robert E. Bollinger, P.E., PTOE

AT (OFFICE)  
Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Traffic

SUBJECT: Track-It 2406  
Boscawen – US 3  
Speed Data

TO: William R. Lambert, P.E.  
Administrator, Bureau of Traffic

## MEMORANDUM

Per your request, the Research group of the Bureau of Traffic has completed a speed study on US 3, in the towns of Boscawen and Franklin. Data were collected on August 11-12, 2014. The results are summarized below, and the raw data sheets are attached for your use and review.

Table 1 - Speed Summary Data  
US 3, south of Goodhue Rd., and north of US 4

Measurement	NB	SB	Combined
Observations	1,793	1,839	3,632
Average Speed	51 mph	48 mph	49 mph
50th Percentile Speed	51 mph	48 mph	49 mph
85th Percentile Speed	57 mph	53 mph	55 mph
10 mph pace	45-55 mph	45-55 mph	45-55 mph
Posted Speed Limit	50 mph	50 mph	--

Should you require any additional information or clarification on this matter, please contact me directly.

Attachments

Cc: S. Gunn, Bureau of Traffic  
S. Sharma, Bureau of Traffic  
I. Wong, Bureau of Traffic  
File