



**ORANGE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**P.O. Box 509, 2455-2459 Route 17M
Goshen, New York 10924-0509**

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SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION REQUEST PROCEDURE

The New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law gives the authority to set speed limits only to villages, cities, and Towns with populations of over 50,000. The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has the authority to set and control speed limits along all other roadways (State roads, County roads, and Town roads). To reduce the speed limit along a roadway, a formal Speed Limit Reduction Request must be submitted to Orange County DPW by the municipality which will then be forwarded on to NYSDOT.

Per Part V., Paragraph G of the NYSDOT Traffic Safety and Mobility Instruction (TSMI) 17-05,

“The Town or County requesting a speed zone on a Town or County Highway may obtain the study data to expedite the Department’s review of the speed zone request. If the Town or County decides to obtain study data, they will conduct the field investigation in accordance with guidelines provided in [the] document and collect all required data using standard Department forms and instructions as provided by the Regional Traffic Engineer. This report must be approved by a licensed Professional Engineer with expertise in traffic operations.”

The County recommends that an engineering speed study signed by a licensed Professional Engineer be in accordance with Section 2B.13 of the Federal MUTCD and the NYSDOT TSMI 17-05. The engineering study shall be performed in accordance with traffic engineering practices and include an analysis of the current speed distribution of free-flowing vehicles. The report submitted shall provide all relevant study data such as:

- Request Description
- Location Description
- Roadway Classification
- Reason for Request and Study
- Amount and Type of Development along the Roadway
- Various Roadway Features
 - i.e. vertical and horizontal curves, grade, alignment, sight distance, structures, pavement markings, guiderail, number of travel lanes, parking practices, pedestrian and bicycle activity and accommodations, etc.
- Physical Condition of the Roadway
 - i.e. pavement type, pavement condition, pavement age, shoulder condition, etc.
- Traffic Volumes
- One or more Speed Studies with an Analysis including but not limited to:
 - Dates of study and weather during study
 - Minimum speed
 - Maximum speed
 - Average speed
 - 15th percentile speed
 - 50th percentile speed
 - 85th percentile speed
 - 95th percentile speed
 - Speed distribution graph
- Accident History (reported crash experience for at least a 12-month period)
- Relevant Correspondence
- Town Board Resolution (certified copy)
- TE-9 Application Form

It shall be noted, per Section VII. Paragraph A. Subpart 8. of the NYSDOT TSMI 17-05:

“A lower speed limit does not guarantee lower operating speeds and may not be appropriate. Studies have shown that the compliance level is best achieved on a voluntary basis when the speed limit is set at approximately the 85th percentile speed. Otherwise, constant and vigilant enforcement is required to achieve compliance at a speed limit deemed too low by the vast majority of motorists.”

Upon receipt, Orange County DPW will forward the items submitted by the municipality to NYSDOT for their review and determination. The New York State Department of Transportation has the final authority over the speed limits on Town, County and State roads.

N.Y.S. Department of Transportation
Regional Traffic Engineer
Region No. 8
4 Burnett Boulevard
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

NYSDOT:

The Town Board of the Town of _____, by a resolution adopted _____, 20_____, and the County Superintendent of Highways of the County of _____, hereby requests the Department of Transportation, pursuant to Section 1622.1 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, to establish a lower maximum speed at which vehicles may proceed on

_____ , a
Road Name

Circle one:
Town Road
County Road
State Highway

Between _____ and _____ .

Upon receipt of the notice that the regulation herein requested has been established, the _____ of _____ will provide, install and maintain signs in accordance with the Vehicle and Traffic Law and conforming to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices of the Department of Transportation.

Dated: _____
Town Clerk

Dated: _____
County DPW Commissioner

Comments by County Superintendent: