

Speed Limits

The “Basic Speed Law” means that you may never drive faster than is safe for current conditions. Other than local residential roadways where the speed limit is 25 MPH, maximum Speed Limits are posted with Speed Limit signs. Posted Speed Limits are determined by measuring the speed of vehicles that use the roadway based on ideal driving conditions.

These Speed Limits are set near the 85th percentile speed of vehicles driving on the roadway. That means that 85 percent of vehicles driving on the roadway drive at or below this speed and 15 percent drive above this speed limit. Periodically, typically every five years, these Speed Limits are reevaluated and the Speed Limit adjusted to match the 85th percentile speed. Adjusting the Speed Limit does not mean that vehicles will drive faster or slower, the adjusted Speed Limit more appropriately reflects vehicle speeds. As with most laws, Speed Limits depend on the voluntary compliance of the majority of motorists. Speed Limits cannot be set arbitrarily low, as this would create violators of the majority of drivers and would not command the respect or compliance of drivers. Speed Limits that are not set at the 85th percentile speeds are typically not enforceable and the court system will not enforce the ticket.

