



2017 Legislative Policy Statement
12th Annual CSA Legislative Summit
Coconino County, Arizona
October 25-27, 2016

A. What is the legislative proposal?

Decrease the default speed limit from 65 to 45 mph.

Suggested deleted language is shown in ~~red strikethrough~~ and added language is shown in **red bold italicized**.

28-701. Reasonable and prudent speed; prima facie evidence; exceptions

- A. A person shall not drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the circumstances, conditions and actual and potential hazards then existing. A person shall control the speed of a vehicle as necessary to avoid colliding with any object, person, vehicle or other conveyance on, entering or adjacent to the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to exercise reasonable care for the protection of others.
- B. Except as provided in subsections C and D of this section or except if a special hazard requires a lesser speed, any speed in excess of the following speeds is prima facie evidence that the speed is too great and therefore unreasonable:
 - 1. Fifteen miles per hour approaching a school crossing.
 - 2. Twenty-five miles per hour in a business or residential district.
 - 3. Forty-five miles per hour on unpaved roads.**
 - ~~3.4.~~ Sixty-five miles per hour in other locations.
- C. The speed limits prescribed in this section may be altered as authorized in sections 28-702 and 28-703.
- D. The maximum speed provided in this section is reduced to the speed that is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and with regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing, including the following conditions:
 - 1. Approaching and crossing an intersection or railroad crossing.
 - 2. Approaching and going around a curve.
 - 3. Approaching a hillcrest.
 - 4. Traveling on a narrow or winding roadway.
 - 5. A special hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.
- E. A person shall not drive a motor vehicle at a speed that is less than the speed that is reasonable and prudent under existing conditions unless the speed that is reasonable and prudent exceeds the maximum safe operating speed of the lawfully operated implement of husbandry.

B. Describe the problem and explain how the proposal solves it.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads states:

“Unpaved roads are intended to operate at low to moderate speeds. Design speeds for unpaved roads should normally be 70km/h (45 mph) or less, but may be as high as 80 km/h (50 mph) in situations the designer considers appropriate.”

Within our county, unpaved road conditions are unpredictable and may change significantly depending on soil types, traffic volume, and time since last blading. As such



County Supervisors

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our county recommends establishing a 45 mph speed limit to further protect the traveling public in a manner that is consistent with current AASHTO guidelines.

C. What is the fiscal impact to the state or county budgets of the proposal?

No impact.

D. What is the preliminary analysis of the political environment and stakeholders' and affiliates' comments?

E. Who is the primary county contact information for the proposal (name, phone, email and other relevant information)?

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