

Dear Supervisor Caddigan:

A speed limit study was recently conducted on Dumfries Road (Rte 234) in the Dumfries District of Prince William County. The traffic study was conducted in order to verify the speed limit posting is proper since the widening of Route 234 has taken place. Section 46.2-878 of the Code of Virginia requires a valid traffic study be on file with the Central Office, since the conditions of the road have changed the existing study was no longer valid.

The format used to analyze the need for a speed limit adjustment is in accordance with the requirements contained in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Section 2B-1. This document is a nationally adopted standard published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

In the interest of consistency and to insure that all appropriate factors are considered, a standardized VDOT engineering speed study is used; this framework incorporates legislative direction and engineering principles to evaluate and document speed limits for Virginia highways.

Currently, Route 234 is posted at 50 mph from Van Buren Road (Rte 627) to Country Club Drive (Rte 1450). It is 55 mph from Country Club Drive to I-66 as you proceed north. We believe that the 50 mph zone should be extended past the entrances to Montclair and Forest Park HS. We recommend extending the 50 mph zone to a distance of 0.26 miles north of Carrs Brooke Way (Rte 3130).

This recommended change in speed limit has been discussed with the Virginia State Police and the Prince William County Police Department and they concur with the proposed reduction.

If you have any input on this change, please notify us prior to 04/21/2008 (two weeks from date of email) at which time we are planning to send the final report to the VDOT State Traffic Engineer's office in Richmond for review and to gain the appropriate signatures authorizing the change as defined in Section 46.2-878 of the Code of Virginia.

If I may be of any further assistance or provide additional information or clarification in this matter, please contact me at (703) 383-2471.

Sincerely,

Jerry Pauley  
Prince William County Area Manager  
VDOT Traffic Engineering –  
Northern Region Operations