

# Speed limits

## Speed limits are important because they

- Make roads safer by reducing variability in vehicle speeds.
- Help unfamiliar drivers know the appropriate speed.
- Help law enforcement curb dangerous behavior.

## Speed limits are established through Minnesota Statute 169.14. The statute

- Defines speeds for certain roadway types.
- Establishes a process for the State to determine speeds.

## Speed studies examine

- Actual speeds of vehicles using the roadway.
- Roadway type, condition and length.
- Location of intersections and driveways.
- Traffic volume and crash history.
- Sight distance limitations caused by curves or hills.

After a speed study is conducted, a speed limit is set by the State. Posted limits reflect speeds for ideal road and weather conditions.

## Speed limit facts

- Lowering the posted speed limit will not slow traffic.
- Most people drive what is comfortable and safe to them regardless of posted speeds.
- Lowering a posted speed limit does not reduce crashes.
- Improperly set speed limits decrease safety.

