

## Why Speed Limit Signs are Not Posted on Every Street

Some information on why speed limit signs are not posted on every street:

The Sault Ste.  
Marie Prima Facie  
is 25 MPH.

Speed limit signs are  
placed to indicate a  
change in the speed  
limit.

What concerned  
residents can do:  
  
Contact the Police  
Department to notify  
them of speeding in  
your area.

### **Sault Ste. Marie - Prima Facie**

The prima facie speed limit in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, is 25 MPH. This means that this is the speed limit that applies even if there is no sign posted. This is recognized as State Law, MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE, Act 300 of 1949, 257.627 Speed limits. For reference to this excerpt, please see below.

### **Speed Limit Sign Guidelines**

Following National and State Guidelines, speed limit signs are only placed when there is a change in the speed limit.

### **Speeding**

If you are witnessing speeding as a problem in your area, contact the Sault Ste. Marie Police Department to notify them of the problem.

**MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 300 of 1949**  
**257.627 Speed limits.**

Sec. 627. (1) An individual operating a vehicle on a highway shall operate that vehicle at a careful and prudent speed not greater than nor less than is reasonable and proper, having due regard to the traffic, surface, and width of the highway and of any other condition existing at the time. An individual shall not operate a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than that which will permit a stop within the assured, clear distance ahead. A violation of this subsection shall be known and may be referred to as a violation of the basic speed law or "VBSL".

(2) Except as provided in subsection (1), it is lawful for the operator of a vehicle to operate that vehicle on a highway at a speed not exceeding the following:

(a) 15 miles per hour on a highway segment within the boundaries of a mobile home park, as that term is defined in section 2 of the mobile home commission act, 1987 PA 96, MCL 125.2302.

(b) 25 miles per hour on a highway segment within a business district.

(c) 25 miles per hour on a highway segment within the boundaries of a public park. A local authority may decrease the speed limit to not less than 15 miles per hour in a public park under its jurisdiction.

(d) 25 miles per hour on a highway segment within the boundaries of a residential subdivision, including a condominium subdivision, consisting of a system of interconnected highways with no through highways and a limited number of dedicated highways that serve as entrances to and exits from the subdivision.

(e) Until January 1, 2024, 25 miles per hour on a highway segment that is part of the local street system as designated by a local jurisdiction and approved by the state transportation commission under 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.651 to 247.675, and that is within land that is zoned for residential use by the governing body of an incorporated city or village under the Michigan zoning enabling act, 2006 PA 110, MCL 125.3101 to 125.3702, unless another speed is fixed and posted. The department of state police shall perform a speed study on a random sample of local streets set under this subdivision. No later than January 1, 2023, the department of state police shall submit a report on the speed study required under this subdivision to the senate majority leader, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the governor.

(f) 25 miles per hour on a highway segment with 60 or more vehicular access points within 1/2 mile.

(g) 30 miles per hour on a highway segment with not less than 50 vehicular access points but no more than 59 vehicular access points within 1/2 mile.

(h) 35 miles per hour on a highway segment with not less than 45 vehicular access points but no more than 49 vehicular access points within 1/2 mile.

(i) 40 miles per hour on a highway segment with not less than 40 vehicular access points but no more than 44 vehicular access points within 1/2 mile.

(j) 45 miles per hour on a highway segment with not less than 30 vehicular access points but no more than 39 vehicular access points within 1/2 mile.

(3) An individual operating a truck with a gross weight of 10,000 pounds or more, a truck-tractor, a truck-tractor with a semi-trailer or trailer, or a combination of these vehicles shall not exceed a speed of 35 miles per hour during the period when reduced loadings are being enforced in accordance with this chapter.

(4) Where the posted speed limit is greater than 65 miles per hour, an individual operating a school bus, a truck with a gross weight of 10,000 pounds or more, a truck-tractor, or a truck-tractor with a semi-trailer or trailer or a combination of these vehicles shall not exceed a speed of 65 miles per hour on a limited access freeway or a state trunk line highway.

(5) All of the following apply to the speed limits described in subsection (2):

(a) A highway segment adjacent to or lying between 2 or more areas described in subsection (2)(a), (b), (c), or (d) is not considered to be within the boundaries of those areas.

(b) A highway segment of more than 1/2 mile in length with a consistent density of vehicular access points equal to the number of vehicular access points described in subsection (2)(f), (g), (h), (i), or (j) must be posted at the speed limit specified in the adjoining segment. A separate determination must be made for each adjoining highway segment where vehicular access point density is different.

(c) A speed limit may be posted on highways less than 1/2 mile in length by prorating in 1/10 mile segments the vehicular access point density described in subsection (2)(f), (g), (h), (i), or (j).

(6) An individual operating a vehicle on a highway, when entering and passing through a work zone described in section 79d(a) where a normal lane or part of the lane of traffic has been closed due to highway construction, maintenance, or surveying activities, shall not exceed a speed of 45 miles per hour unless a different speed limit is determined for that work zone by the state transportation department, a county road commission, or a local authority, based on accepted engineering practice. The state transportation department, a county road commission, or a local authority shall post speed limit signs in each work zone described in section 79d(a) that indicate the speed limit in that work zone and shall identify that work zone with any other traffic control devices necessary to conform to the Michigan manual on uniform traffic control devices. An individual operating a vehicle shall not exceed a speed limit established under this section or a speed limit established under section 628. For a work zone that has a speed limit in effect only where workers are present, the state transportation department, a county road commission, or a local authority is authorized to include 1 or more flashing lights and an illuminated changeable digital message displaying the speed limit on the speed limit sign required under this subsection. As used in this subsection:

(a) "Illuminated changeable digital message" means an electronic message that displays the speed limit in a numerical format.

(b) "Present" means located in proximity to a roadway that is not protected by a guardrail or barrier.

(c) "Speed limit sign" includes, but is not limited to, a sign that displays illuminated changeable digital messages.

(7) The state transportation department, a county road commission, or a local authority shall decrease the speed limit in a hospital highway zone by up to 10 miles per hour upon request of a hospital located within that hospital highway zone. The state transportation department, county road commission, or local authority may decrease the speed limit in a hospital highway zone by more than 10 miles per hour if the decrease is supported by an engineering and safety study. The state transportation department, county road commission, or local authority shall post speed limit signs in a hospital highway zone that indicate the speed limit in that hospital highway zone and shall identify that hospital highway zone with any other traffic control devices necessary to conform to the Michigan manual on uniform traffic control devices. If a change in a sign, signal, or device, is necessitated by a speed limit decrease described in this subsection, the hospital requesting the decrease shall pay the cost of doing so. As used in this subsection, "hospital highway zone" means a portion of state trunk line highway maintained by the state transportation department that has a posted speed limit of at least 50 miles per hour and has 2 or fewer lanes for travel in the same direction, traverses along property owned by a hospital, contains an ingress and egress point from hospital property, and extends not more than 1,000 feet beyond the boundary lines of hospital property in both directions in a municipality.

(8) Subject to subsection (17), the maximum speed limit on all limited access freeways upon which a speed limit is not otherwise fixed under this act is 70 miles per hour, which shall be known as the "limited access freeway general speed limit". The minimum speed limit on all limited access freeways upon which a minimum speed limit is not otherwise fixed under this act is 55 miles per hour.

(9) Subject to subsection (17), the speed limit on all trunk line highways and all county highways upon which a speed limit is not otherwise fixed under this act is 55 miles per hour, which shall be known as the "general speed limit".

(10) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the speed limit on all county highways with a gravel or unimproved surface upon which a speed limit is not otherwise fixed under this act is 55 miles per hour, which shall be known as the "general gravel road speed limit". Upon request of a municipality located within a county with a population of 1,000,000 or more, the county road commission, in conjunction with the requesting municipality, may lower the speed limit to 45 miles per hour on the requested road segment and if a sign, signal, or device is erected or maintained, taken down, or regulated as a result of a request by a municipality for a speed limit of 45 miles per hour, the municipality shall pay the costs of doing so. If a municipality located within a county with a population of 1,000,000 or more requests a speed different than the speed described in this subsection, the county road commission, in conjunction with the department of state police and the requesting municipality, may conduct a speed study of free-flow traffic on the fastest portion of the road segment in question for the purpose of establishing a modified speed limit. A speed study conducted under this subsection must be completed between 3 and 14 days after a full gravel road maintenance protocol has been performed on the road segment. A full gravel road maintenance protocol described in this subsection must include road grading and the application of a dust abatement chemical treatment. Following a speed study conducted under this subsection, the speed limit for the road segment must be established at the nearest multiple of 5 miles per hour to the eighty-fifth percentile of speed of free-flow traffic under ideal conditions for vehicular traffic, and must not be set below the fiftieth percentile speed of free-flow traffic under ideal conditions for vehicular traffic. A speed study conducted under this subsection is the responsibility of the department of state police, and if a sign, signal, or device is erected or maintained, taken down, or regulated as a result of a request by a municipality under this subsection, the municipality shall pay the costs of doing so.

(11) A public record of all traffic control orders establishing statutory speed limits authorized under this section must be filed with the office of the clerk of the county in which the county highway is located or at the office of the city or village clerk or administrative office of the airport, college, or university in which the local highway is located, and a certified copy of the traffic control order is evidence in every court of this state of the authority for the issuance of that traffic control order. The public record filed with the county, city, or village clerk or administrative office of the airport, college, or university must not be required as evidence of authority for issuing a traffic control order in the case of signs temporarily erected or placed at points where construction, maintenance, or surveying activities is in progress. A traffic and engineering investigation is not required for a traffic control order for a speed limit established under subsection (2). A traffic control order must, at a minimum, contain all of the following information:

(a) The name of the road.

(b) The boundaries of the segment of the road on which the speed limit is in effect.

(c) The basis upon which the speed limit is in effect.

(d) The section of law, including a reference to the subsection, under which the speed limit is established.

(12) Except for speed limits described in subsections (1), (2)(d), (2)(e), and (9), speed limits established under this section are not valid unless properly posted. In the absence of a properly posted sign, the speed limit in effect is the basic speed law described in subsection (1). Speed limits established under subsection (2)(b), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) are not valid unless a traffic control order is filed as described in subsection (11).

(13) Nothing in this section prevents the establishment of a modified speed limit after a speed study as described in section 628. A modified speed limit established under section 628 supersedes a speed limit established under this section.

(14) All signs erected or placed under this section must conform to the Michigan manual on uniform traffic control devices.

(15) If upon investigation the state transportation department or county road commission and the department of state police determine that it is in the interest of public safety, they may order city, village, airport, college, university, and township officials to erect and maintain, take down, or regulate speed limit signs, signals, and devices as directed. In default of an order, the state

transportation department or county road commission may cause designated signs, signals, and devices to be erected and maintained, removed, or regulated in the manner previously directed and pay the costs for doing so out of the designated highway fund. An investigation, including a speed study, conducted under this subsection is the responsibility of the department of state police.

(16) An individual who violates a speed limit established under this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

(17) No later than January 5, 2018, the state transportation department and the department of state police shall increase the speed limits on at least 600 miles of limited access freeway to 75 miles per hour if an engineering and safety study and the eighty-fifth percentile speed of free-flowing traffic under ideal conditions of that section contain findings that the speed limit may be raised to that speed, and the department shall increase the speed limit of 900 miles of trunk line highway to 65 miles per hour if an engineering and safety study and the eighty-fifth percentile speed of free-flowing traffic under ideal conditions of that section contain findings that the speed limit may be raised to that speed.

(18) As used in this section:

(a) "Traffic control order" means a document filed with the proper authority that establishes the legal and enforceable speed limit for the highway segment described in the document.

(b) "Vehicular access point" means a driveway or intersecting roadway.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1957, Act 190, Eff. Sept. 27, 1957 ;-- Am. 1959, Act 76, Eff. Mar. 19, 1960 ;-- Am. 1962, Act 120, Eff. Mar. 28, 1963 ;-- Am. 1966, Act 223, Imd. Eff. July 11, 1966 ;-- Am. 1974, Act 28, Imd. Eff. Mar. 2, 1974 ;-- Am. 1976, Act 190, Imd. Eff. July 8, 1976 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979 ;-- Am. 1986, Act 92, Eff. June 5, 1986 ;-- Am. 1988, Act 460, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1988 ;-- Am. 1990, Act 165, Imd. Eff. July 2, 1990 ;-- Am. [2003, Act 315](#), Eff. Apr. 8, 2004 ;-- Am. [2004, Act 62](#), Imd. Eff. Apr. 13, 2004 ;-- Am. [2006, Act 19](#), Eff. Nov. 9, 2006 ;-- Am. [2006, Act 85](#), Eff. Nov. 9, 2006 ;-- Am. [2012, Act 252](#), Imd. Eff. July 2, 2012 ;-- Am. [2016, Act 445](#), Imd. Eff. Jan. 5, 2017 ;-- Am. [2019, Act 31](#), Imd. Eff. June 25, 2019 ;-- Am. [2022, Act 52](#), Imd. Eff. Mar. 29, 2022