# Traffic Investigation Report 

Level 2 Final
Study: EN-2739-24
Location: US-36 and US-183 E Junction in Phillipsburg, Phillips County, Kansas
Date: 1/22/2024

City: Phillipsburg
County: Phillips
District/Area: 3/1
Study Type: Speed Limit
Engineer: Pat Byrd, PE, PTOE, Embedded Traffic Engineer

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| Investigation Report <br> Structure | Part 1: Document concerns/issues, background, initial observations for the <br> study location, and crash history. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Part 2: Determine the appropriate speed limit(s) for a rural highway or city |  |
| connecting link. |  |
| Part 3: Recommendations |  |

## City Input

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Study Location (source: Google Earth, Imagery Date: 8/21/2022)


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## Background

ADT = Average Daily
Travel in vehicles per day
Speed limit in miles per hour
AADT Source: KanPlan 2021

US-36 ADT: 3,615 Speed Limit: 45
Traffic Control: None
KDOT Route Classification: Class B: The most important corridors of statewide and interstate travel.

Functional Classification: Principal Arterial - Other
US-183 ADT: 1,559 Speed Limit: 45
Traffic Control: Stop Sign
KDOT Route Classification: Class B: The most important corridors of statewide and interstate travel.

North Leg: Functional Classification: Local
South Leg: Functional Classification: Principal Arterial - Other

## Observations

From Google Earth
Previous RSA

- Stop sign control is on the intersection's northbound and southbound approaches.
- There is a 48" X 48" Stop sign on the northbound approach and a 36" X 36" Stop sign on the southbound approach.
- There is a 48 " X 48 " W3-1 "Stop Ahead" warning sign present on the northbound approach and a 36 " X 36" W3-1 "Stop Ahead" warning sign present on the southbound approach.
- The east and west leg is a four-lane, undivided principal arterial roadway. The north and south leg is a two-lane undivided roadway. There is a painted median located on the south leg of the intersection.
- Some sight-distance obstructions appear to be present for the northbound approach. Those obstructions include the light pole and signs west of the intersection. Potential sight obstruction is also present on the southbound approach from the trailblazer signs on the east side of the intersection.
- Stop lines are not present on the northbound and southbound approaches.
- There is poor alignment on the north and south legs of the intersection.


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## Guidance

Critical Crash Rate

- The critical crash rate provides a statistical threshold. It is calculated by weighing the statewide average crash rate for a similar intersection or road section by the existing traffic volumes of the study location.
- If the intersection or segment crash rate for the study location is greater than the critical crash rate, it is an indicator that there may be a safety concern.
- If the study location's crash rate is at or less than the critical crash rate, it implies that the rate does not deviate significantly from the statewide average rate.


## Crash History

2018-2022
Crash rates are noted in crashes per million
entering vehicles (mev) for intersections and per million vehicle-miles ( mvm ) for segments.
$C R=$ location's crash rate $C C R=$ critical crash rate

- All crashes resulting in fatality, injury, or property damage in an amount greater than or equal to $\$ 1,000$ are included in the crash analysis.
- Number of Crashes: Total | 6 | Fatal | 0 | Injury | 2 | PDO |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
- Crash Rates: Study Location 0.64 State Average 0.33 Critical 0.69

- Crash Pattern(s):
- Note: A collision diagram for the US-36 and US-183 intersection is attached.
- There were six reported crashes at the intersection, with five of these crashes due to one vehicle failing to yield the right of way. Of those five crashes, three attempted to turn left, with two attempting to turn from the minor street and the other from the major street.
- Two of these crashes involved a left-turning vehicle failing to yield the right of way and were also injury crashes.


## Conclusion(s)

- The crash rate for the study location is above the statewide average crash rate but below the intersection's critical crash rate.
- Three of four crashes on the minor street involved a vehicle failing to yield the right of way and/or running the stop sign.


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| Part 2 | Speed Limit Analysis |
| :---: | :---: |
| Definitions | - The 85th percentile speed is defined as the speed at or below which 85 percent |
| 85 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Percentile Speed | of the observed free-flowing vehicles travel. \| |
| Pace Speeds | - The pace is defined as the $10-\mathrm{mph}$ range containing the highest number of vehicles in the study sample data. |
| Speed Limit | - The speed limit is the maximum speed a driver is legally permitted for a given roadway segment. |
| Statutory Speed Limits | - Kansas statutes establish maximum speed limits of 30 mph in any urban district, 75 mph on any separated, multilane highway designated by the Secretary of Transportation, 55 mph on any county or township highway, and 65 mph on other highways. |
| Speed Zone | - A speed zone is a section of roadway with a posted speed limit different than the statutory speed limit and is determined based on an engineering study. |
| Guidance MUTCD Section | - Speed limits (other than statutory speed limits) shall only be established based on an engineering study. |
| 2B. 13 Speed Limit | - The engineering study shall include an analysis of the current speed distribution of free-flowing vehicles. |
|  | - The speed limits displayed shall be in multiples of 5 mph . Speed limit signs shall be posted at the points of change from one speed limit to another. <br> - When a speed limit is posted, it should be within five mph of the $85^{\text {th }}$ percentile speed of free-flowing traffic. |

## Research Findings

Referenced in
NCHRP 17-76
Impact of Speed Limit
Change on Speeds

Driver's Role in Setting
Speed Limits

- While the research findings indicate a change in the numerical value of a speed limit sign can affect the observed mean and 85th percentile speeds, it is not as influential as the magnitude of the speed limit value change.
- One of the most extensive studies examined data from 22 states with speed limit changes. Lowering the limit by up to 20 mph or increasing the limit by up to 15 mph resulted in changing speeds of less than 1.5 mph on average.
- The driver plays a key role in the speed limit setting process. During free-flow conditions, drivers select speeds that they believe optimize the tradeoffs between travel time and risk.
- Drivers are good at assessing these tradeoffs, and their judgment is trustworthy in establishing a limit where drivers who exceed that speed may be cited by law enforcement.

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- Basing the speed limit on the 85 th percentile indicates a speed that most drivers believe is reasonable and prudent.

Guidance
Current KDOT
Practice

- Speed limits are normally set based upon the $85^{\text {th }}$ percentile speed of the freeflowing vehicles using the roadway. The upper end of the pace should also be considered.
- The $85^{\text {th }}$ percentile speed is rounded to the nearest 5 mph increment when setting speed limits.
- Studies have shown that the observed 85 th percentile speed generally reflects the collective judgment of most drivers as to a reasonable speed for given traffic and roadway conditions.
- The $85^{\text {th }}$ percentile speed is believed to represent a speed that minimizes crashes.
- Speed limit transition zones, when used, should be a minimum of 0.25 miles in length.


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## Existing Speed Limits

The existing speed limits are shown in the aerial image below.


## Analysis

Data Collection
Completed:
09-12-2023
Detailed speed data sheets are attached to the report.

- The table on the next page summarizes the results of the spot speed study for US-36 in Phillipsburg.


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| Location | Direction | Pace (mph) | Median of Pace | $\mathbf{5 0}^{\text {th }}$ <br> Percentile Speed (mph) | $\mathbf{8 5}^{\text {th }}$ <br> Percentile Speed (mph) | Existing Speed Limit (mph) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A <br> (US-36, 0.1 Miles West of US-183 Junction) | EB | 31-40 | 35 | 35.0 | 40.9 | 45 |
|  | WB | 28-37 | 32 | 31.7 | 35.2 | 45 |
|  | Combined | 28-37 | 32 | 33.7 | 38.7 | 45 |
| B(US-36, 0.1 Miles East ofUS-183 Junction) | EB | 34-43 | 38 | 36.0 | 42.9 | 45 |
|  | WB | 34-43 | 40 | 37.3 | 42.7 | 45 |
|  | Combined | 34-43 | 39 | 36.2 | 42.8 | 45 |

## Conclusion(s)

- The observed $85^{\text {th }}$ percentile speeds at US-36, 0.1 Miles West of US-183 Junction going westbound, is at least 5 MPH below the posted speed limit ( 45 MPH ).
- It is also observed that the 85th percentile speeds at US-36, 0.1 Miles East of US-183 Junction falls within 5 MPH of the existing speed limit.
- If the speed limit were reduced to 40 MPH , observed $85^{\text {th }}$ percentile speeds would still fall within 5 MPH for locations A and B.


## Part 3

## Recommendations

## Recommendation(s)

- The following items are recommended to be installed at this intersection:
- The southbound stop sign should be upgraded from the existing 36" X 36" to the enlarged 48" X $48 .{ }^{\prime \prime}$
- Add a "Stop Ahead" warning sign (W3-1) on the left side of the northbound approach.
- Reflective tape should be added to the northbound and southbound stop signs and the "Stop Ahead" warning signs (W3-1).
- Pavement markings should be adjusted to include northbound and southbound stop lines.
- There is currently only one street light pole located at Casey's. Consider reviewing lighting levels to determine the need for additional streetlights at the intersection.
- If the city wishes, the existing 45 MPH speed zone could be changed to 40 MPH. Both speed limit (R2-1) and speed reduction (W3-5) signs would need to be replaced, indicating the speed limit change. Placement of speed


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reduction signs should be located per the current KDOT Highway Sign Manual.

- Consideration should be given to relocating the existing street light pole south of the southwest curb return. Trailblazer signs should also be relocated to the west to improve intersection sight distance for northbound right and left-turn movements.
- KDOT should review access management options for Casey's, located on the southeast corner of the intersection, to eliminate redundant access points (preferably the driveways closest to the study intersection) to improve intersection sight distance and intersection operations.
- Per KDOT policy, rumble strips are not recommended for roads within the city limit. If safety issues continue on the southbound approach after implementing the recommendations above, the county could consider adding rumble strips on the southbound approach.
- Based on current ADT, a road diet could be considered for US-36, reducing exposure for left-turning vehicles from US-183 and E 100 Rd . When a reconstruction project occurs on US-36, a road diet feasibility study should be conducted. In the interim, a road diet could be implemented from $10^{\text {th }}$ Street to where US-36 currently transitions to a two-lane section outside of the city limits. (See attached Phillipsburg Concept Design.)
- Place on the list for follow-up field review.

Attachments: Collision Diagram, 4-Hour Turning Counts, Peak-Hour Turning Counts Diagram, Speed Data, Phillipsburg Concept Design

Traffic Investigation Report - Collision Diagram
Location: US-36 and US-183 E Junction in Phillipsburg, Phillips County, Kansas

|  | Total | Fatal | Injury | PDO |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of Crashes | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| \# Fatalities/Injuries | 4 | 0 | 4 |  |


| Crash Rate | Critical Crash Rate |
| :---: | :---: |
| 0.64 | 0.69 |
| ADT | Average |
| 5,155 | 0.33 |






## SPEED STUDY <br> KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUREAU OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING



SPEED STUDY

## KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUREAU OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

CITY: Phillipsburg
OBSERVER: JC
DATE: September 12, 2023

COUNTY: Phillips SPEED LIMIT: 45 mph DIRECTION: Combined WB \& EB TIME END: 11:58 AM

PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN


## SPEED STUDY <br> KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUREAU OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING



## SPEED STUDY <br> KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUREAU OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

CITY: Phillipsburg
OBSERVER: JC
DATE: September 12,2023

| COUNTY: Phillips | LOCATION: US-36, 0.1 Miles East of US-183 |
| :--- | :--- |
| SPEED LIMIT: 45 mph | TIME START: 10:41 AM |
| DIRECTION: WESTBOUND ONLY | TIME END: 11:17 AM |

PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN


## SPEED STUDY <br> KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUREAU OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

CITY: Phillipsburg
OBSERVER: jc
DATE: September 12, 2023

| COUNTY: Phillips | LOCATION: US-36, 0.1 Miles East of US-183 |
| :--- | :--- |
| SPEED LIMIT: 45 mph | TIME START: $10: 41$ AM |
| DIRECTION: Combined WB \& EB | TIME END: $11: 17 \mathrm{AM}$ |

PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN





