



South Carolina  
Department of Transportation

Beaufort County  
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Charleston County  
Colleton County  
Dorchester County  
Jasper County

October 29, 2013

Deputy Chief K. Coyle Kinard  
Special Operations Division Commander  
ckinard@northcharleston.org

RE: SC 642 Dorchester- Speed Limit Reduction Request

Dear Chief Kinard:

Thank you for your email on behalf of Councilman Stigler requesting that the Department review the 55 mph speed zone area on Dorchester Road. We have completed our review and enclosed are the results and recommendations of those studies for your information.

The study was conducted in the 55 mph section of Dorchester Road from Appian Way to Beacon Hill Road, approximately 3 miles in length. This section of Dorchester Road consists of crossovers with left-turn lanes that lead to residential areas, thus there are few commercial entrances or other types of access in this section. The commercial driveways along this roadway also are setback from Dorchester Road. The results of radar speeds ranged from 48-70 mph of which 61 percent of the motorists were exceeding the speed limit. The three year collision history review did not reveal a pattern of collisions that was related to excessive speeds. Therefore, based on the information from this study, the Department does not recommend any change to the current speed limits on this section of Dorchester Road. We do recommend selective enforcement of this area.

We regret we are unable to concur with your request. Should you have any questions pertaining to this matter, please contact our Traffic Engineering Department at 740-1665.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Clark  
District Engineering Administrator

RTC:pbs

cc: David Pilch, Resident Maintenance Engineer  
File: D6/Dorchester/PBS

District Six Engineering  
6355 Fain Boulevard  
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# Traffic Speed Study Road Data Sheet

Route: State Rt # SC-642 Study Type - Speed  
Road Name Dorchester Rd  
AADT 34100 County - Charleston

Starting Termini - Appian Way Existing Speed Limit - 55 MPH  
Ending Termini - Beacon Hill Ln Section Length - 3 Miles

Pavement Lane Width - 12 ft Development - Mixed  
Pavement Condition - Good # Res. Entrances - 0  
Shoulder Width - 8 to 10 ft # Comm. Entrances - 7  
Shoulder Type - Grass # Intersections - 12  
Shoulder Condition - Good Other -

The intersections consist of 8 crossover, 2 signal intersection, and an overhead firestation flasher

## Collision History Comments:

The three year collision history revealed a total of 40 reported collisions occurred within the 3.0 mile section of Dorchester Rd. In 2010 and 2011, each had 9 collisions, and in 2012 there were 7 collisions. The types of reported collisions were three (3) left-turns, three (3) right angles, six (6) side swipes, and twenty-six (26) rear ends) that were mostly near the signalized intersections. These collisions were mostly due to driving to fast for conditions, failing to yield the ROW, and driver inattention.

## Field Observations:

SC 642 from Appian Way to Beacon Hill Ln is a 5 lane road with 2 lanes in each directions, grass median, and a left turn lane at most of the intersections/crossovers. The posted speed limit is 55 mph. A radar sampling of 100 vehicles was taken. The speeds ranged from 48-70 mph with 61% exceeding the posted speed limit. The 85th percentile was calculated to be 62.2 mph. All of the crossovers are paved and most of them have left-turn lanes. Most of these crossovers lead to residential areas.

## Recommendations:

Based on the results of this speed study, no change to the existing 55 mph speed limit is recommended; however, selective enforcement is recommended.

Completed by:

Pat Smalls

Reviewed by:

N. Umberger 10/25/13

Checked by: