

ADOPTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD JUNE 17, 1999

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

APPLICABILITY OF §46.2-878.2 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA

INSTALLATION OF SIGNS ADVISING OF MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR EXCEEDING POSTED MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT IN CERTAIN RESIDENCE DISTRICTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy and attendant procedures is to provide guidelines for addressing the issue of exceeding the maximum speed limit on local residential streets, collector streets, and minor arterial streets with residential characteristics in certain residence districts and installing signs as prescribed in §46.2-878.2 of the Code of Virginia.

POLICY ON INSTALLATION OF SIGNS IN CERTAIN RESIDENCE DISTRICTS

It is the Commonwealth Transportation Board's policy that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), upon a formal request from the local governing body, will install signs on local residential streets, collector streets, and minor arterial streets with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or lower advising motorists of a maximum punishment of \$200, in addition to other penalties provided by law, for exceeding the speed limit in certain residence districts.

INTRODUCTION

This policy and attendant procedures identify the specific responsibilities and requirements of VDOT and that of the affected counties and towns in addressing concerns relating to motorists exceeding the speed limit in certain residence districts.

VDOT and the counties and towns are partners in the administration of these processes and procedures. A good working relationship between VDOT and the counties and towns is important for this partnership to function effectively.

DEFINITIONS

"Residence district" as defined in §46.2-100 means the territory contiguous to a highway, not comprising a business district, where seventy-five percent or more of the property abutting such highway, on either side of the highway, for a distance of 300 feet or more along the highway consists of land improved for dwelling purposes, or is occupied by dwellings, or consists of land or buildings in use for business purposes.

"Highway as defined in §46.2-100 means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way or place open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel in the Commonwealth, including the streets and alleys, and, for law-enforcement purposes, the entire width between the boundary lines of all private roads or private streets which have been specifically designated "highways" by an ordinance adopted by the governing body of the county, city, or town in which such private roads or streets are located.

For purposes of this policy a Local Residential Street is a highway built as part of a residential development or a highway where residential development has taken place resulting in a neighborhood or community resembling a residential development. Further, a local residential street must have the residential units facing the street and provide driveway connections or curbside parking for a majority of the residential units.

For purposes of this policy Collector Streets and Roads are highways exhibiting the residential characteristics listed above for local residential streets as well as serving traffic movements between residential areas and major roadways.

For purposes of this policy Minor Arterial Streets and Roads are highways exhibiting the residential characteristics listed above for local residential streets. These roads and streets also serve trips of moderate lengths at a somewhat lower level of travel mobility than principal arterials, provide access to geographic areas smaller than those served by the higher system, and provide intracommunity continuity.

Note: The definitions of local residential streets, collector streets, and minor arterial streets shown above are for administration of this policy only and do not necessarily apply to any other VDOT policies and programs.

CRITERIA

To qualify for sign installation, a highway shall meet the following criteria:

1. Meet the definition of local residential, collector, or minor arterial street as indicated above.
2. Have a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or lower.

COUNTY/TOWN RESPONSIBILITIES

To initiate these procedures, the county or town shall request, by resolution of the local governing body, that VDOT install the appropriate signs as stipulated in §46.2-878.2 of the Code of Virginia. This request shall be submitted to the local VDOT resident engineer in the form of a resolution, along with the following support data.

Support Data Requirements:

1. Identification of the neighborhood and specific highway(s) where the signs are requested to be installed.
2. Confirmation that the highway(s) meet the definitions of local residential, collector, or minor arterial streets as described above.
3. Notification that a speeding problem exists and that the increased penalty has community support.

VDOT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of VDOT to provide, install, and maintain the signs. The following procedures will be observed:

1. The VDOT resident engineer, upon receipt of the adopted resolution and support data, will review the assembly and submit it to the VDOT district administrator.
2. The district administrator will have the signs installed.
3. Sign installation under §46.2-878.2 will take place within 60 days of the date the request is approved.

Note: These procedures assign certain action items to the district administrator. A district administrator has the prerogative to assign any or all of these action items to be handled by the district traffic engineer.

FUNDING

Signs installed in accordance with this policy will be fully funded from countywide traffic services in the secondary or primary road allocations to the respective counties.