



July 1, 2016

Honorable Mary Ann Coogan
Supervisor, Town of Camillus
4600 West Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13219

Dear Ms. Coogan:

RE: REQUEST FOR LOWER SPEED
LIMIT ON ROUTE 5,
TOWN OF CAMILLUS

This is in further response to your April 5th and June 20th letters requesting a lower speed limit on Route 5, between the end of the Camillus Bypass to Bennetts Corners Road in the town of Camillus. New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has completed our investigation. Our study included a comparative accident analysis review, three separate radar speed studies, and field review.

Based on the existing roadside development, test drives, data driven accident analysis, and radar speed studies, our investigation determined that lowering the speed limit would not be appropriate at this time. Studies conducted throughout the country have shown that drivers are influenced more by the appearance of the highway itself and prevailing traffic conditions rather than by the posted speed limit. If speed limit signs are posted for a lower limit than is needed, many drivers will simply ignore the signs. While at the same time, other drivers will stay within the posted speed limit. This increases the conflicts between faster and slower drivers, reduces the gaps in traffic, and increases the difficulty for pedestrians and other vehicles to judge the speed of approaching vehicles.

The Department is pleased to report accidents have decreased, when comparing accident data collected in December 2013 for a 3-year accident period to data collected in April 2016 for the most recent 3-year accident period the Department found the following important accident data points:

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- Head-on collisions decreased from **4 to 0**
- Sideswipe collisions decreased from **5 to 2**
- Run-off-the-Road collisions decreased from **16 to 8**
- Total Accidents decreased from **63 to 55**

Many of the accident reductions can be attributed to the installation of Centerline Audible Roadway Delineators (CARDs) as these directly reduce Head-on, Opposite Direction Sideswipe, and Run-off-the Road (that cross the centerline) accidents. Additionally, recent sign and pavement improvements may have also contributed to the accident reductions.

A constant fact in both 2013 and 2016 accident studies was the finding of no correctable accident patterns or clusters of accidents identified related to speed.

The Route 5 paving project will include "Shoulder Audible Roadway Delineators" to further reduce the Run-off-the-Road accidents. It is anticipated this project will start this fall and be completed in 2017.

As you are aware, motorists who exceed the posted speed limit are in violation of the law; therefore, by copy of this letter, we are asking New York State Troopers to continue their increased enforcement of this portion of the roadway.

NYS DOT appreciates your continuing interest in matters related to traffic safety. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at 315-428-4351.

Very truly yours,



David P. Smith, P. E.
Regional Director

cc: Senator John A. DeFrancisco
United States Congressman John Katko
Assemblyman Gary D. Finch
Camillus Town Board
Tom Winn, Chief of Police
Rev. Art George, First Baptist Church
Sgt. B. Kennett, NY State Police