

NEWS RELEASE
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SPEED LIMIT CHANGES ON HOLLAND ROAD

SUFFOLK, VA (May 7, 2009) Motorists along Holland Road/Route 58 will soon see a change in speed limits along sections of this busy roadway from Manning Bridge Road to the Holland Bypass. Signs will be changed and reduced speed limit signs posted starting on May 13, 2009.

Five factors were considered when the decision was made to reduce speed limits along the affected 5.8 mile stretch of highway, including road characteristics and shoulder conditions, speed samples, roadside development and environment, parking practices and pedestrian activity, and reported crash experiences for a 12-month period.

After a comprehensive study of the factors outlined above, it was recommended that the following actions be implemented on Holland Road in an effort to maximize safety along the corridor:

1. Extend the 45 mph speed limit zone from 0.22 miles west of Manning Bridge Road to 0.75 miles west of Manning Bridge Road. This area is approved for significant industrial growth with construction to begin in the second quarter 2009.
2. Reduce the speed limit from 60 mph to 55 mph from 0.7 miles west of Manning Bridge Road to the Holland Bypass. This is due to the high number of accidents, high number of injuries and the four fatalities which occurred in this corridor. This section of highway, while constructed to standards of the early 1960's when it was built, is now considered to be a very unforgiving design for errant vehicles.

3. All regulatory and warning signage shall be checked for condition, legibility and retro reflectivity and repaired/replaced as warranted.
4. Recorded speed data will be shared with the Suffolk Police Department for their use in targeting patrol and enforcement areas.

During the speed limit analysis testing conducted in mid-April, it was found that the average daily traffic volume in that area was 18,068 vehicles per day, traveling at average speeds of 63 mph.

According to crash data provided by the Suffolk Police Department, a total of 249 crashes were reported on Holland Road from 2006-2008 resulting in 60 injuries and 4 fatalities. By lowering the operating speed of vehicles and trucks, it is hoped that the safety of everyone traveling along this principal arterial roadway will be increased.

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