

A Common Myth...

“Installing a lower speed limit will cause drivers to slow down and reduce accidents.”

Facts indicate otherwise. Research conducted throughout the country over several decades has shown that drivers are influenced by the type of street and current traffic conditions, and not the posted speed limit.

When a speed limit sign is not posted, the City of Springfield basic speed law still applies. A person may assume the speed limit is 30 mph, but drive at a speed that is reasonable and prudent under existing conditions. In every event, speed must be so controlled as to avoid colliding with any object, person, or vehicle on the highway. It is the duty of ALL persons to exercise reasonable care for the protection of others.

A Traffic Safety Message
From the
City of Springfield
Public Works Department



For more information:
417-864-1980
<http://traffic.springfieldmogov.org>

Will A
Lower Speed Limit
Help Reduce
Speeding ?



*City of Springfield
Department of Public Works
Traffic Engineering Division*

It's the Law...

..under Springfield law, the speed limit is 30 mph unless otherwise posted.

Speed Limits higher than 30 mph are established on the basis of traffic engineering studies. These studies include roadway conditions, accident records and the prevailing speed of prudent drivers.



If an unreasonably low speed is posted, most drivers will ignore the signs, while a few may try to stay within the posted speed limit. This causes real safety concerns because of the difference between faster and slower drivers.

Some lower speed limits have been established in certain districts throughout Springfield.

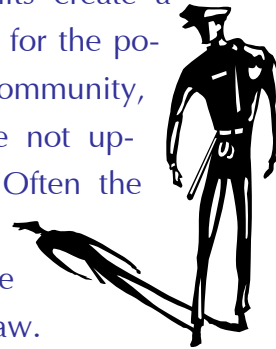
- 20 mph School Zones
- 20 mph in Downtown Business Districts (Park Central & Commercial Street)
- 20 mph on MSU Campus

Lowering Speed Limits Unnecessarily...

...can have two adverse effects.

They make violators out of reasonable and otherwise law abiding citizens.

But most importantly, police enforcement is diminished, which plays a vital role in controlling speed. Unrealistic speed limits create a difficult situation for the police and the community, and citations are not upheld in court. Often the police will not return to the site to reinforce the law.



REMEMBER

Unrealistic Low Speed Limits:

- ✦ Do Not Change Most Drivers' Speeds
- ✦ Can Not Be Upheld In Court
- ✦ Can Reduce Police Enforcement