



Carson City Regional Transportation Commission
(RTC) - May 13, 2020. Item 6-E Late Material



Speed Limit Policy

Carson City Regional Transportation
Commission (RTC)

May 13, 2020

Background

- ▶ Speed limits are a balance between safety and mobility.
- ▶ Speed limits can be complex and subjective.
- ▶ Existing Laws
 - NRS and Carson City Code 10.20.010
 - Unless posted otherwise, the speed limit in Carson City is 25 mph.



The Driver

- ▶ Each driver chooses the speed they drive.
- ▶ What effects their choice? Examples include:
 - Roadway Geometry
 - Traffic Volumes
 - Roadway Function
 - Weather
 - Age and Ability



Establishing a Policy

- ▶ Goal of the policy is to outline a consistent, data driven methodology for Carson City.
- ▶ Recommendations in policy based on multiple sources and best practices.
- ▶ Two parts to policy:
 - Establishing a Speed Limit for new roads
 - Reviewing Speed Limits on existing roads



Policy for New Roads



- ▶ Consider factors that effect drivers' choice
- ▶ Consider the roadway's function
- ▶ Select design values near the design speed

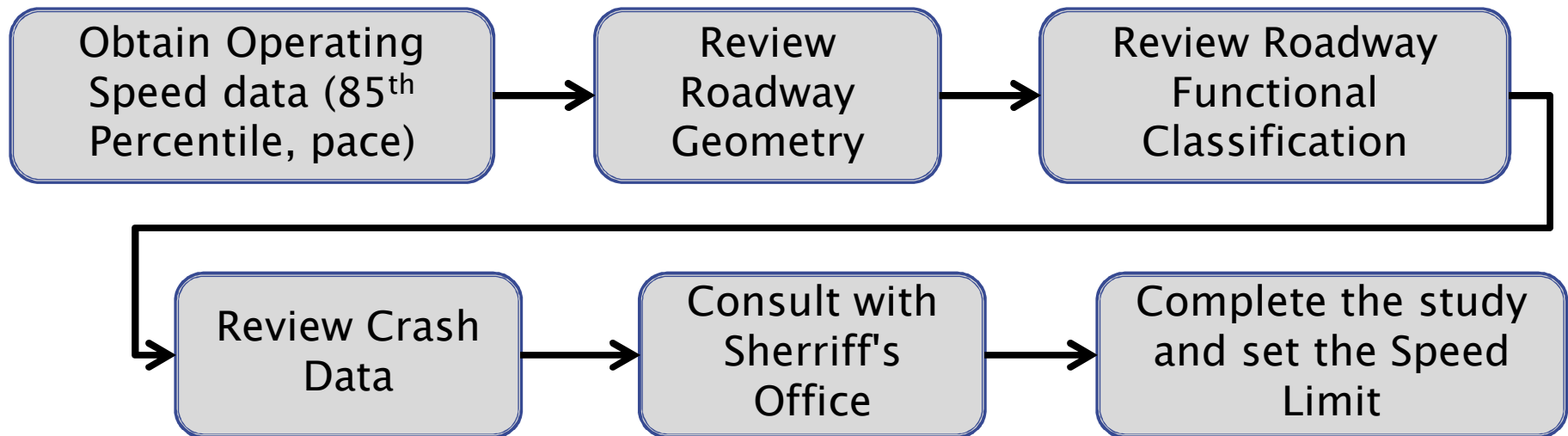
Classification	Target Operating Speed	Selected Design Speed	Posted Speed Limit
Collector	25–35 mph	35 mph	30 mph

Policy for Reviewing Speed Limits

- ▶ When to review the existing Speed Limit
 - Changes to the lane configuration
 - Changes to on-street parking or driveway access
 - Changes in traffic control
 - Changes in volumes
 - Changes to the severity or frequency of crashes



Process for Review



Setting the Speed Limit

- ▶ Based on the road's 85th percentile speed with geometric, safety, and enforcement factors used to adjust as appropriate.
- ▶ The posted speed limit shall be set at the closest 5 mph increment, rounded down.

Table: Common factors used to establish posted speeds

Factor	Percent time used	
	By state agencies	By local agencies
85 th percentile speed	100	86
Roadside development	85	77
Accident experience	79	81
10 mph pace	67	34
Roadway geometrics	67	57
Average test run speed	52	34
Pedestrian volumes	40	50

Source: FHWA Report No. FHWA/RD-85/096

Additional Considerations

- ▶ Special Speed Zones
 - School Zones
 - Advisory Zones
 - Work Zones
 - Pedestrian Safety Zones
- ▶ Sign Placement
 - After major intersections
 - Where speed changes are required
 - City limits
 - As needed to remind drivers



Questions and Discussion

