



Texas Department of Transportation

P.O. BOX 1386 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77251-1386 • (713) 802-5000

NOTICE

The attached documents are for the Environmental Speed Limit of _____ miles per hour on _____

Between / at _____

and is established by Texas Transportation Commission Minute Order Number 109064 passed on October 31, 2002. This order

Has not been revoked and is current as of ____/____/____.

No traffic Engineering Study is required to establish speed limits under this minute order.

_____/_____/_____
Custodian of Records
Houston District
Texas Department of Transportation



MEMORANDUM

TO: Walter O. Crook, P.E. and
Gary K. Trietsch, P.E.

Date: November 4, 2002

FROM: Michael W. Behrens, P.E.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. W. Behrens".

SUBJECT: Environmental Speed Limits

By letter dated November 4, 2002 (copy attached), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requested that the Texas Department of Transportation implement new environmental speed limits in the eight-county Houston-Galveston nonattainment area. TCEQ's request conforms with the requirements of Minute Order 109064, and I direct you to erect or modify the appropriate signs showing the environmental speed limits as listed in the aforementioned minute order.

If you have any further questions, please call Carlos Lopez at (512) 416-3200.

Attachment

cc: Texas Transportation Commission
Dianna Noble, P.E., ENV
Carlos A. Lopez, P.E. TRF
Richard Monroe, OGC
Jack Gilbert, OAG

Robert J. Huston, *Chairman*
R. B. "Ralph" Marquez, *Commissioner*
Kathleen Martnett White, *Commissioner*
Margaret Hoffman, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

November 4, 2002

Mr. Carlos A. Lopez, P.E., Director
Traffic Operations Division
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Mr. Mike Stretch, Director
Harris County Toll Road Authority
330 Meadowfern, Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77067

Dear Messrs. Lopez and Stretch:

On behalf of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), this letter is to request that your agencies implement the revised environmental speed limit in the eight county Houston-Galveston nonattainment area (HGA) approved by the TCEQ September 25, 2002. This revision was approved November 4 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Environmental quality studies show that changing the speed limits to five miles per hour less than the pre-existing regulatory speed limits will have a positive effect on air quality.

On September 25, the TCEQ revised the HGA speed limit reduction strategy by suspending the 55 mph environmental speed limit until May 1, 2005, and by increasing speeds to 5 mph below what was posted before May 1, 2002, where speeds were 65 mph or higher. In other words, speed limits in the 8-county HGA should return to their original posted speed limit, minus 5 mph on all affected roadways for all vehicle types. The TCEQ continues to concur with the recommendation to exempt high-occupancy vehicles lanes from the environmental speed limit strategy.

Mr. Carlos A. Lopez & Mr. Mike Stretch

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November 4, 2002

If you have questions or need assistance on this matter, please contact Margie McAllister of my staff at 512-239-1967 or mmcallis@teeq.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,



Karen Atkinson, Director
Strategic Assessment Division

cc: The Honorable Robert Eckels, Harris County Judge
Mr. C.D. Reagan, Regional Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Alan Clark, Director, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Houston-Galveston Area Council
Mr. Gary K. Trietsch, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, Houston District
Mr. Walter Crook, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, Beaumont District
Ms. Shirley A. DeLibero, President and Chief Executive Officer, METRO

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTE ORDER

Page 1 of 2

VARIOUS County

Districts VARIOUS

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), formerly known as the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, is the state agency primarily responsible for developing the state's plan to attain or maintain air quality levels that satisfy the federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The Houston-Galveston Attainment Demonstration State Implementation Plan (Rule Log # 200-011-SIP-AI) is a portion of this statewide plan and contains detailed requirements for establishing environmental speed limits for various categories of public roads, streets, and highways.

By letters dated October 19, 2001 and November 26, 2001, TCEQ requested the Texas Department of Transportation (department), pursuant to Title 43, Sections 25.23 and 25.24 of the Texas Administrative Code, to establish environmental speed limits on various roadways in the Houston-Galveston and Beaumont areas. Based upon the studies and conclusions of TCEQ, the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) concurred that lower vehicle speeds on certain portions of the state highway system in the Houston-Galveston and Beaumont areas would assist the state in attaining or maintaining the federal NAAQS. The commission also evaluated these proposed environmental speed limits and found that the requested speed limits were reasonable and served the long-term interests of the department and the State of Texas. By Minute Orders 108749 and 108783, the commission directed the department to establish environmental speed limits consistent with TCEQ's request.

TCEQ concluded, based on an air quality study, that the implementation of new environmental speed limits on certain portions of the state highway system in the Houston-Galveston and Beaumont areas would assist the state in attaining or maintaining the federal NAAQS. Exhibit A of this minute order lists the segments of the state highway system on which TCEQ has determined new environmental speed limits are necessary for the areas to best attain or maintain the federal NAAQS.

By letter dated September 25, 2002, TCEQ informed the department that they were proceeding through required processes with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to revise the Houston-Galveston Attainment Demonstration State Implementation Plan and anticipated requesting the department to increase the current speeds permitted by the environmental speed limits authorized by Minute Orders 108749 and 108783 and which are included as Exhibit B. TCEQ has indicated that the anticipated new environmental speed limits will be five miles per hour (mph) under the preexisting regulatory speed limits of 70 and 65 mph.

The department has investigated the feasibility of implementing TCEQ's proposed increase of the environmental speed limits and concludes that such a request would comply with the requirements of Title 43, Sections 25.23 and 25.24 of the Texas Administrative Code.

Based upon the studies and conclusions of TCEQ and the department's evaluation of the proposal, the commission concurs that new environmental speed limits that are five mph less than the preexisting regulatory speed limits of 70 and 65 mph on certain portions of the state highway system in the Houston-Galveston and Beaumont areas would assist the state in attaining or maintaining the federal NAAQS. The commission has also evaluated these proposed environmental speed limits and finds that they are reasonable and serve the long-term interests of the department and the State of Texas.

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

VARIOUS County

MINUTE ORDER

Page 2 of 2

Districts VARIOUS

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the executive director, upon receipt of a request that complies with Title 43, Sections 25.23 and 25.24 of the Texas Administrative Code, will review the new environmental speed limits as determined by TCEQ and listed in Exhibit A of this order. Upon performance of this non-discretionary review, the executive director will accept the request on behalf of the commission in accordance with Title 43, Sections 25.23 and 25.24 of the Texas Administrative Code. The executive director is directed to implement this order for control and enforcement purposes by the erection of appropriate signs showing environmental speed limits.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the environmental speed limits shown in Exhibit B are canceled upon implementation of the new environmental speed limits listed in Exhibit A.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a provision of any prior order by the commission which is in conflict with a provision of this order, with the exception of school and construction speed zones, is superceded to the extent of that conflict.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Recommended by:

Director, Traffic Operations Division

Executive Director

109064
Minute

OCT 31 02
Date

ENVIRONMENTAL SPEED ZONES

| County (City) | Highway Control Section | Limits MP-Milepoint | BEGIN | END | Length (Miles) | Speed (Miles Per Hour) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Houston District | | | | | | |
| Galveston | SH 87 367-3 | MP 9.600 | | MP 13.285 | 3.685 | 60 |
| Galveston | SH 87 367-3 | MP 13.295 | | MP 14.500 | 1.205 | 60 |
| Galveston | SH 87 367-4 | MP 20.175 | | MP 27.000 | 6.825 | 60 |
| Galveston | SH 146 389-6 | MP 7.025 | | MP 10.865 | 3.840 | 65 |
| Harris | BU 290 H 50-6 | MP 2.000 | | MP 5.500 | 3.500 | 60 |
| Harris | BU 290 H 50-6 | MP 6.200 | | MP 6.842 | 0.642 | 60 |
| Harris | BU 290 H 50-6 | MP 20.000 | | MP 20.064 | 0.064 | 60 |

ENVIRONMENTAL SPEED ZONES

| County (City) | Highway Control Section | Limits | | Length (Miles) | Speed (Miles Per Hour) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | | BEGIN MP-Milepoint | END MP-Milepoint | | |
| <i>Houston District</i> | | | | | |
| Harris | FM 1942 1812-1 | MP 2.560 | MP 8.965 | 6.405 | 60 |
| Harris | FM 1960 1685-3 | MP 36.000 | MP 38.521 | 2.521 | 60 |
| Harris | IH 10 271-6 | MP 0.784 | MP 8.820 | 8.036 | 65 |
| Harris | IH 10 271-7 | MP 8.820 | MP 15.093 | 6.273 | 60 |
| Harris | IH 10 508-1 | MP 36.730 | MP 55.753 | 17.023 | 65 |
| Harris | IH 45 110-5 | MP 39.760 | MP 48.816 | 9.056 | 65 |
| Harris | IH 45 110-6 | MP 37.765 | MP 39.760 | 1.995 | 65 |

ENVIRONMENTAL SPEED ZONES

| County (City) | Highway Control Section | Limits | | Length (Miles) | Speed (Miles Per Hour) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | | BEGIN MP-Milepoint | END MP-Milepoint | | |
| <i>Houston District</i> | | | | | |
| Harris | IH 45 500-3 | MP 0.000 | MP 3.781 | 3.781 | 65 |
| | | | | | |
| Harris | IH 45 500-3 | MP 3.781 | MP 8.666 | 4.885 | 65 |
| | | | | | |
| Harris | SH 146 389-5 | MP 0.000 | MP 1.608 | 1.608 | 60 |
| | | | | | |
| Harris | SH 146 389-5 | MP 1.608 | MP 3.113 | 1.505 | 60 |
| | | | | | |
| Harris | SH 146 389-5 | MP 3.113 | MP 3.691 | 0.578 | 60 |
| | | | | | |
| Harris | SH 146 389-5 | MP 3.691 | MP 3.739 | 0.048 | 60 |
| | | | | | |
| Harris | SH 146 389-5 | MP 3.739 | MP 3.778 | 0.039 | 60 |
| | | | | | |

ENVIRONMENTAL SPEED ZONES

| County (City) | Highway Control Section | Limits MP-Milepoint | Length (Miles) | Speed (Miles Per Hour) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | | BEGIN | END | |
| Houston District | | | | |
| Harris | SH 146 389-5 | MP 3.778 | MP 5.059 | 1.281 |
| | | | | 60 |
| Harris | SH 146 389-12 | MP 7.273 | MP 8.845 | 1.572 |
| | | | | 60 |
| Harris | SH 146 389-12 | MP 8.845 | MP 11.024 | 2.179 |
| | | | | 60 |
| Harris | SH 146 389-13 | MP 10.000 | MP 16.599 | 6.599 |
| | | | | 60 |
| Harris | SH 225 502-1 | MP 2.594 | MP 9.560 | 6.966 |
| | | | | 65 |
| Harris | SH 225 502-1 | MP 9.560 | MP 12.452 | 2.892 |
| | | | | 65 |
| Harris | SH 225 502-1 | MP 12.452 | MP 16.481 | 4.029 |
| | | | | 65 |

ENVIRONMENTAL SPEED ZONES

| County (City) | Highway Control Section | Limits MP-Milepoint | Length (Miles) | Speed (Miles Per Hour) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | | BEGIN | END | |
| <i>Houston District</i> | | | | |
| *Harris | SL 8 3256-3 | MP 1.213 | MP 1.513 | 0.300 60 |
| *Harris | SL 8 FR 3256-3 | MP 1.513 | MP 3.000 | 1.487 60 |
| *Harris | SL 8 3256-3 | MP 3.000 | MP 6.724 | 3.724 65 |
| *Harris | SL 8 FR 3256-3 | MP 19.717 | MP 26.043 | 6.326 60 |
| Harris | SS 548 2483-1 | MP 1.000 | MP 2.506 | 1.506 65 |
| Harris | US 59 27-13 | MP 4.424 | MP 15.966 | 11.542 60 |
| Harris | US 59 177-6 | MP 1.000 | MP 3.971 | 2.971 65 |

*This applies only to portions of SL 8 that are under department jurisdiction.

ENVIRONMENTAL SPEED ZONES

| County (City) | Highway Control Section | Limits | | Length (Miles) | Speed (Miles Per Hour) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | | BEGIN MP-Milepoint | END MP | | |
| Houston District | | | | | |
| Harris | US 59 177-7 | MP 3.971 | MP 4.000 | 0.029 | 65 |
| Harris | US 59 177-11 | MP 0.000 | MP 4.220 | 4.220 | 60 |
| Harris | US 59 177-11 | MP 4.220 | MP 5.040 | 0.820 | 60 |
| Harris | US 90 28-2 | MP 8.708 | MP 16.200 | 7.492 | 65 |
| Harris | US 90 28-2 | MP 16.200 | MP 19.500 | 3.300 | 65 |
| Harris | US 90 28-2 | MP 19.500 | MP 24.636 | 5.136 | 65 |
| Harris | US 290 50-6 | MP 7.287 | MP 18.159 | 10.872 | 65 |

ENVIRONMENTAL SPEED ZONES

| County (City) | Highway Control Section | Limits | | Length (Miles) | Speed (Miles Per Hour) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | | BEGIN MP-Milepoint | END MP | | |
| Houston District | | | | | |
| Harris | US 290 50-8 | MP 18.159 | MP 22.778 | 4.619 | 65 |
| | | MP 22.778 | MP 24.593 | 1.815 | 65 |
| Harris | US 290 50-9 | MP 29.073 | MP 30.124 | 1.051 | 65 |
| | | MP 30.124 | MP 30.929 | 0.805 | 65 |
| Harris | US 290 50-9 | MP 30.929 | MP 36.549 | 5.620 | 60 |
| | | MP 0.000 | MP 7.537 | 7.537 | 65 |
| Montgomery | FM 1375 1402-3 | MP 0.000 | MP 6.097 | 6.097 | 60 |