

Joe M. England, P.E.  
County Engineer



3151 SE Inner Loop, Suite B  
Georgetown, Texas 78626  
Telephone (512) 943-3336  
Fax (512) 943-3335

**Williamson County  
Unified Road System**

**To: Williamson County Commissioners' Court**  
**From: Joe M. England P.E., County Engineer**  
**Date: September 25, 2008**  
**Subject: Proposed Speed Limit on County Road 261**

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According to the 2006 edition of the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices the following factors should form the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation for determining the proper numerical value for a speed zone. The factors are as follows:

When a speed limit is to be posted, it should be within 5 mph of the 85th-percentile speed of free-flowing traffic.

Option:

Other factors that may be considered when establishing speed limits are the following:

- A. Road characteristics, shoulder condition, grade, alignment, and sight distance;
- B. The pace speed;
- C. Roadside development and environment;
- D. Parking practices and pedestrian activity; and
- E. Reported crash experience for at least a 12-month period.

Upon my field investigation, I found that the section of County Road 261 from FM 3405 to its end consist of a rural street design within a rural environment with no currently posted speed limit.

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The section of County Road 261 from FM 3405 to its end consist of approximately 60 feet of right-of-way (ROW), 20 feet of pavement, and no shoulders. The grade is flat to rolling with no horizontal curves. There is moderate roadside development and culture (agricultural along with single family) which generates moderate roadside friction. Parking is off of the right-of-way. There is moderate pedestrian activity. To this date, I have no accident information for the last 12-month period that would dictate any certain speed limit.

A speed study was conducted from September 17 to September 18, 2008 on the section of County Road 261 from FM 3405 to its end. The result of this study shows an 85% speed of 44 MPH. The 10 MPH pace speed was 36-45 MPH.

The pace speeds would indicate a proposed posting of either 40 or 45 MPH with the 85% suggesting the upper limit of this range. It is my professional opinion that a posting of 45 MPH is proper for the section of County Road 261 from FM 3405 to its end.