

**Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones**  
**Manual Notices Archive**



## Manual Notice 2012-1

*To:* Holders of Subject Manual

*From:* Carol T. Rawson, P.E.  
Traffic Operations Division

*Manual:* *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones*

*Effective Date:* April 1, 2012

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### Purpose

The purpose of this manual notice is to advise users of *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones* that the manual has been revised to include new and updated information on changes in speed limit laws and procedures for establishing various types of speed zones.

### Contents

The contents of *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones* have changed as follows:

- Updated information throughout the manual to reflect changes in speed limit law as a result of legislation passed in the 82<sup>nd</sup> legislative session.
- Updated information throughout the manual to remove references to different day and night speed limits and different speed limits for trucks, as these were abolished during the 82<sup>nd</sup> legislative session.
- Removed all references to the Trans Texas Corridor as a result of legislation to repeal Transportation Code §545.3531.
- Added a subsection to Chapter 1, Section 3, on the authority of municipalities and counties to establish accident reconstruction speed limits under Transportation Code §545.3561.
- Added a paragraph to Chapter 3, Section 4, describing provisional traffic and engineering investigation requirements for raising a speed limit from 70 to 75 mph.

**Review**

The Traffic Operations Division worked with the districts in revising the material that went into this revision. The TxDOT Office of General Counsel and Audit Office reviewed the draft of this manual and all comments were addressed in the revision.

**Supersedes**

The revised *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones* supersedes prior versions of the manual.

**Contact**

Address questions concerning content of the revised manual to:

Darren McDaniel, P.E.  
Phone: 512-416-3331  
E-mail: [Darren.McDaniel@txdot.gov](mailto:Darren.McDaniel@txdot.gov)  
Fax: 512-416-3299

## Manual Notice 2011-1

**From:** Carol T. Rawson, P.E

**Manual:** *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones*

**Effective Date:** February 15, 2011

### Purpose

The purpose of this manual notice is to advise users of *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones* that the manual has been revised to include new and updated technical information on establishing advisory speed limits on curves and turns to provide for uniform and consistent display of curve warning signs on the State highway system.

### Contents

The contents of *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones* have changed as follows:

Chapter 1, Section 2, "Local Authority and TxDOT" -This segment was updated to reflect the recent changes to Texas Transportation Code, §545.356, subsections (b-1) and (b-2), which addresses a municipality's authority to declare a lower speed limit of not less than 25 miles per hour on a two-lane, undivided highway or part of a highway that is not an officially designated or marked highway or road of the state highway system.

Chapter 3, Section I, "Interim Speed Limits for New or Reconstructed Highways" -This segment was updated to reflect the recent changes to the Texas Administrative Code, 43 TAC §§25.23, which requires an interim speed limit for a new or reconstructed highway be determined and posted before the highway is opened to traffic.

Chapter 5, Section 2, "Methods to Establish Curve Warning Advisory Speeds" -The method to determine the advisory speeds on curves was revised. Three new methods were added (Direct Method, GPS Method and Design Method) and a compliance period was given to allow the districts ample time to acquire the necessary equipment to perform one of the three methods.

Appendix A, Form 1204, "Request for Regulatory Construction Speed Zone" -The form was revised to reflect changes in the way work zone speed limits are used. The amount of speed limit reduction is dependent on the pre-construction posted speed limit and the type of work being performed.

This manual substantively conforms to 43 TAC §§25.22 *et seq.*; however, its organization does not match the rule word-for-word. Therefore, all official correspondence should reference the rule,

which is the official document. The manual contains some technical information not found in the rule.

## **Review**

The Traffic Operations Division worked with the districts in revising the material that went into this revision. The TxDOT Office of General Counsel and Audit Office reviewed the draft of this manual and all comments were addressed in the revision.

## **Contact**

Address questions concerning information contained in this manual notice to the following person at the Traffic Operations Division:

Darren McDaniel, P.E.

Phone: 512-416-3331

E-mail: [Darren.McDaniel@txdot.gov](mailto:Darren.McDaniel@txdot.gov)

Fax: 512-416-3299

## **Archives**

Past manual notices are available in a [PDF archive](#).

## Manual Notice 2006-1

**From:** Carlos A. Lopez, P.E

**Manual:** Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones

**Effective Date:** November 01, 2006

### Purpose

This manual revision includes the following major changes:

- ◆ Chapter 1, Section 2, [“Higher Maximum Daytime Speed Limit”](#)— The segment was updated to reflect the recent changes to Texas Transportation Code, §545.353, subsections (h) and (i), which address the Texas Transportation Commission’s authority to establish a higher maximum daytime speed limit on a portion of the state highway system.
- ◆ Chapter 1, Section 2, [“Local Authority and TxDOT”](#)— Clarification was added describing the conditions under which a city may establish a speed zone below the *prima facie* speed limit without basing it on engineering and traffic investigations.
- ◆ Chapter 3, Section 2, [“Operation of Speed Check Stations”](#)— The maximum time that a speed check should be operated was changed so that it now depends on whether radar or a traffic counter that classifies vehicles by type is used.

Other minor technical changes and clarifications were made throughout the manual.

### Relationship with the Rule

This manual substantively conforms with the 43 TAC §25.22 *et seq.*; however, its organization does not match the rule word-for-word. Therefore, all official correspondence should reference the rule, which is the official document. The manual contains some technical information not found in the rule.

### Review

TRF worked with the districts in revising the material that went into this revision.

The Office of General Counsel reviewed the draft of this revision and suggested some changes and additions, which were adopted. Otherwise OGC found it legally sufficient for its intended purpose.

The Audit Office reviewed the draft version of this manual and made no comment.

## **Availability of Manual**

This manual is available in electronic form through TxDOT's online manual system. It is not distributed in hardcopy.

## **Contact**

Address questions concerning information contained in this manual notice to the following person at the Traffic Operations Division:

Darren McDaniel, P.E. — phone: 512-416-3331 or fax: 512-416-3299.

## **Archives**

Past manual notices are available in a [PDF archive](#).

# Manual Notice 2005-1

**To:** Holders of Subject Manual Volume

**From:** Carlos A. Lopez, P.E.  
Traffic Operations Division

**Manual:** *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones*

**Effective:** June 2005

## Purpose

This manual revision reflects the recent changes to 43 TAC §25.22 et seq. In addition minor technical changes and clarifications were made throughout. Substantive changes are as follows:

- ◆ Chapter 1: updated references to relevant laws
- ◆ Chapter 3:
  - revised and expanded information on setting interim speed zones for new or reconstructed highways
  - revised and expanded information on the location of speed check stations
  - revised and expanded information on the operation of buffer speed zones in conjunction with school speed zones
  - a total rewrite of the section on environmental speed limits.
- ◆ Chapter 4: updated references to regional mobility authorities and regional tollway authorities

## Relationship with the Rule

This manual substantively conforms with the 43 TAC §25.22 *et seq.*; however, its organization does not match the rule word-for-word. Therefore, all official correspondence should reference the rule, which is the official document. The manual contains some technical information not found in the rule.

## OGC Review

The Office of General Counsel reviewed the draft of this revision and found it legally sufficient for its intended purpose.

Audit Office Review. The Audit Office reviewed the draft version of this manual and made no comment.

Potential users in various districts reviewed the draft of this manual. We received numerous comments and made changes and additions to the final version as appropriate.

## **Contents and Instructions**

Recycle the entire contents of the previous edition of this manual and use the online version.

## **Contact**

Address questions concerning information contained in this manual notice to the following person at the Traffic Operations Division:

Darren McDaniel, P.E. — phone: 512-416-3331 or fax 512-416-3299.

# Manual Notice 2003-1

**To:** Holders of Subject Manual Volume

**From:** Carlos A. Lopez, P.E.  
Traffic Operations Division

**Manual:** *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones*

**Effective Date:** August 21, 2003

## Purpose

This manual revision primarily reflects amendments to Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Part I, §25.22, concerning the .

## Relationship with the Rule

This manual substantively conforms with the 43 TAC §25.22 *et seq.*; however, its organization does not match the rule word-for-word. Therefore, all official correspondence should reference the rule, which is the official document.

## OGC Review

The Office of General Counsel reviewed the draft version of this revision and found it legally sufficient for its intended purpose.

## Contents and Instructions

This manual notice includes the following new material, which should be incorporated into the existing manual as follows:

New Pages or Form	Instructions
2-17 through 2-18	Replace Existing Pages

## Contact

Address questions concerning information contained in this manual notice to the following person at the Traffic Operations Division:

- ◆ Darren McDaniel, 512-416-3331 or fax 512-416-3299.

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# Manual Notice 2002-1

**To:** Holders of Subject Manual Volume

**From:** Carlos A. Lopez, P.E.  
Traffic Operations Division

**Manual:** *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones*

**Effective Date:** March 1, 2002

## Purpose

This manual revision primarily reflects amendments to Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Part I, §25.21, concerning the daytime speed limit.

TxDOT Form 1204, Request for Construction Speed Zone, has also been updated.

## Relationship with the Rule

This manual substantively conforms with the 43 TAC §25.20 *et seq.*; however, its organization does not match the rule word-for-word. Therefore, all official correspondence should reference the rule, which is the official document.

## OGC Review

The Office of General Counsel reviewed the draft version of this revision and found it legally sufficient for its intended purpose.

## Contents and Instructions

This manual notice includes the following new material, which should be incorporated into the existing manual as follows:

New Pages or Form	Instructions
1-5 through 1-10	Replace Existing Pages
TxDOT Form 1204, Request for Construction Speed Zone	Replace Existing Form

## Contact

Address questions concerning information contained in this manual notice to either of the following persons at the Traffic Operations Division:

- ◆ John Thornton, 512-416-3152 or fax 512-416-3299
- ◆ Darren McDaniel, 512-416-3331 or fax 512-416-3299.

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## Manual Notice 2000-2

**To:** Recipients of Subject Manual

**From:** Carlos A. Lopez, P.E.  
Traffic Operations Division

**Manual:** *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones*

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2000

### Purpose

This manual revision primarily reflects amendments to the following sections of Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Part I:

- ◆ §25.20, concerning definitions
- ◆ §25.23, concerning speed zone studies
- ◆ §25.24, concerning speed zone approval.

The changes concern environmental speed limits.

### Relationship with the Rule

This manual substantively conforms with the 43 TAC §25.20 et seq.; however, its organization does not match the rule word-for-word. Therefore, all official correspondence should reference the rule, which is the official document.

### Effective Date

August 1, 2000

### Affected Portions of Manual

The following table describes the revised and added portions of this manual:

<b>Revised and Added Portions</b>	
<b>Portion of Manual</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>
Chapter 3, Section 1	A minor wording change.
Chapter 3, Section 6	Entire section is new.
Chapter 4, Section 2	A subheading titled "Environmental Speed Limits" is added at the end of the section.
Appendix B: Glossary	Entire appendix is new.

Tables of contents have also been revised to reflect these changes (see following subheading).

## Contents and Instructions

This manual notice includes the following new material, which should be incorporated into the existing manual as follows:

<b>New Pages</b>	<b>Instructions</b>
i & ii	Replace existing pages.
3-1 through 3-4	"
3-35 & 3-36	Insert at the end of Chapter 3
4-5 & 4-6	Replace existing pages.
4-7 & 4-8	Insert at the end of Chapter 4
New tab divider for Appendix B and pages B-1 & B-2	Insert at end of manual after Appendix A

## Contact

Address questions concerning information contained in this manual notice to either of the following persons at the Traffic Operations Division:

- ◆ Wade Odell, 512-416-3142 or fax 512-416-3161
- ◆ John Thornton, 512-416-3152 or fax 512-416-3299.

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## Manual Notice 2000-1

**To:** Recipients of Subject Manual

**From:** Carlos A. Lopez, P.E.  
Traffic Operations Division

**Manual:** *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones*

**Effective Date:** February 10, 2000

### Purpose

This manual revision reflects recent changes to Section 542.006 and 545.353 of the Transportation Code. Minor technical changes are also included.

### Effective Date

Immediately

### Contents and Instructions

This manual notice includes the following new material, which should be incorporated into the existing manual as follows:

<b>New Pages</b>	<b>Instructions</b>
1-3 through 1-8	Replace existing pages.
2-19 & 2-20	"
3-3 & 3-4	"
3-29 & 3-30	"
5-3 & 5-4	"
5-13 & 5-14	"
TxDOT Form 1204 — "Request for Construction Speed Zone"	Replace existing form in Appendix A.

### Contact

Address questions concerning information contained in this manual notice to either of the following persons at the Traffic Operations Division:

- ◆ Wade Odell, 512-416-3142 or fax 512-416-3161
- ◆ John Thornton, 512-416-3152 or fax 512-416-3161.

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## **Manual Notice 1998-1**

**To:** Recipients of Subject Manual

**From:** Charles W. Heald, P.E.  
Executive Director

**Manual:** *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones*

**Effective Date:** April 10, 1998

### **Purpose**

This manual provides the information and internal procedures necessary to implement Section 545.353 of the Transportation Code, "Authority of the State Highway Commission to Alter Speed Limits." This manual also accommodates recent changes to the Texas Transportation Code (Chapter 545, Subchapter H, Section 545.3535) and, to the extent possible, comments received during the Speed Limit Town Meetings held in 1997.

### **Supersedes**

This manual supersedes *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones Volume of the Traffic Operations Manual* published in August of 1996.

### **Contents**

- ◆ Table of Contents
- ◆ Chapters 1 through 5
- ◆ Appendix A
- ◆ Divider tabs
- ◆ Front cover insert
- ◆ Spine insert

### **Instructions**

Insert these chapters and related matter with tabs into a three-ring binder.  
Recycle *Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones Volume of the Traffic Operations Manual*.

### **Effective Date**

Immediately

**Contact**

Address questions concerning information contained in this Manual Notice to Wade Odell of the Traffic Operations Division, 512/416-3142 or fax 512/416-3161.