



Speed Studies

The Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT) is responsible for setting the speed limit for county highways under our jurisdiction, and township roads. Safety on the roadways is always our top priority and guides everything we do, including the determination of speed limits. One main tool we use to determine the appropriate speed limit is a spot speed study.



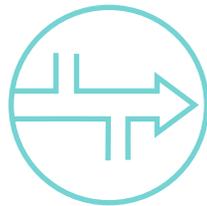
What is a speed study?

A speed study begins with data collection. We measure and record the real-time speeds of 100 vehicles in each direction, between 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., using a radar gun and speed study software. The software then calculates a speed for the zone that 85% of the drivers were comfortable driving at or below, through free-flowing conditions.

This number is then applied against three other main criteria – the number of access points within the zone being studied, pedestrian usage and needs in the corridor, and the crash history for the zone being studied.



Data Collection



Number of Access Points



Pedestrian Usage



Crash History

When are speed studies conducted?

At LCDOT, we have a program in place to make sure all speed studies are less than five years old. In some cases, changing conditions of an area, or requests from local authorities, residents, or businesses can prompt a review of the current speed in advance of when the road is scheduled for review.

What is the process for approving a change?

The Illinois Vehicle Code gives LCDOT the authority to set speed limits and requires that an Engineering study be completed to alter a speed limit. Once the study and analysis is complete, the results are reviewed by the Engineer of Traffic and the County Engineer. If it is determined a change is needed, the proposed speed limit change is presented to the Lake County Board for a vote.

