



Hillsborough County Florida

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

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TRANSPORTATION DESIGN BULLETIN 21-01

DATE: January 11, 2021

TO: County Director of Capital Programs Department,
County Manager of Construction Services,
Division Director of Transportation Maintenance,
County Project Managers and Project Engineers of Record

FROM: County Engineer,
County Director of Engineering & Operations Department,
County Director of Technical Services Division,
County Manager of Transportation Services Section

COPIES: County Director of Geospatial & Land Acquisition Services Department

SUBJECT: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ADOPTION OF DESIGN SPEED TO BE SET TO EQUAL POSTED SPEED

This bulletin announces Hillsborough County's adoption of Design Speed to be set to equal Posted Speed. In addition, this bulletin provides an explanation of Target Speed, Design Speed, and Posted Speed.

REQUIREMENTS

Target Speed: The speed at which vehicles should operate on a corridor in a specific context. The Target Speed must be consistent with the level of multimodal activity generated by adjacent land uses, to provide both mobility for motor vehicles and a desirable environment for pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit users. Target Speed can be set in the project development phase or early in the design process. Target Speed serves as the "target or goal" for Posted/Design Speed. Ideally, the Target Speed and Posted/Design Speed should all be the same. Speed management strategies should be established to achieve the desired Target Speed.

Design Speed: A selected speed used to determine geometric design elements of the roadway. Select an appropriate Design Speed to attain a desired degree of safety, mobility, and efficiency.

Posted Speed: A posted speed limit sign notifies the driver of the maximum operating legal speed that is considered reasonably safe in optimum weather and visibility conditions. For the County, **THE DESIGN SPEED will be set equal to THE POSTED SPEED for Hillsborough County Transportation Projects.** This would not prohibit lowering the Posted Speed in the future.

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BACKGROUND

Hillsborough County has been ranked as having one of the highest pedestrian and vehicular accident rates in the country. In order to provide a safer traveling environment on our roadways and moving towards our VISION ZERO goals, Hillsborough County is establishing target speeds by context. The objective in design of any transportation corridor is to satisfy the public's demand with efficient traffic operations, low crash frequency and severity, and enhance multimodal alternatives, which are all related to its speed.

For corridors in walkable, mixed-use urban areas, the desire of lower speed should influence the selection of the Posted/Design Speed. For those roadways, Target Speed should be selected as the "target or goal" and speed management strategies should be used to achieve a desired safe speed as encouraged by VISION ZERO.

Providing an equivalent Posted/Design Speed that is in harmony with the Target Speed will promote a more efficient design approach and safer and more livable community.

IMPLEMENTATION

Effective Immediately.

CONTACT

Please use the email link below to address any questions or comments in reference to this Design Bulletin:

[PW-Standards Inquiry](#)

Recommended / Date:

Approved / Effective Date:

Leland Dicus, Professional Engineer
Technical Services Division Director

Michael J. Williams, Professional Engineer
County Engineer