



*Florida Department of Transportation*

RICK SCOTT  
GOVERNOR

ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.  
SECRETARY

Date: February 4, 2014  
To: D5 Operations Engineers  
From: John E. Tyler, P.E., District Construction Engineer  
Copy: Rick Morrow, Chris Cairns, Jennifer Taylor, Mike Ruland  
Subject: Construction Zone Speed Limits # 14-01

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "John E. Tyler", is written over the "Copy" line of the email header.

There are many requests to slow traffic by reducing the posted speed limit through construction zones in the interest of safety. The Department has to balance this concern with the desire to minimize impacts to the public traveling through the construction zone. One of those impacts is slowing down the traveling public for no real reason, assuming the project and MOT were designed to accommodate the posted speed, safety of the traveling public and workers has been addressed. The standards applied by the designers are all in the interest of safety. Barring any geometric constraint that would cause the speed to be reduced, the posted speed should remain.

Often times the real concern is that the traveling public is going FASTER than the posted speed, and that we (and the contractor) would be happy if we could just keep them at that posted speed. To help in that end, we have a few tools available, including the Motorist Awareness System, Index 670, that is required when closing a lane on a high speed ( $\geq 55$  mph), multilane facility and FHP Hireback which provides speed enforcement in work zones, but is optional. Another option is for the contractor to submit for approval by the Department, a signed and sealed speed study in accordance with FDOT's [Speed Zoning](#) manual to justify the need to reduce the posted speed. These tools have been proven to be effective in reducing the speed of the traveling public. If you would like to use FHP Hireback, recommend it during the plan review process. Otherwise, we do have the option of adding it during the project, if necessary.

In the future, ANY requests from contractors or project personnel to reduce speed limits on construction projects need to be channeled to the Operations Engineer. If, after careful consideration of the above, the Operations Engineer feels the speed limit issue needs to be addressed further, forward the request, along with the justification, to me for further review.