



Speed Limit Signage

DESCRIPTION:

Regulatory Speed Limit signs (MUTCD R2 1) are installed along streets to notify and remind drivers of the legal speed limit.

APPLICATION:

The standard speed limit on residential streets per the City of Albuquerque Code of Ordinances is 25 MPH:

Because by default, the 25 MPH speed limit applies on all residential streets, the City does not post regulatory Speed Limit signs on every such street. However, where a problem of speeding traffic has been documented, signs may be installed to remind drivers to check their speed.

If used, the City will install Speed Limit signage in conformance with the City of Albuquerque Code of Ordinances and the MUTCD. Speed Limit signs of nonconforming designs or colors, or nonconforming speed values (other than multiples of 5 MPH) will not be installed.

Requests for posting speeds lower than the standard residential speed limit of 25 MPH will be subject to the requirement in the City of Albuquerque Code of Ordinances that an engineering and traffic study be conducted.



Advantages

- Speed Limit signs provide a clear indication of the speed limit and undisputable basis for enforcement.
- Speed Limit signs are relatively easy and low-cost to install.
- Speed Limit signs do not slow emergency vehicles.

Disadvantages

- Signs alone do not guarantee responsible driving behavior.
- Overuse of unnecessary signs creates visual clutter that detracts from the conspicuity of other important signs and leads to loss of effectiveness.
- Posted speed limits that are below 25 MPH, below the 85th percentile speed for a roadway, or at an unrealistically low speed will not be respected by most drivers, and will breed disrespect for speed limits in general.
- Signs require regular maintenance. Signs must be replaced approximately every 8 years.

Effectiveness Scorecard

	Speed	
	Volume	
	Cut-through	
	Crashes	
	Emergency Vehicle	
	Pedestrian	
	Bicycle	
	Noise	
	Cost	\$

Very Good
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Not Applicable



Quick Glance

