## Memorandum

To: Bob Vosen, P.E. - Missoula District Administrator
From: $\quad$ Stan Brelin II, P.E. - Traffic Operations Engineer $S \beta$
Date: $\quad$ March 1, 2024
Subject: Speed Limit Recommendation
US 93 (N-5) - Lakeside
Please present the following report to Flathead County for review and comment. Inform them that we would prefer to receive all comments in writing within the next 60 days. Comments not received within 120 days will be regarded as concurrence with the findings of this report. Their comments along with the Department's final recommendation will be presented to the Montana Transportation Commission for action.

## Introduction

In September of 2022, Flathead County requested a speed study be performed on US 93 from the Flathead County line to the intersection with Highway 82. After reviewing the study area and receiving another request on US 93 in the Rollins area both studies were extended to meet at milepost 93 . The Rollins speed study was completed in 2022. This study beginning at milepost 93 and continuing to the intersection with Montana 82 was requested to be performed during the summer of 2023. Flathead County has received "citizen inquiries on the speeds and concerns about pedestrians crossing in the community of Lakeside." A focus on the "downtown Lakeside area" was requested by Flathead County. On top of this speed study, there are ongoing and completed pedestrian studies to look at addressing the crossings through the community of Lakeside.

## Site Characteristics

The beginning of this segment of US 93 was constructed by MDT in 1964 and the rest was constructed prior to 1924. In 1924 this segment of US 93 was considered an improved roadway and listed as the Auto Trail Great White Way. Most recently the study area from milepost 93 to milepost 102 was improved with a microsurfacing project, NH 5-3(151)93, in 2022. The rest of the study area was improved in 2018 through HSIP-G 5-3(134)103 with a crosswalk upgrade and NH 5-3(65)103 F in 2000 which resurfaced the roadway. Within this speed study, US 93 is part of the non-interstate national highway system (N-5) and classified as a principal arterial.

[^0]Typical sections are primarily comprised of two 12-foot travel lanes (one in each direction) with 2 -foot shoulders. The shoulders do vary a bit between 2 -foot and $8+$-feet depending on if there is a pull-off or general fluctuations in the shoulder widths. Through the community of Lakeside shoulder widths fluctuate between 4 -feet and 18 -feet depending on the location to accommodate pedestrian traffic or on-street parking at times. Large sections of Lakeside do not have curb and gutter, making the shoulder and off-street parking for businesses blur together. There is also a 13 -foot center two-way-left-turn lane through the community of Lakeside between Blacktail Road and Bierney Creek Road. A 12-foot center two-way-left-turn lane exists from Old Highway 93 to the Somers Fishing Access north of Lakeside in the region of Somers. Additional left-turn lanes exist for the intersections with Lutheran Camp Road, Political Hill Road, Caroline Point Road, Ridgewood Drive, Somers Road, and Forest Hill Road. There are right-turn lanes at the following intersections: Blacktail Road and a Historic Pull-off. North of the Somers Fishing access the shoulder widths increase to 8 -foot. The typical section changes to four 12-foot travel lanes (two in each direction) near milepost 104 and continues to the end of the study. Southbound traffic has two 12-foot travel lanes from about a half mile north of milepost 103 to the intersection with Montana 82. There is for the most part adequate sight distance both on and along the roadway. Areas do exist where rock cuts and vegetation may obscure visibility, primarily in the curves. Furthermore, some of the approaches do not meet current design standards and may make entering US 93 difficult because of the intersection skew and slope. Centerline and shoulder rumble strips are present within the study area. The centerline rumble strips cover about 79-percent in three separate segments: milepost 93 to Stoner Loop, Walker Lane to just north of Quarry Drive, and Seven Row to Montana 82. Shoulder rumble strips only cover about 24-percent of the study area in two segments from Deep Bay Drive to about a half mile north of milepost 95 and from Happy Hollow to Montana 82. There are about 2-miles of passing zones for southbound traffic and 1.4-miles for northbound traffic accounting for 15pececent of the study segment.

There are broken segments of pedestrian facilities throughout the study area. In the Lakeside region a painted shoulder separates pedestrian traffic from motor vehicles from Stoner Creek Road to Larchwood Lane where there are no pedestrian facilities on the west side of the road. On the east side of US 93 there are pedestrian facilities that begin at the intersection with Adams Street and continue to just south of Docs Road or the Short Branch Bar. A total of two marked pedestrian crossings exists in Lakeside for the intersections of Adams Street where there is an RRFB and Bierney Creek Road. Pedestrian facilities around Somers exist on the east side of the roadway in the form of the Great Northern Historical trail from Old Highway 93 to Somers Road and then at the intersection with Montana 82. There are marked pedestrian crossings at the intersection with Montana 82, at the Somers Fishing Access, and just south of the fishing access. The two crossings near the fishing access have RRFBs installed and the one at the Montana 82 intersection is signalized.

Average annual daily traffic (AADT) volume from 2022 ranges from almost 12,500 vehicles near Somers and the intersection with Montana 82 to about 6,100 vehicles south of Lakeside. Peak AADT from the past 5 years was primarily observed in 2021, except near Somers where the peak occurred in 2019. On average the whole study area has seen a 4-percent increase in traffic volumes, however the volume patterns for south of Lakeside, Lakeside to Somers and Somers to Montana 82 follow different patterns over the past 5 years. During the COVID-19
pandemic south of Lakeside saw about a 3-percent increase, Somers to Montana 82 saw a 22percent increase, and Lakeside to Somers saw a 2-percent decrease in traffic volumes. All three segments saw about a 15.6 percent increase in traffic volumes from 2020 to 2021. South of Lakeside to Somers saw an 11.5-percent decrease on average in traffic from 2021 to 2022. It should be noted that traffic volumes on average were 44-percent higher during the summer months throughout the study area but could be as much as 53-percent higher some in areas.

The roadside environment starts out as rural and then transitions rapidly to the more urban environment of Lakeside. After the main portion of Lakeside, the roadside environment can be described as rural suburban until entering the region of Somers which resembles a rural town. The study then ends in the rural environment outside the suburban area of the City of Kalispell. Land development in the rural area south of Lakeside has sporadic residential development but primarily consists of recreational development. The main portion of Lakeside from Stoner Loop to Bierney Creek Road is a mix of commercial with some institutional and recreational land use. Between Lakeside and Somers, the rural suburban type environment primarily consists of residential homes of varying density with some commercial, recreational, and industrial development at times such as the alpine coaster, some stores and hotels, and storage units. Near Somers and through the Somers area, the land use is a mix of residential and recreational development with some commercial. There are hotels, boat docks and launches, and personal residences. At the end of the study there is agricultural land use with a mix of industrial and commercial in the form of a hotel and gas station. Development continues in Flathead County, and it is anticipated that the Lakeside and Somers regions will continue to see growth. During the summer the population substantially increases because of the recreational opportunities on Flathead Lake. Although not as much of a draw during the winter Blacktail Mountain Ski Area and Flathead Lake also cause an influx of recreationalists.

## Speed Zone History

The majority of the study area was last reviewed in 2007 with the $55-\mathrm{mph}$ and $45-\mathrm{mph}$ speed zones south of Lakeside, the $35-\mathrm{mph}$ speed zone through Lakeside, the $45-\mathrm{mph}$ and $55-\mathrm{mph}$ speed zones north of Lakeside, $45-\mathrm{mph}$ speed zone through Somers, and previously posted statutory $65-\mathrm{mph}$ speed zones. MDT recommended and the Transportation Commission approved the following speed limit changes:

A 55-mph speed limit beginning at the existing approved in 2000 45/55-mph transition north of Lakeside and extending north approximately 3.37 -miles.

A 55-mph speed limit beginning approximately 525-feet north of Seven Row Road and continuing north to the intersection with MT-82, an approximate distance of 1.08 -miles.

No other changes were recommended or approved. Below is the existing posted speed limit configuration:

A 70-mph speed limit beginning at milepost 93 and continuing north to a point approximately 790 -feet north of milepost 97 , an approximate distance of 4.15-miles.

A 55-mph speed limit beginning approximately 790-feet north of milepost 97 and continuing north to a point approximately 690 -feet south of Blacktail Road, an approximate distance of $\mathbf{2 6 4 5}$-feet.

A 45-mph speed limit beginning approximately 690 -feet south of Blacktail Road and continuing to a point approximately 80 -feet north of Blacktail Road, an approximate distance of 765-feet.

A 35-mph speed limit beginning approximately 80-feet north of Blacktail Road and continuing north to a point approximately 210-feet south of Old Orchard Road, an approximate distance of $\mathbf{2 5 3 5}$-feet.

A 45-mph speed limit beginning approximately 210-feet south of Old Orchard Road and continuing north to a point approximately 200-feet north of Larchwood Road, an approximate distance of $\mathbf{1 2 9 5}$-feet.

A 55-mph speed limit beginning approximately 200 -feet north of Larchwood Road and continuing to a point approximately 320 -feet north of Quarry Road, an approximate distance of 3.38-miles.

A 45-mph speed limit beginning approximately 320-feet north of Quarry Road and continuing north to a point approximately 600-feet north of Seven Row Road, an approximate distance of $1.55-\mathrm{miles}$.

A 55-mph speed limit beginning approximately 600 -feet north of Seven Row Road and continuing north to the intersection with Montana 82, an approximate distance of 4235feet.

## Crash and Citation History

Crash history was reviewed for a three-year period from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. A total of 205 crashes were reported along the 11-mile study segment - 13 suspected serious injury, 33 suspected minor injury, 12 possible injury, 144 no apparent injury, and 3 unknown injury crashes. A majority of the crashes were recorded from milepost 98 to milepost 99 (28 crashes) which includes some of Lakeside, milepost 100 to milepost 101 ( 25 crashes) between Lakeside and Somers, and in the last mile of the study ( 34 crashes) which includes the intersection with Montana 82 . Wild animal crashes were the most common (60) followed by rear-ended crashes (53) and fixed-object crashes (37). There were also greater than 10 crashes considered roll-over, right-angle, and sideswipe. Of these 205 crashes, about a third occurred under adverse road conditions (ice/frost, snow, slush, wet). There were 55 crashes related to intersections or driveways. Based on officer narratives, the intersections with the highest number of recorded crashes were Montana 82 (11), Marco Bay (3), and Deer Creek (2). A total of 14 crashes throughout the study involved pedestrians.

[^1]| $\cdots 12$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | 93-94 | 94-95 | 95-96 | 96-97 | 97-98 | 98-99 | 99-100 | $\begin{aligned} & 100- \\ & 101 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 101- \\ & 102 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 102- \\ & 103 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 103- \\ 104.2 \end{gathered}$ |
| ■ Fixed Object | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| ■ Wild Animal | 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| - Roll Over | 1 |  | 3 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |  | 1 |
| $\square$ Rear-End | 6 |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 10 |
| - Right Angle |  | 1 |  |  | 2 | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 5 |
| - Head On |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| $\square$ Other | 1 |  |  |  | 2 | 1 |  |  |  | 2 | 1 |
| ■ Sideswipe | 1 |  |  | 2 |  | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| $\square$ Pedestrian |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| ■ Non-Fixed Object |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| - Left Turn |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 |
| $\square$ Right Turn |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |

Speed played a role in at least 36 of the recorded crashes. The primary contributing circumstance was wild animals in the roadway (62) followed by careless driving (43). Of the 36 crashes where the contributing circumstance was driving too fast for conditions all but three occurred under adverse road conditions (ice/frost, snow, slush, wet). Other contributing circumstances of note include following too close (22), right-of way violations (11), and improper passing (9).



During the same period, the Montana Highway Patrol made 153 traffic stops and issued 212 citations. Thirteen percent ( 27 of 212 ) of the citations involved speeding throughout the study segment. Speeding citations were relatively evenly distributed throughout the study with about two occurring per mile except in approximately the last mile of the study where there were 11 speeding citations. On average speeding citations were written for about $13-\mathrm{mph}$ above the posted speed limit. Speeding citations were about $1-\mathrm{mph}$ to $2-\mathrm{mph}$ higher on average in the $55-$ mph and $45-\mathrm{mph}$ speed zones. Secondary offences make up about 35 -percent of the citations. Excluding speeding citations and secondary offences the peak number of citations occurred in the last mile of the study (26) with elevated citations form milepost 98 to milepost 99 (13), milepost 100 to milepost 101 (14), and milepost 102 to milepost 103 (15).




## Travel Speed Characteristics

Vehicular travel speeds were sampled directionally at 24 locations to develop a speed profile of the $85^{\text {th }}$ percentile speeds and the pace of the traffic stream from which to evaluate the speed limit configuration of US 93. The following spot speed sample statistics begin approximately 500 -feet north of the Flathead/Lake County line with a $70-\mathrm{mph}$ speed limit and continues north just past the 55/45-mph speed limit transition just before the intersection of US 93 and MT 82. Data was collected in August.

| Location | $50^{\text {th }}$ Percentile Speed | $85^{\text {th }}$ Percentile Speed | Pace of Traffic Stream |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 470-ft North of Flathead/Lake County Line (RP 0+0.089) 70-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 64-mph NB } \\ & \text { 64-mph SB } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 70-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 70-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (59-\mathrm{mph}-69-\mathrm{mph}) 53 \% \\ & (61-\mathrm{mph}-71-\mathrm{mph}) 51 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| 1,150-ft North of Milepost 94 (RP 0+0.687) <br> 70-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 62-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 67-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 69-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 73-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (57-\mathrm{mph}-67-\mathrm{mph}) 59 \% \\ & (62-\mathrm{mph}-72-\mathrm{mph}) 63 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| On Milepost 95 (RP 1+0.468) <br> 70-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 60-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 63-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 67-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 70-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (55-\mathrm{mph}-65-\mathrm{mph}) 49 \% \\ & (58-\mathrm{mph}-68-\mathrm{mph}) 54 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| 2,400-ft North of Milepost 95 (RP 1+0.927) <br> 70-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 63-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 61-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 70-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 68-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (57-\mathrm{mph}-67-\mathrm{mph}) 55 \% \\ & (56-\mathrm{mph}-66-\mathrm{mph}) 54 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| On Milepost 96 (RP 2+0.491) <br> 70-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 65-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 63-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 71-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 68-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (60-\mathrm{mph}-70-\mathrm{mph}) 59 \% \\ & (57-\mathrm{mph}-67-\mathrm{mph}) 62 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| 2,400-ft South of Milepost 97 (RP 3+0.021) <br> 70-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 66-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 66-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 72-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 73-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (61-\mathrm{mph}-71-\mathrm{mph}) 62 \% \\ & (62-\mathrm{mph}-72-\mathrm{mph}) 58 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| 770-ft North of Milepost 97 (RP 3+0.617) <br> 70/55-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 56-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 59-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 63-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 65-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (52-\mathrm{mph}-62-\mathrm{mph}) 53 \% \\ & (53-\mathrm{mph}-63-\mathrm{mph}) 60 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| 570-ft South of Blacktail Rd (RP 4+0.138) 55/45-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 46-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 48-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 52-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 54-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (41-\mathrm{mph}-51-\mathrm{mph}) 64 \% \\ & (42-\mathrm{mph}-52-\mathrm{mph}) 59 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| $560-\mathrm{ft}$ North of Adams St (RP 4+0.517) <br> 35-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{array}{\|l} \hline 31-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ 29-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 36-\mathrm{mph} \text { NB } \\ 34-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (25-\mathrm{mph}-35-\mathrm{mph}) 66 \% \\ & (25-\mathrm{mph}-35-\mathrm{mph}) 61 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| 140-ft South of Lakeside Blvd (RP 4+0.754) 45/35-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 37-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ 33-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 42-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 37-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (32-\mathrm{mph}-42-\mathrm{mph}) 67 \% \\ & (27-\mathrm{mph}-37-\mathrm{mph}) 73 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| 180-ft North of Larchwood Ln (RP 5+0.005) 55/45-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 45-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 46-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 51-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 52-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (40-\mathrm{mph}-50-\mathrm{mph}) 61 \% \\ & (41-\mathrm{mph}-51-\mathrm{mph}) 64 \% \end{aligned}$ |

[^2]| 600-ft North of Larchwood Ln <br> (RP 5+0.246) <br> 55-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 51-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 53-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 56-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 58-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | ( $46-\mathrm{mph}-56-\mathrm{mph}$ ) $65 \%$ <br> (49-mph - 59-mph) $65 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 400-ft North of Caroline Point Rd (RP 5+0.833) <br> 55-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 54-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 54-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 59-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 59-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (48-\mathrm{mph}-58-\mathrm{mph}) 69 \% \\ & (49-\mathrm{mph}-59-\mathrm{mph}) 72 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| On Milepost 100 (RP 6+0.498) <br> 55-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 56-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 55-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 61-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 60-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (51-\mathrm{mph}-61-\mathrm{mph}) 72 \% \\ & (50-\mathrm{mph}-60-\mathrm{mph}) 71 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| 120-ft South of Marco Bay Rd (RP 6+0.970) <br> 55-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 55-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 56-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 60-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 60-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (49-\mathrm{mph}-59-\mathrm{mph}) 74 \% \\ & (51-\mathrm{mph}-61-\mathrm{mph}) 73 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| 80-ft North of Milepost 101 (RP 7+0.512) <br> 55-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 54-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 54-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 58-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 59-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (49-\mathrm{mph}-59-\mathrm{mph}) 71 \% \\ & (50-\mathrm{mph}-60-\mathrm{mph}) 67 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| 140-ft South of Whitey-Lamb Rd (RP 7+0.941) <br> 55-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 55-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 56-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 60-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 60-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | ( $50-\mathrm{mph}-60-\mathrm{mph}$ ) $70 \%$ <br> ( $51-\mathrm{mph}-61-\mathrm{mph}$ ) $70 \%$ |
| 500 -ft North of Quarry Dr (RP 8+0.360) <br> 55/45-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 51-mph NB } \\ & \text { 49-mph SB } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 58-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 54-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | ( $45-\mathrm{mph}-55-\mathrm{mph}$ ) $63 \%$ <br> (43-mph - 53-mph) $70 \%$ |
| 480-ft South of Landing Trail (RP 8+0.674) <br> 45-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 46-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 48-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 50-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 51-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (40-\mathrm{mph}-50-\mathrm{mph}) 80 \% \\ & (42-\mathrm{mph}-52-\mathrm{mph}) 84 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| 650-ft North of Landing Trail (RP 8+0.886) <br> 45-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 47-mph NB } \\ & 44-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 51-mph NB } \\ & 48-\mathrm{mph} \text { SB } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (41-\mathrm{mph}-51-\mathrm{mph}) 80 \% \\ & (38-\mathrm{mph}-48-\mathrm{mph}) 78 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| 750-ft South of Milepost 103 (RP 9+0.271) <br> 45-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 43-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 43-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 47-mph NB } \\ & 48-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (38-\mathrm{mph}-48-\mathrm{mph}) 77 \% \\ & (38-\mathrm{mph}-48-\mathrm{mph}) 68 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| 330-ft South of Somers Rd (RP 9+0.489) <br> 45-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 47-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 48-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 52-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 53-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (42-\mathrm{mph}-52-\mathrm{mph}) 74 \% \\ & (43-\mathrm{mph}-53-\mathrm{mph}) 73 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| 440-ft North of Seven Row Rd (RP 9+0.792) <br> 55/45-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 50-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 51-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 54-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 58-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (44-\mathrm{mph}-54-\mathrm{mph}) 75 \% \\ & (45-\mathrm{mph}-55-\mathrm{mph}) 58 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| 120-ft South of Marco Bay Rd (RP 10+0.140) <br> 55-mph Speed Zone | $\begin{aligned} & 53-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 57-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 57-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{NB} \\ & 63-\mathrm{mph} \mathrm{SB} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (47-\mathrm{mph}-57-\mathrm{mph}) 70 \% \\ & (52-\mathrm{mph}-62-\mathrm{mph}) 64 \% \end{aligned}$ |

## Contextual Characteristics

Recently, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) completed new research for setting appropriate speed limits on rural and urban streets. NCHRP report 17-76: Development of a Posted Speed Limit Setting Procedure and Tool considers contextual aspects of the roadway environment and how it influences operating speed and safety (crashes). The procedure of the tool uses fact-based decision rules that consider both driver speed choice and general safety associated with the roadway. This means the roadway classification, speed, AADT, and other contextual aspects are accounted for when determining an appropriate speed limit.

Four segments were created for analysis: South of Lakeside, Lakeside, Between Lakeside and Somers and Somers. The entire study area is rural except for sections inside Lakeside and Somers and have appropriate typical section for most of the study area.

South of Lakeside, approximately 4.5 miles, the roadway is primarily two lanes, 2-foot shoulders and a slightly elevated crash rate between milepost 93 and 97 . Considering that the 2 -foot shoulder does not meet current design standards and an elevated crash rate, the closest $50^{\text {th }}$ percentile should be used when determining an appropriate speed limit.

Within the area of Lakeside, approximately 0.6 miles, there is a slightly elevated injury crash rate at $44 \%$ higher than the Highway Safety Information System (HSIS) database average. Pedestrians were observed near the roadway and there are currently two pedestrian crossings with RRFB's in Lakeside. There are large sections without adequate pedestrian facilities along this portion of US 93. There is also an elevated number of approaches through this section of Lakeside. Based on these facts a speed limit based on the $50^{\text {th }}$ percentile would be recommended.

Between Lakeside and Somers, an approximate distance of 3.8 miles, there are primarily twolanes and 2-foot shoulders. There is an elevated crash rate along this section. Based on the shoulder width of 2-feet and an elevated crash rate, it is recommended that the speed limit be set to reflect the $50^{\text {th }}$ percentile speeds.

Within the area of Somers, approximately 1.0 mile, there are primarily 2-lanes with a center twoway left-turn lane and $2-8$-foot shoulder widths. There are no sidewalks present along this section, however there is the Great Northern Historical pedestrian trail located on the south side of the roadway which is separated and has a buffer from the roadway. The northern section of this roadway has no sidewalks or pedestrian facilities. There are two marked pedestrian crossings with RRFB's in the area of Somers. Based on the lack of pedestrian facilities along the northern sections of the roadway and observed pedestrians in the area, it is recommended that the speed limit be set to reflect the $50^{\text {th }}$ percentile speeds.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

A review of the spot speed samples shows that the prevailing speeds along US 93 match with the set speed limits. The $85^{\text {th }}$ percentile speeds and upper limits of the pace are for the most part within $\pm 3-\mathrm{mph}$ of the $70-\mathrm{mph}$ and $35-\mathrm{mph}$ speed limits. The $85^{\text {th }}$ percentile speeds and upper limits of the pace are for the most part within $\pm 6-\mathrm{mph}$ of the $55-\mathrm{mph}$ and $45-\mathrm{mph}$ speed limits. In total, 80 -percent of the stations showed speeds with $\pm 5$-mph of the speed limit. Furthermore, approximately 64-percent of drivers were on average observed traveling within $10-\mathrm{mph}$ of each other.

Although prevailing speeds indicate appropriately set speed limits, roadway context indicates these speeds are slightly elevated above what should be reasonable and prudent. Based on lack of pedestrian facilities, observed pedestrians and higher than average crash rates for Lakeside, it would be advisable to use the closest $50^{\text {th }}$ percentile for these two communities. For Lakeside this would result in a $5-\mathrm{mph}$ speed limit reduction to $30-\mathrm{mph}$. Within the area of Somers this would result in a no-change to the existing speed limit.

There is an elevated crash rate south of Lakeside, and in conjunction with inadequate shoulder width, the closest $50^{\text {th }}$ percentile should be used to determine an appropriate speed limit. This would result in a $5-\mathrm{mph}$ speed limit reduction from the statutory $70-\mathrm{mph}$ to $65-\mathrm{mph}$. This would create a consistent speed limit with the $65-\mathrm{mph}$ speed limit that ends at milepost 93.
Additionally, a $70-\mathrm{mph}$ speed zone based on NCHRP guidance should be at a minimum 6.2miles in length which this segment length of 4.15 -miles does not currently meet.

There is an elevated crash rate in the section between Lakeside and Somers, and in conjunction with inadequate shoulder width, the closest $50^{\text {th }}$ percentile should be used. This would result in a no-change to the $55-\mathrm{mph}$ speed limit for this section.

Currently the transitions to the north and south of Lakeside are not to current MDT guidance. The $45-\mathrm{mph}$ transition to the south of Lakeside is currently 765 -feet and we recommend a length of 1,600 -feet. The $45-\mathrm{mph}$ transition to the north of Lakeside is 1,295 -feet, and we recommend a length of 1,600 -feet.

Based upon these observations and NCHRP report 17-76: Development of a Posted Speed Limit Setting Procedure and Tool MDT recommends lowering the existing speed limit in the Lakeside area and to the south of Lakeside. MDT recommends a $5-\mathrm{mph}$ speed reduction to the statutory $35-\mathrm{mph}$ speed limit to $30-\mathrm{mph}$ with no change in length from the original $35-\mathrm{mph}$ speed zone. MDT recommends extending both $45-\mathrm{mph}$ transitional zones on either side of Lakeside to meet current MDT best practices and shifting the $55-\mathrm{mph}$ transitional zone on the southside of Lakeside to accommodate the proposed $45-\mathrm{mph}$ transitional zone being lengthened. MDT also recommends a $5-\mathrm{mph}$ speed reduction to the statutory $70-\mathrm{mph}$ speed limit to $65-\mathrm{mph}$. Citation data indicated law enforcement is present and targeting those motorists traveling outside the norm.

We recommend the following speed limits:
A 65-mph speed limit beginning at milepost 93 (straight-line station 000+00) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 4.00 -miles, approximately on milepost 97 (straight-line station 183+50)

A 55-mph speed limit beginning at milepost 97 (straight-line station 183+50) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 2,550 -feet, approximately 350 -feet north of the intersection of Political Hill Road (straight-line station 209+00)

A 45-mph speed limit beginning approximately 350 -feet north of the intersection with Political Hill Road (straight-line station 209+00) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 1,600 -feet, approximately 80 feet north of the intersection with Blacktail Road (straight-line station 225+00)

A 30-mph speed limit beginning approximately 80 -feet north of the intersection with Blacktail Road (straight-line station 225+00) and continuing north for an approximate distance of $\mathbf{2 , 5 3 5}$-feet, approximately 210 feet south of the intersection with Old Orchard Road (straight-line station 251+50)

A 45-mph speed limit beginning approximately 210 -feet south of the intersection with Old Orchard Road (straight-line station $251+50$ ) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 1,600 -feet, approximately 150 -feet north of the intersection with Walker Lane (straight-line station 264+25)

A 55-mph speed limit beginning approximately 150 -feet north of the intersection with Walker Lane (straight-line station 264+25) and continuing north for an approximate distance of 3.35-miles, approximately 320-feet north of Quarry Road (straight-line station $441+50$ )
e-copies:
Gabe B. Priebe, P.E. - Traffic \& Safety Engineer Rebecca Franke, P.E. - Missoula District Traffic Engineer Brenden Borges, P.E. - Investigations Lead Worker
copies w/ attachment:

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## PROPOSED SPEED ZONE US HWY 93 (N-5)

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MP 93 to MT HWY 82

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