



Speed Study Memo

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation System Development
Southwest Region

Date: 12/12/2025

Project ID: 5390-01-07
Highway: US 51
County: Rock
Project Limits: Black Bridge Road to US 14

In response to the questions and concerns brought up from the public involvement and local official outreach for the upcoming transportation project, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation elected to do an engineering study on the 55-mph speed limit along the project.

Modified speed limits are typically established on roadways where the statutory speed limit or existing limit is no longer appropriate due to a change in land use, access, traffic volumes or number of crashes or crash potential along a roadway. Unless speed limits are set initially by state statutes, all speed limits in Wisconsin must be established through an engineering and traffic investigation, including further modifications that lower or raise speed limits. When modified speed limits are needed, several factors should be reviewed as part of an engineering and traffic investigation:

- Evaluation of roadway environment and characteristics
- Assessment of geographic context
- Review of crash information
- Measurement of prevailing speeds

After review, there is no significant change in land use context or roadway environment, no significant traffic generators or special circumstances, and no significant numbers of vulnerable roadway users. Additionally in this area, County F provides a parallel 35-mph corridor for local users to avoid the 55-mph WIS/US corridor.

The past eight years of speed-related crashes in this segment contain five reported speed related crashes, three of which were on snow/ice and two of which were OWI. The corridor has not demonstrated a significant speed related crash pattern.

WisDOT also conducted a 48-hour measurement of the prevailing speeds beginning October 13th, 2025, with two locations studied, one location was 400' South of Highbridge Road and the second location Just north of the County F overpass. The results of this study measured the 85th percentile speed of 58.3 mph and 60.7 mph, respectively.

Therefore based on the roadway context, the speed data, and the crash history, there is no indication that the "speed limit is greater or less than reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist upon any part of a highway or that the actual speed of vehicles upon any part of a highway is greater or less than is reasonable and prudent" as required per Wisconsin State Statute 349.11, and therefore we cannot recommend changing the 55-mph speed limit on the segment of US 51 from US 14 to Black Bridge Road.