

**Howard. N. Dashiell**  
**DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION**

Road Commissioner  
County Engineer, RCE 42001  
County Surveyor, PLS 7148



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**FUNCTIONS**

Administration & Business Services  
Airports  
Engineering  
Land Improvement  
Roads and Bridges  
Solid Waste & Landfills  
Water Agency

**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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May 5, 2025

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010  
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRAFFIC STUDY NUMBER 25-01 AND DECLARING INTENT TO ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT(S) BETWEEN 25 MILES PER HOUR (MPH) AND 45 MPH ON SEGMENTS OF LITTLE RIVER AIRPORT & ALBION RIDGE ROADS, COUNTY ROADS (CR) 404 MILEPOST (MP) 0.00 TO 5.92 AND CR 402 MP 0.00 TO 4.00 (LITTLE RIVER - ALBION AREA)

Honorable Board Members:

Mendocino County Code Sec. 15.04.040 governs speed limit changes and charges the County Road Commissioner with determining an application meritorious. Typically, the Road Commissioner's decision as to merit is based on many factors including but not limited to majority of community support (citizen petition), support of public safety agencies (California Highway Patrol – CHP), meeting the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and California Department of Transportation Traffic Manual Policies and Warrants for establishing speed limits. All speed zones change requests found meritorious and undertaken by the Mendocino County Department of Transportation (DOT) are based on an engineering traffic study prepared and submitted to the Board of Supervisors pursuant to California Vehicle Code (CVC 627(a)) and support legal speed limits.

In response to Board of Supervisors (BoS) direction on 9-24-24 and considering CHP request, Traffic Study Number (No.) 25-01 was begun in January of 2025 (copy attached). The purpose and intent are to have DOT post a maximum speed limit(s) of less than 55 mph from milepost (MP) 2.00 to MP 4.00 of Albion Ridge presently not posted; thus the 55-mph maximum speed limit for two lane undivided highways applies pursuant to CVC § 22349(b).

Furthermore, some existing speed limit postings in Mendocino County Code (MCC) before 1988 for Albion Ridge & Little River Airport County Roads (CR) 404 Milepost (MP) 0.00 to 5.92 and CR 402 MP 0.00 to 2.00 were to be evaluated and adjusted if necessary to become radar/lidar enforceable under the current standards per CVC § 627(A2) California Manual of

Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) and California Manual for Setting Speed Limits (Revised December 2023) Policies and Warrants for establishing speed limits.

Over 124 speed measurements taken MCDOT's survey exceeded 56 miles per hour (MPH) during eight separate locations for one-week data collecting periods however, average hourly volumes were not greater than 100 vehicles. These are factors that find this speed zone change request having moderate merit pursuant to traffic policy. CHP has indicated their ability and support to patrol this road segment even with low volume, so because this speed zone enforcement is practical and feasible, the Road Commissioner has found this constitutes a meritorious request for speed change for radar/lidar enforcement. However, this remains a Board Policy decision.

The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was found to be between 25 MPH & 45 MPH on various segments; valid criterion were found to base postings of between 25 MPH & 40 MPH this speed will be used to establish a valid radar/lidar speed zone postings per the CVC § 627 requirements.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has not previously adopted a maximum speed limit for the one section of road but did have adopted speed zones set before 1988 on many other sections. DOT staff personnel have prepared a draft Resolution to accept the findings and recommendations of Traffic Study No. 25-01 for the Board's consideration and adoption.

I will, of course, respond to any questions that the Board may have.

Respectfully submitted,



HOWARD N. DASHIELL  
Director of Transportation