

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

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



**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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February 11, 2026

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

RE: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECLARING INTENT TO ESTABLISH SPEED LIMITS OF 20 MILES PER HOUR AT SELECTED SCHOOL ZONES BETWEEN NOW AND JANUARY 1, 2031, WHEN ALL SCHOOL ZONES WILL BE 20 MILES PER HOUR PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 382 (COUNTYWIDE)

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 community support (citizen petition), support of public safety agencies such as the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and meeting the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and California Department of Transportation Traffic Manual Policies and Warrants for establishing speed limits.

Assembly Bill (AB) 382 amended the California Vehicle Code (CVC) to drop school zone speed limits from 25 miles per hour (mph) to 20 mph on January 1, 2031. Through January 1, 2031, cities and counties have the option to lower school zone speed limits from 25 mph to 20 mph through local ordinance or resolution. After January 1, 2031, the change becomes automatic statewide; every school zone will default to 20 mph wherever proper signage is posted, no local action required.

Interim Authority: Before 2031- Local agencies do not have to wait until 2031 to use 20 miles per hour speed limits in school zones. AB 382 adds a temporary provision authorizing a city or county, by ordinance or resolution, to adopt a 20 miles per hour speed limit in a school zone now, using the same 500-foot school zone definition that will apply statewide in 2031. CVC § 22352.5(a), (b).

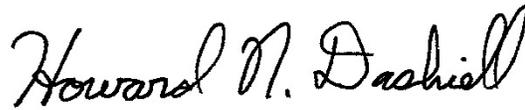
The Mendocino County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) operationally responds to routine maintenance of signs within the County Maintained Road System and given the upcoming CVC school zone speed limit change to 20 mph, it would be prudent to authorize MCDOT to make this change as maintenance is performed.

Furthermore, MCDOT is presently implementing a grant from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Cycle 11. Environmental clearances, permitting, and design are complete, and the project will be advertised, awarded and completed this spring/summer 2026. This HISP grant covers Systemic Improvements on Mendocino County Maintained Roadway segments to provide for the installation/upgrade of signs with new fluorescent sheeting (regulatory or warning) and the installation of chevron signs on horizontal curves, delineators, reflectors, and/or object markers on roadway segments along Branscomb Road, West Road (Redwood Valley), North State Street, Sherwood Road, Comptche-Ukiah Road, Simpson Lane, Vichy Springs Road, Valley Road, South State Street, Mountain View Road, Pudding Creek Road, Eel River Road, Main Street (Potter Valley) and Little Lake Road, as well as some minor connecting roads to the abovementioned major roads.

This HISP project is anticipated to be completed in the spring/summer 2026 construction season. Specifically new current standard retro reflective signs in at least three (3) school zones are funded, and this opportunity to provide new 20 mph signs is efficient and prudent given the upcoming AB 382 change.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard N. Dashiell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HOWARD N. DASHIELL  
Director of Transportation