



Windham Police Department



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Memorandum

TO: Donald H. Gerrish; Town Manager
FROM: Kevin L. Schofield; Chief of Police
Subject: Request for Speed Reduction MDOT
Date: October 8, 2019

I am submitted this memo to recommend that the Town request speed studies on the following locations to MDOT. I will break down the concerns around each road separately.

William Knight Road: Current this road is posted at 45MPH, this road run between RT. 302 and Varney Mill Rd and is approximately 1.17 miles in length. Even though the road has a rural appearance to it, with development over the years, there are now 22 residential dwellings on the road and five (5) intersecting roads with a total of 24 residential dwellings abutting the road. In total there are 46 residential dwellings on or intersecting William Knight road.

Another contributing factor to this road is topography. Approximately in the midpoint of this section of road there is a steep dip into a ravine. This causes a blind spot for a residential dwelling in this area. As prior resident would give instruction when leaving the property to look left, right then left again and count to five to make sure a car did not appear out of the dip at a high rate of speed, they reported many near misses over the years.

Crashes: since 2015 we have had 4 crashes on William Knight Road. 2016- 1 accident due to icy road conditions, 2017 – 1 accident involving a deer, 2019 – 2 accidents involving a line of sight issue and too fast for conditions as a secondary contributing factor.

Overall impression with this road when driving it at 45MPH is it feels too fast for the nature of the road.

Gambo Road: Currently this road is posted at 35MPH. The road is approximately 4/10ths of a mile in length and has 9 Residential dwellings and 8 commercial dwellings on it. Formerly the bridge over the Presumscot River accommodated vehicular traffic into the town of Gorham, this is no longer the case creating a dead end road. The mountain division recreation trail also crosses the lower end of Gambo road. Probably most significant is the location of the Recreation fields at located near the end of the road that accommodate various recreation programs. This situation creates more traffic than one would expect on dead end road with few dwellings. Each year the police department receives speed complaints on the road as we did the past week end (October 5th and 6th). We have placed our road sign on Gambo road in the past, and found the average speed to be below the 35MPH posting with few vehicle above 35 MPH. (See attached report)

Anecdotally, this verifies that most people or the 85th percentile as MDOT standards suggest comply with what may be a more realistic speed limit of 25 or 30 mph. Lowering the speed limit would give the department the ability to enforce the speed limit who exceed that more reasonable standard.