



**Elizabeth Kosa**  
Interim Director

## Harbor View Heights Speed Limit Review

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### Speed Limit Modification Evaluation

A resident of Harbor View Heights, Marta Farlin, requested a speed limit of 25 MPH be established within the plat. This study will cover the four roads within the plat of Harbor View Heights: Crest Dr, Harborview Dr, Terrace Av, and Harbor Ct. Following a review by Whatcom County Staff, it was discovered that the current speed limit on the roads within the development is 35 MPH under the Unless Posted Otherwise ordinance.

### Road Information

All roads within the plat are classified as Urban Local Access with 11 ft ACP (Asphalt) Lanes and 3 ft Gravel Shoulders. All roads have multiple driveway accesses consistent with an urban single-family residential development.

### Data Collection

Traffic counts are shown in the table below and consist of vehicle volumes, speeds, and percent truck traffic:

WHATCOM COUNTY TRAFFIC COUNTS																					
ROAD NAME	LEG	CROSS ROAD	BEGAN	ENDED	TOTAL VOLUME		WEEKDAY		DIRECTIONAL VOLUME				SPEED (MPH)				CLASSIFICATION				
					ADT WEEKDAY	ADT WEEKLY	PM PEAK VOLUME	PM PEAK TIME	DIR NE	ADT NE	DIR SW	ADT SW	DIR NE	85TH % NE	DIR SW	85TH % SW	DIR NE	TRUCKS NE	DIR SW	TRUCKS SW	
CREST DR	S	H ST RD	7/29/2022	8/4/2022	176	174	15	17:00	N	87	S	90	N	19.6	S	18.4	N	14.8%	S	12.3%	
HARBORVIEW DR	W	CREST DR	7/29/2022	8/4/2022	72	68	8	12:00	E	36	W	35	E	20.2	W	22.1	E	17.6%	W	14.7%	
TERRACE AV	S	H ST RD	7/29/2022	8/4/2022	38	34	4	14:00	N	20	S	18	N	20.7	S	23.0	N	5.3%	S	24.7%	

The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is used by traffic engineers, along with other factors, to set speed limits. It quantifies the speed at which 85 percent of traffic is going at or below.

The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed for Crest Dr was 19.2 MPH; for Harborview Dr was 21.3 MPH; and for Terrace Av was 22.2 MPH, all well below the current speed limit of 35 MPH.

### Collision History

A review of collisions that have been received from the Washington State Patrol shows two collisions have taken place in the last 5+ years. One collision involved a hit and run of a parked vehicle, resulting in property damage only. The other collision involved a single vehicle run off the road collision where the driver was having an unknown medical issue when they hit a utility pedestal.

## **Conclusion**

Whatcom County Public Works recommends lowering the speed limit to 25 MPH, which is both consistent with the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds measured by the traffic counts and other established speed limits in residential developments throughout Whatcom County.