

COUNTY ROAD SPEED LIMITS

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define how speed limits are established, considered for review, and potentially changed for County Maintained Roads in Ravalli County, .

It is the County's intent to establish and review speed limits based on sound traffic engineering practices and accepted standards, community planning practices, and with consideration of public input. Speed limits affect public safety, traffic mobility, transportation of freight and goods from point to point, and maintenance costs on roads.

2. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all Ravalli County road speed limits and supersedes previous policies or resolutions pertaining to setting or changing speed limits.

3. DEFINITIONS

"Accident Rate" means the number of accidents at a particular location on a roadway or section of roadway divided by the number of vehicles using the roadway, normally expressed in the number of accidents per million vehicle miles driven.

"Average Daily Traffic" (ADT) means the total volume of vehicle traffic in both directions at a particular location on a road.

"Average Speed" means the summation of the spot measured speeds at a specific location of vehicles divided by the number of vehicles measured.

"Clear Zone Obstruction" means an object larger than a certain size that will damage a vehicle traveling in the roadside border area starting at the edge of the traveled way that is available for the errant driver to stop or regain control of a vehicle.

"85th Percentile Speed" means the speed at or below which 85 percent of the motor vehicles travel.

"Horizontal Curve" means an area of the roadway where the vehicle's direction of travel changes on a horizontal plane.

"Lane Width" or "Traveled Way" means the width of the road from the marked centerline to the edge marking if present or the edge of the road surfacing material.

"Pace Speed" means the 10 mph speed range representing the speeds of the largest percentage of vehicles in the traffic stream.

"Speed Limit" means the maximum speed applicable to a section of roadway as established by law.

"Vertical Curve" means an area of the roadway where the vehicle's direction of travel changes in a vertical plane.

4. STATE ENABLING LEGISLATION

Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 61-8-303 establishes speed limits on state highways unless determined otherwise as described in MCA 61-8-309, 310 & 312.

MCA 61-8-310(2) states "A board of county commissioners may set limits, as provided in subsection (1)(c), without an engineering and traffic investigation on a county road."

MCA 61-8-310(1)(c) states "decreases the limit outside an urban district, but not to less than 35 miles an hour on a paved road or less than 25 miles an hour on an unpaved road"

5. SPEED LIMITS ON COUNTY ROADS

County Road speed limits are established by resolution.

6. ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS ON NEW COUNTY ROADS

Proposed speed limits for new County Roads are initiated by the following methods:

6.1 If the speed limit of 70 mph is deemed appropriate by the Board of County Commissioners, then no further action is necessary and the speed limit is set at 70 mph.

6.2 If a speed limit other than 70 mph is to be considered, the Road and Bridge Department Administrator shall prepare an Investigative Report (Appendix A) which evaluates:

- Road surface, shoulder condition, grade, alignment, sight distance
- ADT and road classification
- Existing speed limit and requested speed limit
- The 85th percentile and pace speeds
- Roadside development and environment
- Parking practices and pedestrian activity
- Reported accident rate or crash experience
- Sheriff's Office review and recommendations for the section of road

The report will include the Road and Bridge Department Administrator's conclusions and recommendations and a proposed ordinance will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

7. CHANGING ESTABLISHED COUNTY ROAD SPEED LIMITS

Speed limit changes may be requested or initiated by any of the following methods:

7.1 Road and Bridge Department Request

The Road and Bridge Department may request an investigation on any County Road section and upon completion of the investigative report submit a recommendation for a change in speed limit for a section or group of County Roads.

The Road and Bridge Department shall submit the investigative report and their recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

If the Board of County Commissioners agrees that a change should be considered, they may prepare a resolution and schedule a public hearing.

7.2 Citizen Petition Process

A petition may be submitted on the "Petition Form" found in Appendix B to the Road and Bridge Department Administrator. The Road and Bridge Department Administrator will process requests made by petition signed by area residents in the amount of at least 70 percent of the area residents as determined by the Road and Bridge Department Administrator for the road section being considered.

Once a valid petition is received, the Road and Bridge Department Administrator will prepare an investigative report and submit it with the original petition and their

recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners within three months.

If the Board of County Commissioners agrees that a change should be considered, they may prepare a resolution and schedule a public hearing.

7.3 Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office may submit a request for a speed limit change on any section of County Road to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration. The Board of County Commissioners may instruct the Road and Bridge Department Administrator to do an Investigative Report. If the Investigative Report shows a need for a speed limit change, the Road and Bridge Department Administrator will forward the request for Board of County Commissioners consideration. If the Board of County Commissioners agrees that a change should be considered, they may prepare a resolution and schedule a public hearing.

8. REPEATED REQUESTS FOR SPEED LIMIT CHANGES ON THE SAME SECTION OF ROAD

The County will not consider citizen petitions for speed limit changes that have been reviewed or considered within the previous three years, unless the recommendation comes from the Road and Bridge Department Administrator based on a dramatic change in the road condition or accident rate.

APPENDIX A - INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

SPEED LIMIT CHANGE REPORT DATE:

Road Name:

Location of requested change:

Land Use Designation:

Mile posts of requested change:

Current Speed Limit: _____ which is ____th percentile

Requested Speed Limit:

This speed limit change was requested by:

Describe how the request was originated -
example, " by petition signed by 25 people"

Arterial, collector, or access?

Existing ADT:

Location of count:

Average speed:

Location of measure:

Pace speed: _____ to _____

Location of measure:

85th percentile speed:

Location of measure:

Existing lane width:

Design lane width if built new today:

Existing shoulder width:

Design shoulder width if built new today:

Surface type: ACP ____ BST ____

Friction issue such as bleeding or flushing?

No. of accidents last 10 years: _____

Accident rate: _____ County average _____

Concentration of accidents? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, where?

No. of driveways:

No. of driveways per mile

No. of stop signs:

No. of county or major road intersections:

Mailboxes: Any problems?
No. of mailboxes per mile:
Roadside hazards not listed (poles, trees, bridge, etc)?
Discuss:

Driveway slopes and culvert bevels:
Well sloped and beveled? Yes ___ No ___

Steep roadside slopes? Discuss:

Vertical curve issues? Discuss:

Horizontal curve issues? Ball bank speed: ___ Discuss:

Sight distance issues? Discuss:

Centerline stripe? Yes ___ No ___

Edge stripe? Yes ___ No ___

Through route? Yes ___ No ___

Heavy mixture of commercial traffic w/ residential?
Yes ___ No ___

Level of pedestrian activity: High ___ Med ___ Low ___

Factors that may not be apparent to the typical driver:

Sheriff's Department comments:

Recommended speed limit:

Public input (summary of written and oral):

Commissioners' decision:



REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

OG-12-05-76

BCC Meeting: May 3, 2012 – 2:00 PM
Subject: Preliminary Plat Approval Period Extension Request

I. Action Requested

This is a request from Jeff Reynolds to grant a three-year extension to the preliminary plat approval for the North Park, Bonanza Lands No. 2, AP 612127, Lots 1 & 2, AP Four-Lot Subsequent Minor Subdivision.

II. Applicable Regulations

Ravalli County Subdivision Regulations Section 3-2-9(f) gives the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) the authority to grant a one-year extension to the preliminary plat approval period. Additionally, passage of House Bill 522 gives the BCC authority, if mutually agreed upon with the subdivider, to grant an unlimited number and duration of preliminary plat approval period extensions. (76-3-610 MCA)

III. Background

- The North Park, Bonanza Lands No. 2 Subdivision was conditionally approved by the BCC on November 23, 2009.
- The Preliminary Plat Decision (PPD) was mailed to the subdivider on January 6, 2010, initiating the 18-month preliminary plat approval period.
- The preliminary plat approval period for the subdivision expires on July 6, 2012.
- A one-year extension to the preliminary plat approval was previously granted by the BCC on June 7, 2011, extending the approval period expiration to the date above.
- The current extension request was submitted on April 26, 2012.
- In the extension request, Mr. Reynolds states that an extension to the approval period deadline is necessary, due to the current economic conditions and his inability to pay all necessary costs for the subdivision at this time.
- If the BCC were to grant the extension request, the preliminary plat approval period would be extended to July 6, 2015.

IV. Planning Staff Recommendation

The Planning Department has reviewed the request, and recommends that the BCC grant a three-year extension to the preliminary plat approval period for the North Park, Bonanza Lands No. 2 Subdivision.

Attachment: Extension Request
Staff: *KW* Kevin Waller
Date: May 3, 2012

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

1998-1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD

DATE: 10/15/98

TO: IRB MEMBERS

RE: [Illegible text]

KM

Cc: Jeff Reynolds, Alcyon, LLC, Subdivision File

We hereby **Approve** **Deny** the extension request for the North Park, Bonanza Lands No. 2 Subdivision.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ron Stoltz, Member

Greg Chilcott, Member

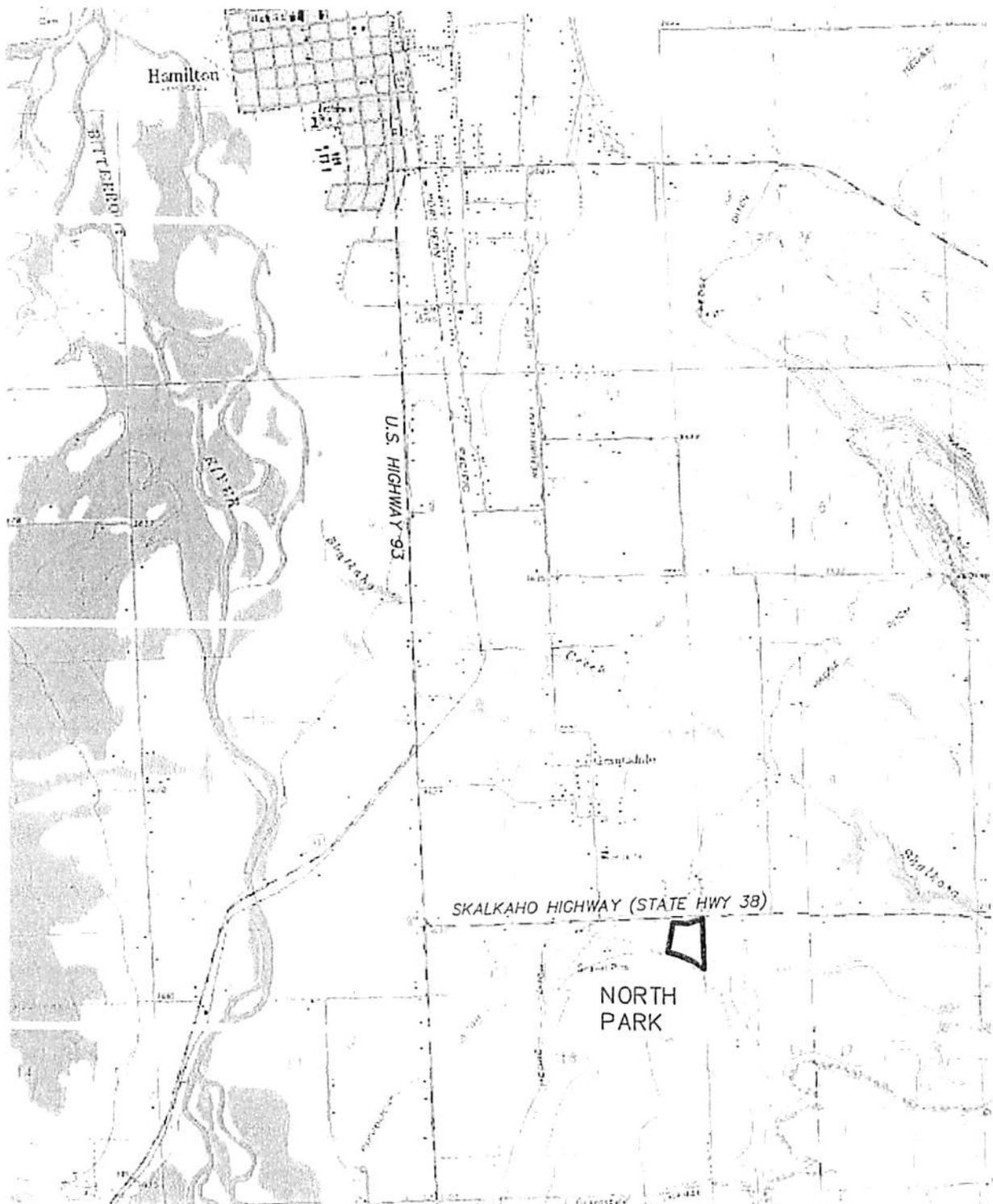
J.R. Iman, Member

Matt Kanenwisher, Member

Suzy Foss, Chairman

NORTH PARK, BONANZA LANDS NO. 2 A.P.

USGS MAP LOCATION



ALCYON, LLC.
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS
P.O. Box 218
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-381-1125

SCALE: 1" = 3000'
DRAWN BY: GGM
DATE: 8/01/07
DWG: 06-011q
SHEET 1 of 1