

HIGHWAY FACTORS ATTACHMENT - D
SPEED STUDY US 163 OVERVIEW
MEXICAN HAT, UTAH; 1/6/08
HWY-08-MH-012
(6 Pages)

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Traffic & Safety
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MEMORANDUM

August 21, 2008

TO: Robert Dowell, P.E.
Region Four Traffic Operations Engineer

FROM: Larry Montoya, P.E.
Traffic and Safety Design Engineer

SUBJECT: Speed Study for US-163, MP 0.00 - 41.405 from the Arizona/Utah line to US-191
Study # 4P-058-08

The Division of Traffic & Safety has conducted a speed study at the subject location as requested. Based on the study results, we do not recommend changing the posted speed limit. Attached are the study results for your use.

The following factors were considered along with the 85th percentile speed:

- Road characteristics including shoulder condition, grade, alignment, and sight distance.
- Roadside culture and development, and roadside friction.
- Safe speeds for curves.
- Pedestrian activity, parking practices, and other traffic.
- Reported crash rate of 0.21 for the most recent 3-year period.

Minimal width roadway shoulders are provided along SR-163. Guardrail blunt end sections and turn down end sections were observed. The pavement is in good condition. A fatal bus crash occurred at MP 28.95 (Valley of the Gods Intersection) in January 2008. We recommend improving the advance warning signing for this intersection, especially in the SB direction.

Please note that 85th percentile speeds in excess of 70 mph were recorded along three sections: near MP 9; MP 25; and MP 35. These are straight open roadway sections. Temporary driver feed back signing may be appropriate and increased speed limit enforcement. It would not be advisable to raise the speed limit given the roadway conditions.

If you have any questions regarding this study or do not concur with our recommendations please contact the traffic studies office at (801) 965-4268.

LJM/rwl

cc: Robert Hull Anne Ogden John Leonard



MP 35.0 SR-163 NB

Higher Speed Section



MP 29.0 SR-163 NB

Just North of Valley of the Gods Road



MP 25.6 SR-163 NB

Higher Speed Section



MP 20.9 SR-163 NB

San Juan River



MP 10.7 SR-163 NB

65 MPH 85th Percentile Speed



MP 7.2 SR-163 NB

Higher Speed Section

US-163 Speed Profile

M.P. 0.00 to 41.405 -- Entire Route

