

August 9, 2016

Mr. Darin Bergquist  
Secretary of Transportation  
South Dakota Department of Transportation  
Becker-Hansen Building  
700 E. Broadway Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Secretary Bergquist:

At a recent Watertown City Council meeting, the Council addressed citizen concerns regarding excessive speed and increased traffic from Dakota Bodies and Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC in Watertown. In particular, members of the Council relayed grave unease about the safety of the intersection at U.S. Highway 81 and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE/173<sup>rd</sup> Street. That unease was underscored by a substantial accident at that intersection on July 31, 2016.

Other, more permanent concerns add to the impact of the upcoming South Broadway closure on that intersection. Substantial grain truck traffic enters and exits the Glacial Lakes Energy terminal to the west of the intersection, while other long haulers continue to use the intersection as a bypass to the east from points south. Further, the intersection sits just below the largest elevation in the Watertown area. These conditions create the perfect storm of hazards that, pending the installation of a roundabout at the intersection, demand action.

As recorded in S.D. Admin. R. 70:01:02:05(5), the speed limit heading south from the junction of U.S. Highway 212 and U.S. Highway 81 is 35 miles per hour, and increases to 50 miles per hour up to a point 1.13 miles south of the junction, at which point the speed limit becomes 65 miles per hour. Based on the suggestions of Watertown Chief of Police Lee McPeck and Codington County Sheriff Toby Wishard, I request that in the interest of public safety, the posted speed limit should be temporarily dropped to 35 miles per hour starting at a point 1.13 miles south of the Highway 212 and 81 junction, and continuing north up to the junction.

We would only ask that this speed limit change be effective until the installation of the roundabout planned at that intersection. In that sense, we believe this speed change request is in keeping with the creation of a roundabout, as it temporarily

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satisfies the same safety need that warranted the permanent installation of the roundabout in the first place.  
Please let me know how Chief McPeck or I can be of assistance. I greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Steve Thorson  
Mayor

cc: Chief Lee McPeck, Watertown Police Department  
Sheriff Toby Wishard, Codington County Sheriff's Office

## **CITY OF WATERTOWN**

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**70:01:02:05. Codington County.** The following are the maximum speeds on certain highways in Codington County:

(1) State Trunk Highway 20 beginning at the section line common to sections 14 and 15, township 117 north, range 53 west of the fifth principal meridian; then west to the junction of State Trunk Highway 139 and State Trunk Highway 20, 45 miles per hour;

(2) State Trunk Highway 20 beginning 2,112 feet east of the intersection of Main Street and State Trunk Highway 20 in South Shore, then west for 790 feet, 45 miles per hour; then west for 2,312 feet, 35 miles per hour; then west for 790 feet, 45 miles per hour;

(3) State Trunk Highway 20 beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 212 and State Trunk Highway 20, then north and northwest for 1.8 miles, 35 miles per hour; then northwest 2.27 miles, 55 miles per hour; then northwest 1.91 miles, 45 miles per hour;

(4) U.S. Highway 212 in Watertown beginning 0.97 mile west of the junction of U.S. Highway 212 and State Trunk Highway 20, then east for 0.76 mile, 45 miles per hour; then east to a point 0.35 mile east of the intersection of Nineteenth Street East, 35 miles per hour; then east for 1.52 miles, 45 miles per hour; then east for 0.33 mile, 55 miles per hour;

(5) U.S. Highway 81 beginning 1.13 miles south of the junction of U.S. Highway 212 and U.S. Highway 81, then north for ~~0.7 mile~~ 1.13 miles, ~~50 miles per hour~~; then north for ~~0.43 mile~~, 35 miles per hour; then north for 1.69 miles, 30 miles per hour; then north for 0.77 mile, 35 miles per hour; then north for 0.62 mile, 55 miles per hour; then east for 2.84 miles, 55 miles per hour;

(6) State Trunk Highway 139 - Lake Kampeska, beginning at the junction of State Trunk Highway 20 and State Trunk Highway 139 and ending at the junction of U.S. Highway 212 and State Trunk Highway 139, Codington County, 40 miles per hour;

(7) U.S. Highway 212 beginning 0.35 mile west of the centerline of Codington County Road 27, then east for 0.3 mile, 50 miles per hour; then east for 0.59 mile, 35 miles per hour; then east for 0.3 mile, 50 miles per hour;

(8) U.S. Highway 212 through Kranzburg beginning 0.18 mile west of the junction of Codington County Road 1A and U.S. Highway 212, then east 0.61 mile, 50 miles per hour;

(9) South Dakota Highway 20 beginning 0.10 mile northwest of the junction of S.D. Highway 20 and Codington County Road 23, then southeast for 0.82 mile, 55 miles per hour.

**Source:** SL 1975, ch 16, § 1; 4 SDR 39, effective January 4, 1978; 7 SDR 25, effective September 22, 1980; 8 SDR 45, effective October 28, 1981; 13 SDR 129, 13 SDR 134, effective July 1, 1987; 19 SDR 128, effective March 8, 1993; 22 SDR 120, effective March 31, 1996; 22 SDR 165, effective June 2, 1996; 23 SDR 42, effective September 29, 1996; 24 SDR 15, effective August 10, 1997; 24 SDR 56, effective November 3, 1997; 24 SDR 132, effective April 5, 1998; 25 SDR 118, effective April 1, 1999; 26 SDR 124, effective April 2, 2000; 27 SDR 47, effective November 9, 2000; 30 SDR 171, effective May 11, 2004; 32 SDR 225, effective July 5, 2006.

**General Authority:** SDCL 32-25-7.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 32-25-7.