



301 E WILLOW STREET • PO BOX 26 • HARRISBURG SD • 57032
PHONE: 605-743-5872 • FAX: 605-743-2831

TO: The Honorable South Dakota Transportation Commission

FROM: The Honorable Derick Wenck, Mayor, Harrisburg, SD

DATE: April 23, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Central Time

Subject: ARSD 70:01:02:44 – Lincoln County Speed Zone Rule Public Hearing

The City of Harrisburg greatly appreciates the DOT's time spent addressing speed-limit concerns along the SD Hwy 115 corridor between Sioux Falls and Harrisburg. We believe that working together on this important arterial roadway is critical to ensuring that the route remains as safe as possible for our communities and the traveling public.

Harrisburg is writing in support of the proposed speed reduction.

We understand that speed study data does not support reducing the speed in the more rural segment. While supporting the current proposal, we want to highlight concerns for all urban segments.

1. **Justification cited for reduction:** "Due to the proximity of signals at Veterans Parkway and 85th St, the speed limit setting tool suggested using the 50th percentile speed rounded to the closest 5 mph increment, which would be 40 mph."
 - a. The distance between signals is approx. 0.25 miles.
 - b. A separate speed study was done for this segment.
2. **Identical scenario as Harrisburg's segment on the south end of this 3-mile corridor:**
 - a. Harrisburg's Willow Street traffic signal is 0.25 miles from Tiger Way (high school entrance). Uncertain if 2025 speed data was collected in this segment.
 - b. 85th percentile was used for Harrisburg in 2025, 50th percentile for Sioux Falls in '26.
3. **Corridor Study in progress.**
 - a. Sioux Falls and Harrisburg are working with the DOT and HDR through a corridor study, from Willow (273rd) to 85th St.
 - b. This includes intersection analysis and other corridor safety considerations, including speed.
 - c. We're hopeful that this study will reflect some of the same reasoning and methodology applied for this determination (50th percentile, etc.).

In summary,

- The City of Harrisburg greatly appreciates continued coordination with the DOT and Sioux Falls.
- The City of Harrisburg supports this proposed speed limit reduction in Sioux Falls.
- The City of Harrisburg continues to have concerns over the speed for the entire 3-mile segment.
- For subsequent work, or through the current corridor study, should the same approach be taken for the urbanized Harrisburg segment as was used for the urbanized Sioux Falls segment? (Applying the suggestion from the speed limit setting tool of using 50th percentile between urbanized area traffic signals, spaced an identical ¼ mile apart?)