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Snohomish County  
Engineering Office

COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

AUG 29 1984

W.T. \_\_\_\_\_ K.B. \_\_\_\_\_  
T.C. \_\_\_\_\_ S.W. \_\_\_\_\_  
G.L. \_\_\_\_\_ D.J. \_\_\_\_\_  
ORDINANCE NO. 84- 089  
MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS

WHEREAS, an expanding population and increased development of land has caused an increase in road usage and a public need for changing speed limits, and

WHEREAS, previously existing speed limit ordinances do not effectively meet this public demand, and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Council wishes to establish uniform procedures for setting speed limits on all county roads and for implementing this policy in a fair and consistent manner,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1: Snohomish County Code, Chapter 11.16 - "Maximum Speed Limits", adopted by Resolution 153-13 of the Snohomish County Board of County Commissioners on October 15, 1972, is hereby repealed.

Section 2: The following chapter is hereby adopted as part of the Snohomish County Code:

- 11.16.010 Applicability.
- 11.16.020 Designated Maximum Speed Limit
- 11.16.030 Designated Maximum Speed Limit - Residential Districts
- 11.16.040 Designated Maximum Speed Limit - Gravel Roads
- 11.16.050 Violation--Misdemeanor
- 11.16.060 Change of Existing Speed Limits - When Effective
- 11.16.070 Authority - Director of Public Works
- 11.16.080 Appeal Procedures
- 11.16.090 Special Conditions
- 11.16.100 Log of Speed Limits
- 11.16.110 Reduced Speed Where Persons Working
- 11.16.120 Severability

11.16.010 Applicability. The provisions of this ordinance apply to all public roads within unincorporated Snohomish County.

11.16.020 Designated Maximum Speed Limit. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the maximum speed limit

that a person may operate a vehicle of any character upon any road in the unincorporated areas of Snohomish County shall be thirty-five (35) miles per hour.

11.16.030 Designated Maximum Speed Limit - Residential Districts. The maximum speed limit that a person may drive a vehicle of any type on a road in a residential district in the unincorporated area of Snohomish County shall be twenty-five (25) miles per hour except where a different speed limit has been posted. "Residential District" shall have the same definition as contained in RCW 46.04.470 as it currently exists or as that definition is later amended. "'Residence District' means the territory contiguous to and including a public highway not comprising a business district, when the property on such public highway for a continuous distance of three hundred feet or more on either side thereof is in the main improved with residences or residences and buildings in use for business." If RCW 46.04.470 is later amended the amended language will control over the language in this section.

11.16.040 Designated Maximum Speed Limit - Gravel Roads. The maximum speed limit that a person may drive a vehicle of any type on a gravel road in the unincorporated area of Snohomish County shall be twenty-five (25) miles per hour except where a different speed limit has been posted.

11.16.050 Violation--Misdemeanor. Any violation of this ordinance shall be a misdemeanor and is punishable in accordance with SCC 1.01.100 as it presently exists or as it is later amended.

11.16.060 Change of Existing Speed Limits - When Effective. Speed limits in effect on the date of the adoption of this chapter shall remain in effect until the Director of Public Works shall change speed limits under the provisions of this Chapter or when the Snohomish County Council shall, by ordinance, institute speed limit changes and when such changes, in either case, are posted. Prior to the Director of Public Works making a change in a speed limit under the provisions of this chapter, the Director shall publish, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, a notice of the proposed speed limit and the procedure for appealing the proposed speed limit. Any new speed limit will become effective upon posting consistent with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways adopted in Section 11.24.010 of the Snohomish County Code. No speed limit change is effective until posted.

11.16.070 Authority - Director of Public Works. The Director of the Department of Public Works is authorized to revise existing speed limits on all county roads provided that such speed limit revisions shall not exceed 10 miles per hour. The determination of the proper speed limit will be based upon the following engineering and traffic investigation factors:

1. Road surface characteristics, shoulder conditions, grade, alignment and sight distance;
2. The eighty-five percentile speed and pace speed;
3. Roadside development and roadside friction;
4. Safe speed for curves or hazardous locations within the zone;
5. Parking practices and pedestrian activity;
6. Reported accident experience for a recent twelve-month period.

11.16.080 Appeal Procedures. The decision of the Director of the Department of Public Works concerning any speed limit revisions may be appealed by an aggrieved party to the Snohomish County Council provided that an appeal is filed in writing within 30 calendar days from the date of the posting of the new speed zone. Any appeal must be submitted to the Clerk of the Snohomish County Council, 6th Floor, Snohomish County Administration Building, Everett, Washington, 98201.

11.16.090 Special Conditions. Reduced temporary speed limits for special conditions, such as where there is construction on or near a county road, may be set by the Director of Public Works provided these locations are posted with signs in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Such temporary speed limits may change the posted speed limit by more than 10 miles per hour.

11.16.100 Log of Speed Limits. The Director of Public Works shall maintain a log for each established speed limit. The log shall list each road section and the speed limit thereon, and the beginning and ending mile posts for each such road segment.

11.16.110 Reduced Speed Where Persons Working. A maximum speed limit of twenty miles per hour is hereby

established for those areas of Snohomish County in which authorized persons are working within the traveled roadway, provided said areas are posted with signs in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

11.16.120 Severability. If any portion of this ordinance is held to be invalid such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections of this ordinance. The County Council declares that it would have adopted this ordinance and each section of it, even if any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, parts or portions are declared invalid or unconstitutional.

PASSED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1984.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

Donald J. Buitton  
Chairperson

Approved as to Form:

James V. Berglund  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ATTEST:

Ellie Snyder  
Clerk of Council

- ( ) APPROVED  
( ) VETOED  
( ) EMERGENCY

DATE:

8-30-84  
THOMAS G. CARLSON  
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE

for County Executive

PUBLISHED \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

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