NOTICE

The attached documen	ts are for the Environi	nental Sp	peed Limit of
60 to 65	miles per hour on	IHI	15
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and is established by T	exas Transportation C	Commissi	on Minute
Order Number 109064	passed on October 31	1, 2002. 7	This order
Has not been revolked	and is current as of _	215	12009.
No traffic Engineering	Study is required to e	stablish s	speed
limits under this minut	te order.		
()		2/	
Custodian of Re	ecords (and Anach		
Houston Distric	et .		
Teyas Denartm	ent of Transportation		

M.D. Behrens



MEMORANDUM

TO:

Walter O. Crook, P.E. and

Gary K. Trietsch, P.E.

Date: November 4, 2002

FROM:

Michael W. Behrens, P.E.

SUBJECT: Environmental Speed Limits

By letter dated November 4, 2002 (copy attached), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requested that the Texas Department of Transportation implement new environmental speed limits in the eight-county Houston-Galveston nonattainment area. TCEQ's request conforms with the requirements of Minute Order 109064, and I direct you to erect or modify the appropriate signs showing the environmental speed limits as listed in the aforementioned minute order.

If you have any further questions, please call Carlos Lopez at (512) 416-3200.

Attachment

cc: Texas Transportation Commission Dianna Noble, P.E., ENV Carlos A. Lopez, P.E. TRF Richard Monroe, OGC Jack Gilbert, OAG **2**512 305 9567

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FROM-THREE DEPAR ADMIN DB:46am - Nov-04-02

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T-735 P.002/003 F-783

Robert J. Huston. Chairman R. B. "Rajoh" Marquez, Commissioner Kachleen Hartnett White, Commissioner Margaret Hollman, Executive Director



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

November 4, 2002

Mr. Carlos A. Lopez P.E., Director Traffic Operations Division Texas Department of Transportation 125 East 11th Street Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Mr. Mike Stretch, Director Harris County Toll Road Authority 330 Mcadowfern, Suite 200 Houston, Texas 77067

Dear Messis. Lopez and Stretch:

On behalf of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), this letter is to request that your agencies implement the revised environmental speed limit in the eight county Houston-Galveston nonattainment area (HGA) approved by the TCEQ September 25, 2002. This revision was approved November 4 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Environmental quality studies show that changing the speed limits to five miles per hour less than the pre-existing regulatory speed limits will have a positive effect on air quality.

On September 25, the TCEQ revised the HGA speed limit reduction strategy by suspending the 55 mph environmental speed limit until May 1, 2005, and by increasing speeds to 5 mph below what was posted before May 1, 2002, where speeds were 65 mph or higher. In other words, speed limits in the 8-county HGA should return to their original posted speed limit, minus 5 mph on all affected roadways for all vehicle types. The TCEQ continues to concur with the recommendation to exempt high-occupancy vehicles lanes from the environmental speed limit strategy.

From-THRCC DEPAR ADMIN 09:46ap 20v-04-02

+512 738 5687

T-735 . P.003/003 F-743

Mr. Carlos A. Lopez & Mr. Mike Stretch Page 2 November 4, 2002

If you have questions or need assistance on this matter, please contact Margie McAllister of my staff at 512-239-1967 or mmcallis@teeq.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Karen Atkinson, Director Strategic Assessment Division

The Honorable Robert Eckels, Harris County Judge cc:

Mr. C.D. Reagan, Regional Administrator, Federal Highway Administration

Mr. Alan Clark, Director, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Houston-Galveston Arca Council

Mr. Gary K. Trietsch, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, Houston District

Mr. Walter Crook, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, Beaumont District

Ms. Shirley A. DeLibero, President and Chief Executive Officer, METRO

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WARIOUS County

Districts VARIOUS

MINUTE ORDER

Page 1 of 2

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), formerly known as the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, is the state agency primarily responsible for developing the state's plan to attain or maintain air quality levels that satisfy the federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The Houston-Galveston Attainment Demonstration State Implementation Plan (Rule Log # 200-011-SIP-AI) is a portion of this statewide plan and contains detailed requirements for establishing environmental speed limits for various categories of public roads, streets, and highways.

By letters dated October 19, 2001 and November 26, 2001, TCEQ requested the Texas Department of Transportation (department), pursuant to Title 43, Sections 25.23 and 25.24 of the Texas Administrative Code, to establish environmental speed limits on various roadways in the Houston-Galveston and Beaumont areas. Based upon the studies and conclusions of TCEQ, the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) concurred that lower vehicle speeds on certain portions of the state highway system in the Houston-Galveston and Beaumont areas would assist the state in attaining or maintaining the federal NAAQS. The commission also evaluated these proposed environmental speed limits and found that the requested speed limits were reasonable and served the long-term interests of the department and the State of Texas. By Minute Orders 108749 and 108783, the commission directed the department to establish environmental speed limits consistent with TCEQ's request.

TCEQ concluded, based on an air quality study, that the implementation of new environmental speed limits on certain portions of the state highway system in the Houston-Galveston and Beaumont areas would assist the state in attaining or maintaining the federal NAAQS. Exhibit A of this minute order lists the segments of the state highway system on which TCEQ has determined new environmental speed limits are necessary for the areas to best attain or maintain the federal NAAQS.

By letter dated September 25, 2002, TCEQ informed the department that they were proceeding through required processes with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to revise the Houston-Galveston Attainment Demonstration State Implementation Plan and anticipated requesting the department to increase the current speeds permitted by the environmental speed limits authorized by Minute Orders 108749 and 108783 and which are included as Exhibit B. TCEQ has indicated that the anticipated new environmental speed limits will be five miles per hour (mph) under the preexisting regulatory speed limits of 70 and 65 mph.

The department has investigated the feasibility of implementing TCEQ's proposed increase of the environmental speed limits and concludes that such a request would comply with the requirements of Title 43, Sections 25.23 and 25.24 of the Texas Administrative Code.

Based upon the studies and conclusions of TCEQ and the department's evaluation of the proposal, the commission concurs that new environmental speed limits that are five mph less than the preexisting regulatory speed limits of 70 and 65 mph on certain portions of the state highway system in the Houston-Galveston and Beaumont areas would assist the state in attaining or maintaining the federal NAAQS. The commission has also evaluated these proposed environmental speed limits and finds that they are reasonable and serve the long-term interests of the department and the State of Texas.

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TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

VARIOUS County

MINUTE ORDER

Page 2 of 2

Districts VARIOUS

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the executive director, upon receipt of a request that complies with Title 43, Sections 25.23 and 25.24 of the Texas Administrative Code, will review the new environmental speed limits as determined by TCEQ and listed in Exhibit A of this order. Upon performance of this non-discretionary review, the executive director will accept the request on behalf of the commission in accordance with Title 43, Sections 25.23 and 25.24 of the Texas Administrative Code. The executive director is directed to implement this order for control and enforcement purposes by the erection of appropriate signs showing environmental speed limits.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the environmental speed limits shown in Exhibit B are canceled upon implementation of the new environmental speed limits listed in Exhibit A.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a provision of any prior order by the commission which is in conflict with a provision of this order, with the exception of school and construction speed zones, is superceded to the extent of that conflict.

Submitted and reviewed by:		Recommended by:	
	•		
Director, Traffic Operations Division		Executive Director	

109064 OCT 31 02 Minute Date

County (City)	Highway Control Section	Lir MP-M	Limits MP-Milepoint	Length (Miles)	Speed (Miles Per
	*	BEGIN	END		Hour)
Houston District					
Galveston	SH 87 367-3	MP 9.600	MP 13.295	3.695	86
Galveston	SH 87 367-3	MP 13.295	MP 14.500	1.205	80
Galveston	SH 87 367-4	MP 20.175	MP 27.000	6.825	83
Galveston	SH 146 389-6	MP 7.025	MP 10.865	3.840	65
Harris	BU 290 H 50-6	MP 2.000	MP 5.500	3,500	60
Harris	BU 290 H 50-6	MP 6.200	MP 6.842	0.642	60
Harris	BU 290 H 50-6	MP 20.000	MP 20.064	0.064	60

Page 24 of 38

31-Oct-02

	County (City) Houston District Harris Harris	Highway Control Section FM 1942 1812-1 FM 1960 1685-3	1 01 1 1	Limits MP-Milepoint END MP 8.965	2 6	
IH 10 271-7 IH 10 508-1 IH 45 110-5 IH 45 110-6	Harris Harris	FM 1960 1685-3 IH 10 271-6	MP 36.000 MP 0.784		MP 38.521 MP 8.820	
IH 10 508-1 IH 45 110-5 IH 45 110-6	Harris	IH 10 271-7	MP 8.820	Ì	MP 15.093	MP 15.093 6.273
IH 45 110-5 110-6	Harris	IH 10 508-1	MP 38.730		MP 55.753	MP 55.753 17.023
IH 45 110-6	Harris	IH 45 110-5	MP 39.760		MP 48.816	MP 48.816 9.056
	Harris	IH 45 110-6	MP 37.765		MP 39.760	MP 39.760 1.995

Page 25 of 38

31-Oct-02

Harris	Harris	Harris	Houston District		County (City)
SH 146 389-5	IH 45 500-3	IH 45 500-3			Highway Control Section
MP 0.000	MP 3.781	MP 0.000		BEGIN	Li MP-M
MP 1.608	MP 8.666	MP 3.781		END	Limits MP-Milepoint
1.608	4.885	3.781			Length (Miles)
60	8	65		mour)	Speed (Miles Per

Page 26 of 38

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Harris

SH 146 389-5

MP 3.739

MP 3.778

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Harris

SH 146 389-5

MP 3.691

MP 3.739

0.048

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Harris

SH 146 389-5

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Harris

SH 146 389-5

MP 1.608

MP 3.113

1.505

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31-Oct-02

EXHIBIT "A"

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County (City)	Highway Control Section		Limits MP-Milepoint FND	Length (Miles)
	14	BEGIN	END	
Houston District				
Harris	SH 146 389-5	MP 3.778	MP 5.059	1.281
Harris	SH 146 389-12	MP 7.273	MP 8.845	1.572
Harris	SH 146 389-12	MP 8.845	MP 11.024	2.179
Harris	SH 146 389-13	MP 10.000	MP 16.599	6.599
Harris	SH 225 502-1	MP 2.594	MP 9.560	6.966
Harris	SH 225 502-1	MP 9.560	MP 12.452	2.892
Harris	SH 225	MP 12.452	MP 16.481	4.029

Page 27 of 38

31-Qct-02

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ENVIRONMENTAL SPEED ZONES

County (City) Houston District *Harris *Harris *Harris	Highway Control Section SL 8 3256-3 SL 8 FR 3256-3 SL 8 3256-3	MP-M BEGIN MP 1.213 MP 1.513 MP 3.000	Limits MP-Milepoint END MP 1.513 MP 3.000 MP 6.724	613	Length (Miles) 613 0.300 613 1.487 724 3.724
arris .	SL 8 3256-3	MP 3.000		MP 6.724	-
*Harris	SL 8 FR 3256-3	MP 19.717	Ì	MP 26.043	MP 26.043 6.326
Harris	SS 548 2483-1	MP 1.000	-	MP 2.506	MP 2.506 1.506
Harris	US 59 27-13	MP 4.424		MP 15.966	MP 15.966 11.542
Harris	US 59	MP 1.000			

^{*}This applies only to portions of SL 8 that are under department jurisdiction.

County Highway		Houston District	Harris US 59 177-7	Harris US 59 177-11	Harris US 59 177-11	Harris US 90 28-2	Harris US 90 28-2	Harris US 90 28-2	
L	BEGIN		MP 3.971	MP 0.000	MP 4.220	MP 8.708	МР 16.200	MP 19.500	MP 7.287
Limits	END		MP 4.000	MP 4.220	MP 5.040	MP 16.200	MP 19.500	MP 24.636	MP 18.159
Length			0.029	4.220	0.820	7.492	3.300	5.136	10.872
Speed	Hour)		65	60	60	65	65	65	65

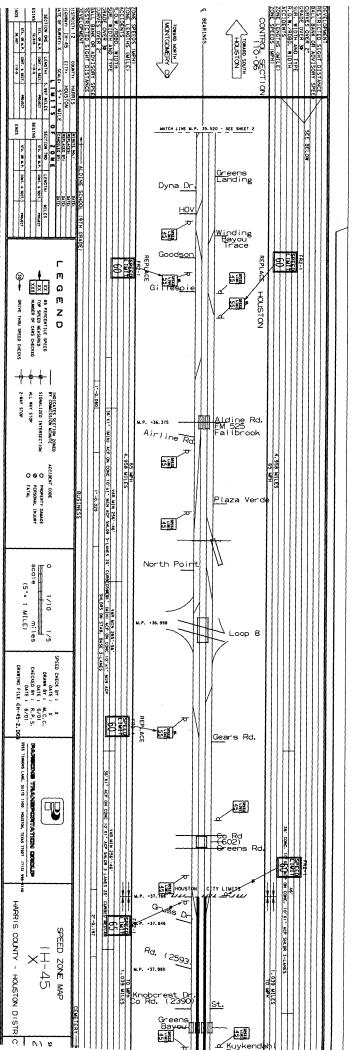
Page 30 of 38

31-Oct-02

ENVIRONMENTAL SPEED ZONES

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US 290 50-8 US 290 50-9 US 290 50-9 US 290 50-9 US 290 50-9 FM 1375 1402-3			PEGIN	1	EMD	ELVE
US 290 50-8 US 290 50-9 US 290 50-9 US 290 114-12 FM 1375 1402-3	Houston District Harris	US 290 50-8	MP 18.159	j	MP 22.778	
US 290 50-9 US 290 50-9 US 290 114-12 FM 1375 1402-3	Harris	US 290 50-8	MP 22.778		MP 24.593	
US 290 50-9 US 290 50-9 US 290 114-12 FM 1375 1402-3	Harris	US 290 50-9	MP 29.073		MP 30.124	
US 290 50-9 US 290 114-12 FM 1375 1402-3	Harris	US 290 50-9	MP 30.124		MP 30.929	-
US 290 114-12 FM 1375 1402-3	Harris	US 290 50-9	MP 30.929		MP 36.549	
FM 1375 1402-3	Harris	US 290 114-12	MP 0.000	İ	MP 7.537	
	Montgomery	FM 1375 1402-3	MP 0.000		MP 6.097	MP 6.097 6.097

31-Oct-02



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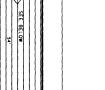
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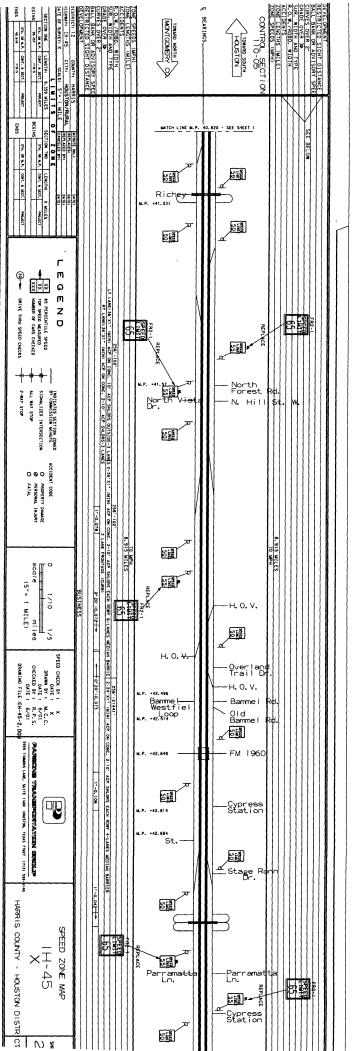
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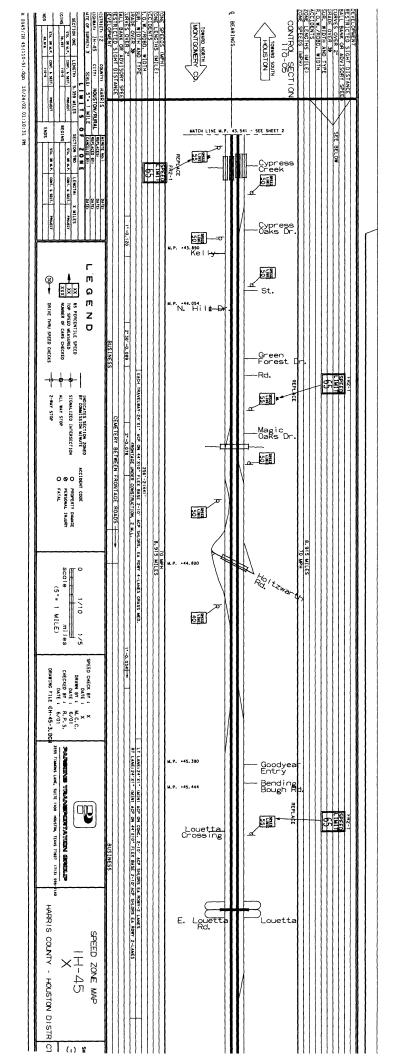
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