



Trisha Tillotson  
Community Development Agency Director

David Garcia  
Director of Public Works

## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### Board Agenda Memo

**MEETING DATE:** November 18, 2025  
**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** David Garcia, Director of Public Works  
**SUBJECT:** (Introduce/waive further reading) An Ordinance repealing No. 26 in Section 16.03.030 and adding No. 16 to Section 16.03.040 and No. 45 to Section 16.030.050 of the Nevada County Code pertaining to speed limits on Soda Springs Road - District V

**RECOMMENDATION:** Introduce and waive further reading of the attached ordinance.

**FUNDING:** There is no impact to the General Fund, and no budget amendment is needed. Installation of new speed limit signs will be completed using the 2025/26 road maintenance budget.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2024, the Department of Public Works conducted a routine speed zone study for a number of roads in Nevada County. The California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) and California Vehicle Code (VEH) establishes that speed limits should be placed at the nearest 5 mph increment to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed. The VEH section 22358.6 includes that speed limits can be reduced 5 mph from the rounded 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed at the discretion of a registered Traffic or Civil Engineer. In addition, in 2023, the CA MUTCD created the option to further reduce the speed limit by 5 mph if a roadway has hazards that are not readily apparent to drivers in "safety corridors", such as bicyclists and pedestrians. An additional 5 mph reduction may be utilized on no more than one-fifth of a local authority's streets per VEH Section 22358.7(a)(1). The road section listed below requires modification:

| Road Section                                                                   | Current Speed limit                                | 85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed | Recommended Speed |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Soda Springs Road from Donner Pass Road to 1100 feet south of Donner Pass Road | 25 mph: Nov 1-April 1<br>No limit: April 1-Nov 1.  | 37                                | 30                |
| 1100 feet South of Donner Pass Road to the Placer County line                  | 25 mph: Nov 1-April 1<br>No limit: April 1-Nov. 1. | 37                                | 35                |

California Vehicle Code section 22357 authorizes local agencies to increase the prima facie residential speed limit based on an engineering and traffic survey that demonstrates that a higher speed would be reasonable and safe.

Soda Springs Road is currently posted at 35 mph in both Placer and Nevada Counties, from the Serene Lakes subdivision to the intersection of Donner Pass Road. However, Nevada County Code

Section 16.03.030 No. 26 sets the speed limit at 25 mph from November 1 to April 1, and no speed limit from April 1 to November 1.

From 1100 feet south of Donner Pass Road to Donner Pass Road it is proposed to set the year-round speed limit to 30 mph, which is 7 mph lower than the 85-percentile speed of 37 mph. The proposed 30 mph speed limit includes an additional deduction in speed of 5 mph due to seasonal pedestrian traffic.

From 1100 feet south of Donner Pass Road to the Placer County line it is proposed to set the year-round speed limit to 35 mph, which is 2 mph lower than the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 37 mph. The 35-mph speed limit was determined in coordination with Placer County and based on traffic data analysis that keeps a year-round speed limit of 35 from the Placer County line to 1100 feet south of Donner Pass Road and provides a consistent speed for drivers between the two counties.

**Attachments:**

1. Ordinance
2. Exhibit A – Updated Nevada County Code Title 16, Chapter 3, clean
3. Exhibit A - Updated Nevada County Code Title 16, Chapter 3, redline
4. Soda Springs Road – E&TS
5. Map of Soda Spring Road with speed limit data

**Item Initiated by:** Patrick Perkins, Principal Civil Engineer

**Approved by:** David Garcia, Director of Public Works