



Trisha Tillotson
Community Development Agency Director

David Garcia
Director of Public Works

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: December 16, 2025
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: David Garcia, Director of Public Works
SUBJECT: (Waive further reading/Adopt) An ordinance repealing section 16.03.030 No. 26 and adding sections 16.03.040 No.16 and 16.03.050 No. 45 of the Nevada County Code pertaining to Speed Limits on Soda Springs Road – District V

RECOMMENDATION: This item was originally brought for introduction on November 18, 2025. We now recommend waiving further reading and adopting the proposed 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 2024/25, 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 (CVC) establishes that speed limits should be placed at the nearest 5 mph increment to the 85th percentile speed. The CA MUTCD includes that speed limits can be reduced 5 mph from the rounded 85th percentile speed at the discretion of a registered Traffic or Civil Engineer. The road sections listed below require modification:

Road Section	Current Speed Limit	85 th 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 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 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, County Code Section 16.03.030, number 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 85th 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 repealing section 16.03.030. No. 26 and adding sections 16.03.040 No. 16 and 16.03.050 No. 45 of the Nevada County Code pertaining to Speed Limits on Soda Springs Road
2. Exhibit A – Nevada County Code Title 16, Chapter
3. Soda Springs Road – E&TS
4. 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