



LEWIS COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION REPORT

IN THE MATTER OF: Evaluation of the speed limit on Ajlune Road.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION: Initiated by a request from the Board of County Commissioners.

COUNTY ROAD: 62161 – Ajlune Road

TO: BOCC and file

FINDINGS:

- a.)

Current Speed Limit:	50 mph (unposted)
85% Prevailing Vehicle Speed:	44.8 mph
Average Daily Traffic:	300 (600 ADT during recreational season)
Truck Percentage:	26.9%

- b.) **Physical Features:** Ajlune Road begins at Swofford Road (MP 0.000) and ends where Tacoma Power right of way begins (MP 0.499). Beyond that point it becomes Tacoma's Mossyrock Park. The roadway has a BST surface, and a pavement width of 21 feet. There are no horizontal or vertical alignment considerations. The roadway surface itself is in very good condition (surfaced in 2025). The Ajlune/Swofford intersection has a skew angle of 15.36 degrees.

- c.) **Accidents/Characteristics:** The accident history shows that there are no reported accidents within the past five years on Ajlune Road.

- d.) **Remarks/Recommendations:** Lewis County uses an engineering approach to setting speed limits, and the Operating Speed Method is a nationally accepted method within the traffic engineering community and Federal Highway Administration. Speed limit setting is primarily based on the 85th percentile speed, which is the speed at which 85 percent of free-flowing traffic is traveling at or below. Setting a speed limit based on the 85th percentile speed is based on safety, and research has shown that traveling at or around the 85th percentile speed yields the lowest crash risk for drivers. The 85th percentile speed method is also attractive because it reflects the collective judgment of the vast majority of drivers as to a reasonable speed for given traffic and roadway conditions.



This investigation and determination are primarily due to the skewed angle of the Ajlune/Swofford intersection, the high volume of recreational traffic during tourist season, and the 15 MPH speed limit that is posted as you enter Mossyrock Park. A lower speed limit will allow vehicles from Swofford Road to more safely enter onto Ajlune Road at this skewed intersection. It will also allow vehicles additional distance to lower their speed and make the transition into Mossyrock Park. Based on accepted engineering practices and all roadway factors considered, the recommended speed limit for Ajlune Road would be 35 mph

e.) **Attachments:** vicinity map

Recommended by:



Mike Kroll
Transportation Planner

9/4/25

Date

Approved by:



Wes Anderson, P.E.
County Engineer

9/4/25

Date