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CASS COUNTY COMMISSION

OCT 12 2020

MEMORANDUM

**Highway  
Department**

Jason Benson, P.E.  
County Engineer

Thomas B. Soucy, P.E.  
Deputy County Engineer

Blaine Laaveg  
Superintendent

TO: Cass County Commission

FROM: Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer *JMB*

DATE: October 9, 2020

SUBJECT: Agenda Item for October 19, 2020 Commission Meeting:  
65 mph Highway Speed Limits

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The 2005 ND Legislature changed the ND Century Code to authorize Counties to post two lane highways at 65 mph. Over the last several year Cass County has received requests for various paved highways to have the speed limit increased to 65 mph. Many of the residents that use our County paved highways also use North Dakota Highways 18, 38, and 46 which are two lane highways posted at 65 mph.

Since receiving these requests, Cass County has evaluated its two-lane paved road network to determine which highways were suitable candidates. Engineering guidelines suggest considering the following conditions when raising the speed limit:

1. Does the design meet 65 mph design standards to include horizontal and vertical curves, shoulders, 4:1 or flatter slopes, and proper sight distance?
2. Do pavement and road surface conditions allow for safe travel at 65 mph?
3. Are there concerns with the clear zone distance, intersections, and other roadside hazards?
4. Are there other safety concerns or serious crash history?

While many of our paved roads meet the above conditions, not all do. Based on this analysis, 134 miles of Cass County's highways were recommended as candidates for 65 mph. These roads include Cass 6 from ND18 to Cass 38, Cass 10 from Wheatland to Mapleton, Cass 4 from ND38 to Argusville, Cass 26 from Barnes County to I-29, Cass 38 from ND46 to I-94, Cass 11 from Mapleton to Cass 4, and Cass 15 from Kindred to I-94 (see map). Current speed limits will remain within the city limits at locations where these roads pass through cities.

Several year

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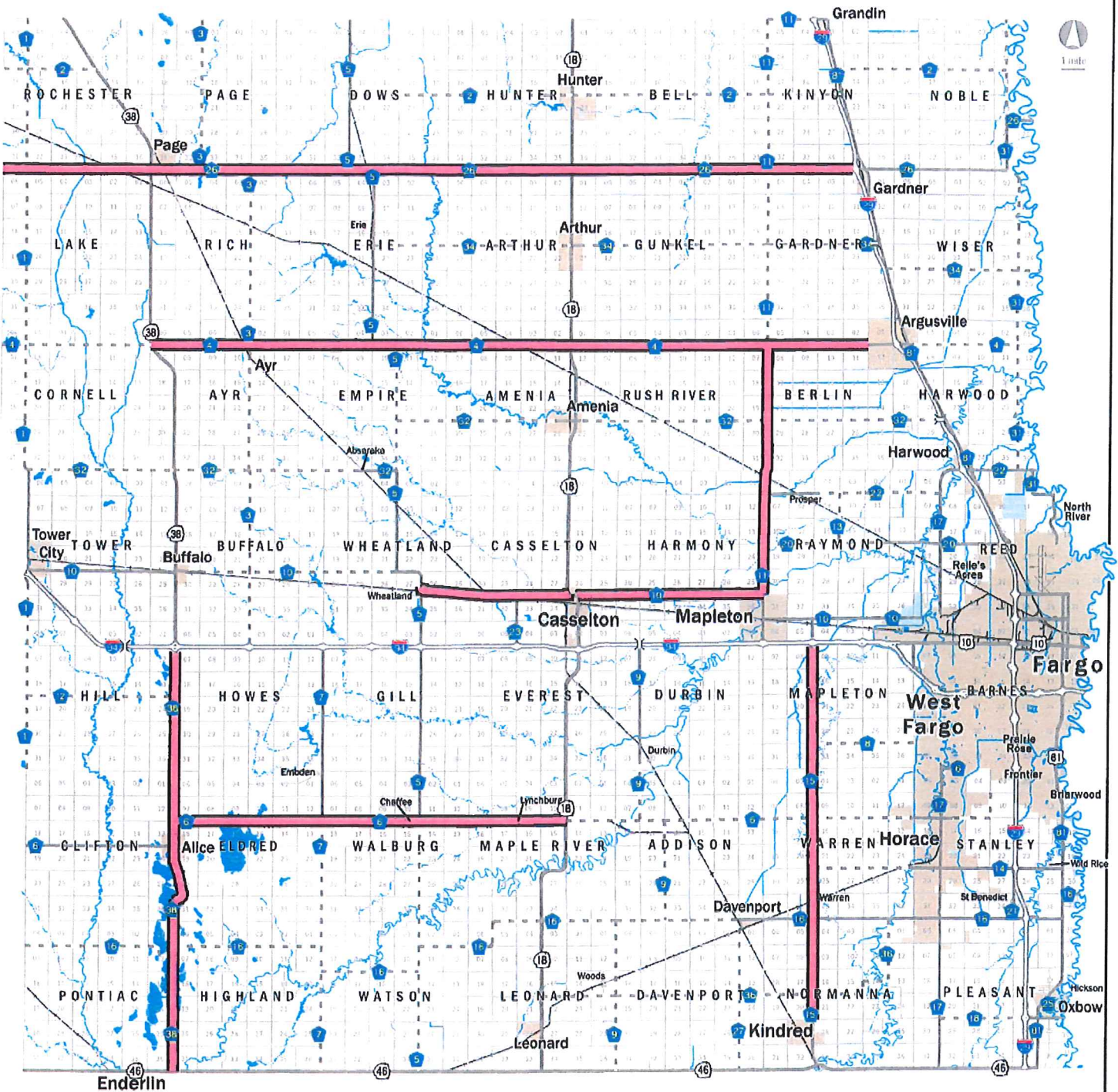
s ago, this was brought to the Road Advisory Meeting and it was again discussed this summer. Based on the discussion at the Road Advisory Meeting in July, the Cass County Highway Department sought public input regarding potential speed limit changes to select County paved highways. Between September 15<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup> there was a survey online at [www.casscountynd.gov/65mph](http://www.casscountynd.gov/65mph).

We asked residents to fill out this survey and provide any comments on this issue as a whole or on specific highways. Over the survey period 1614 votes were cast in favor of 65 mph roads and 54 votes were cast against. This was an overwhelming 96.8% in favor and 3.2% opposed. In addition to the survey votes, many residents also commented on the proposed change. Seven pages of comments were collected with five pages in favor, one page opposed, and one page of neutral comments.

The survey results are clear with the significant number of votes and percentage of votes in favor of increasing the speed limits to 65 mph. I recommend that the roads listed above be approved to increase their speed limit to 65 mph. Based on the success of implementing this proposed speed limit change, future citizen requests, and road improvements, additional roads could be added in the future but are not recommended at this time.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:** Approved the increase in speed limit to 65 mph for 134 miles of Cass County's highways to include Cass 6 from ND18 to Cass 38, Cass 10 from Wheatland to Mapleton, Cass 4 from ND38 to Argusville, Cass 26 from Barnes County to I-29, Cass 38 from ND46 to I-94, Cass 11 from Mapleton to Cass 4, and Cass 15 from Kindred to I-94.

# Cass County Highways 65 MPH Capability



map updated September 2020

 Potential 65 MPH Highway (approximately 134 miles)

## Cass County Highway Department

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Blaine Laaveg  
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**CASS COUNTY**  
GOVERNMENT



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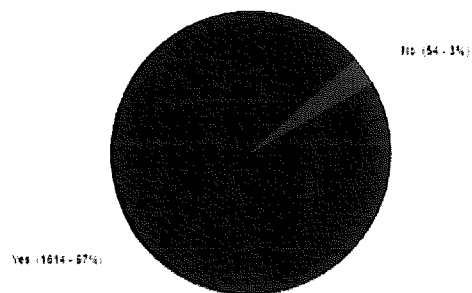
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Disclaimer: As with all public information derived from variable sources, this data may contain errors or faults. Therefore, Cass County does not provide any warranty express or implied, as to the accuracy of this data. The recipient is encouraged to make an independent investigation or verification of the data. If an error is found, it is requested the County Engineer be advised of the particulars so the data can be examined and corrected. THIS MAP IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR AN ACCURATE FIELD SURVEY.

## Cass County Highways 65 MPH Speed Limit Change Results

	COUNT	PERCENT
■ Yes	1614	96.76%
■ No	54	3.24%

Are you in favor of increasing the speed limits to 65 mph on select Cass County highways?



### Comments in Favor of Increase:

- Please raise the speed limits on these VERY GOOD - WELL MAINTAINED county roads in Cass County!
- Please increase these speed limits. for commuter traffic It will be extremely helpful. As a large employer in rural cass county employer we believe this is necessary.
- please change the speed limits higher
- Please increase the speed limit to 65. I spend several hours a week on that road.
- The road is in good condition and can support higher speed
- I am in favor of the increase but would then recommend enforcing those limits.
- nd is flat and our highways are straight. You can literally see for miles and miles ahead of you
- I fully support raising the speed limits on these roads.
- Yes I am in favor of the speed limit change
- Co Rd 16 from Davenport to 1-29
- And
- Co Rd 17 from HWY 46 to Horace should both be 65 also
- Great idea
- I think it is time to move the speed limits up!
- The roads have been widened and are actually in better shape than 38 and 32. Raise the speed limits!
- I vote yes to increase in speed limits to 65
- Fully support this along with adding Cty 16 from Davenport to I29
- I have lived here my whole life and I feel it is a necessity for both leisure and trade activities to raise the speed limit to 65 mph

- the county roads have wider shoulders and are maintained as well as state roads, the load restrictions can remain the same and the speed wont effect the roads.
- We feel the road improvements the county has done over the past decade provides highways that are safe and in good condition to support a higher speed limit. Another factor to support a higher limit is the lower density of traffic compared to the West Fargo/Fargo metro area.
- This would be wonderful!!!
- From Barnes county to I 29 hyway 26
- I drive hwy 26 all the time and it's to slow.
- I would like them to be changed to 65
- I usually go 68 mph on these so yeah it would be nice to have these changed.
- I'm in favor of increasing the limit on hwy 26 but also a little worried. I drive it every morning and have my cruise set at 60mph. People fly by me like I'm standing still. How fast will they be driving if we increase the limit? It's a scary thought.
- 65 mph is a great adjustment to the speed limits
- My very first speeding ticket was on Hwy 26 between Gardner and Hwy 18.. because I thought it was 65mph like Hwy 18. It feels like the same drive on either highway.
- Cass 26 is a good road and there is NO reason for it to stay at 55 mph.
- Highway 26 needs to be 65!!
- I hate driving that slow
- Very exctied about this. Huge win for rural Cass residents if approved.
- Idea long overdue
- This would make my drive to work less slow....
- Hwy 4 and 26 should be increased to 65 mph. Thanks
- I strongly think the speed limits should increase to 65
- Other roads are 65 and people often get pulled over for being mistaken on what road the speed limit is
- Would like to see the limit increased
- We are 20 to 30 years behind but please make the change now. People are saying South Dakota is already at 65 mph. The change is needed in Cass County North Dakota.
- As long as the Northern Cass school zone is posted (half way between I 29 and Highway 18), we are in agreement with new speed limit
- The speed limits should be increased on these highways
- Seems like a good plan
- I live in Page and am in favor of this change. I believe the mentioned roads are capable of handling the speed limit change, but as always each driver is responsible slowing down for road and traffic conditions
- I live in this area and drive these roads all the time. They are in great shape and should be 65 mph.
- Busy highways like these should be 65
- that would be the best for them...
- Having them all one speed will stop any confusion for drivers, especially drivers from different areas, to know what the speed limit is without fear of speeding & recieving a ticket.
- Travel these roads and would like to see 65.
- I'm in favor of the increased speed limit.
- Raise it to 65
- Old ten from Wheatlland to Mapleton for sure as a wide roadway as the same as Cass 4
- Think it would be a good idea
- Speed limit needs to be increased to a more practical speed

- I've lived in Page, ND all of my life and use Highways 26 and 4 regularly. Being Highway 38 is already set at 65 it would be nice to have 26 and 4 the same. Considering the traffic I see on these roads they're driving 65 or more already.
- Roads are wide and every drives 65 already
- I travel Hwy 26 between Page and Gardner 2-3 times per week. Many of these trips, I see very few other cars. I feel a 65MPH speed limit is long overdue.
- I am all for the speed increase on these roads. My only suggestion would be better speed reduction signage at the Northern Cass school :)
- It is difficult to remember to change speeds from one highway to another.
- Cass 26 could be 65mph to the curves bu red river. How about old 81? I can remember when it was 65mph. Thanks for considering this
- Would also like to see Cass County 81 and Cass County 17-65 Mph.
- 65 mph would be great! I live in Hunter, the edge of cass county. I believe we could safely drive at this speed. Thank you for taking this into consideration
- These roads are in very good shape and it is a good idea to increase the speed limit to 65 mph.
- At 55mph they are nothing but a speed trap!
- It would be a welcomed change to see an increase on all the roads listed. I use several of them everyday and don't feel changing the speed limit would pose a safety concern.
- Although there are some safety issues I feel that with all our other highways surrounding are 65 it only makes sense.
- Add co Rd 17 from hwy 46 to co16 to that list also
- These are roads that definitely need increases in the speed limit! Thank you for making this offer available.
- These are decent straight line roads that are well maintained.
- Please raise the speed limit to 65 mph!
- Many people do not like driving on interstate. So they take other optional routes which has less traffic but takes longer due to the slower speed limits. There is no harm in raising the speed limit on those well maintained roads
- This should have been done years ago
- I am totally in favor of this.
- Please change roads to 65 mph. I have no concerns
- I feel safer driving 65 on all of these county highways than I do on State Highway 46.
- these roads are wonderful, just the best roads money can buy, but i want to legally go faster on them because i love getting where i want to be in a shorter amount of time like crazy. Ohhhhhhhhhh nelly if these roads were 65mph I'd gladly pay for the signs that tell me i can drive 65 mph on em. That would be the cats meow.
- Please increase the speed limits!
- I live in kindred and would love this!!!
- I would like to see co. Road 16 also increased to 65.
- I live in hunter so Cass 26 is my main road and I would like that increases.
- I'm in complete favor of a change to 65
- Thank you for exploring this option. I have long thought that many of our county roads would be capable of allowing for a higher speed limit. I travel all over the 3 state area as a professional driver, and I know from first hand experience that there are state highways that are narrower and have more hills with a 60 or 65 mph speed limit. I am also a 10 plus year member of the Casselton fire department. I feel that if the limit is increased, then to maintain safety, I would like to have the deputies more strictly enforce the limit. 65 is fine but when people start pushing 70 that's too fast for head to head travel. I would not be opposed to a higher fine for speed infractions in that range. Please do NOT set different speed limits for trucks also. Many counties do that. MDOT studies have

proven that a lower speed actually increases the damage to roadways that trucks travel on, by being under load for a longer period of time. So, yes. Please increase the speed limit. Thank you.

- Yes raise it already and get with the times
- Please increase speed limit on county road 15. The shoulders on this road are much better and wider than state hwy 46 and that road is 65 mph. Thank you
- Raise the speed limit. Stop road piracy! Speeding is a traffic infraction not a crime
- If this means that they will maintain the road better than I am all for it. Which I would hope to include mowing road ditches to maintain safe travel and snow more often
- I've been dreaming of this. Yes, please!
- The state highways are all 65 and most of the County highways are far nicer than some state highways. Wider too. Especially highway 46. I would say this is long overdue!
- The speed limit Increase to 65 mph on CoRd 16 from Davenport to I29 (paved portion of 16) Should be considered. A lot of people travel this rd everyday to Fargo.  
I'm don't know what the state requirements are but i would guess the gravel portion from Hwy 18 to Davenport and the 2 curves by the Wild Rice River are huge safety factors.  
I'm talking specifically from Davenport to I29.  
Thank you for your time.
- yes, raise the speed limits on the proposed roads
- The roads are in good shape.
- Highways are good and safe to go higher speed
- Yes Hwy. 15 from Kindred to 94 should be increased to 65.
- Makes sense to me to raise it to 65 mph.!
- I would love to see those changed..
- I don't see why not. 55mph vs 65mph is not drastic, and 65mph would be more efficient.
- I frequently drive these high ways and often feel 55 is to low for the roads traffic and conditions
- Cass 15 has wider shoulders than much of State Hwy 46 (at least in Cass County east of Cass 18). I am strongly in favor of increasing Cass 15 speed limit to 65 mph. Thank you!
- Make it 65 because the roads can handle it
- Hey 15 from Kindred to I-94 is not heavily traveled, has nice shoulders, and feels safer than Hwy 46. It is comparable to Hwy 18 from Leonard to I-94 which is 65
- I drive those roads every weekday. (100+ miles per day). I see no reason to not allow 65mph. In most cases those roads, in question, have better shoulders and pavement then the State Highways that 65 is already allowed on. Thank you
- In favor of changing the speed limit to 65.
- I drove from Casselton to Kindred for over 30 years winter and summer and yes I drove 55mph on Cty. 15 but most everyone already drive 65mph just saying. Then they should change Cty. 17 from Cty.16 to hwy 46 to 65mph also
- Haven't been on all of the roads but the ones I have I believe that 65 is reasonable
- I support the increased speed limits for highlighted paved roads on the attached county highways.
- All county highways in Cass County and the rest of ND should be 65 MPH
- The technology in cars is 100 times better than when these speed limits were created. Better breaking. Tire technology advances. Predictive breaking. Cass county is one of the straightest and most square counties in the country; not littered with curvy county roads. This is a no brainer
- please consider the potential speed limit increase. It is much needed
- I Think it would be a good idea for the speed limit should be raised because most people drive over the speed limit because you forget and the police patrol the roads a lot and all the state roads are 65.
- We use Hwy 38 from Enderlin to I94. The road has been completely repaved. We feel it would be safe to change to 65.

- I believe that 65 miles and hour in modern cars is safe on these roads
- I live near kindred with relatives between casselton and wheatland. I'd be in favor for 65
- We the People own these roads. Motor vehicle owners/operators are the only folks paying EXTRA to support their infrastructure. We should be free to travel on that infrastructure without harassment due to overly-restricted speed limits or other artificial deterrents such as "traffic calming" "Eurotrash Roundabouts", stop signs where yield signs would be adequate, and bike lanes; to name just a few. Speed limits have NEVER been about "safety" so much as revenue for both the Government via the (In)Justice System and the Insurance industry through surcharges on premiums; and undeserved Government control over the citizens. Ideally, every speed limit in North Dakota would be raised by at least 25%, rounded UP to the nearest 5 mph increment. RAISE ALL THE SPEED LIMITS, not just the few under consideration here.
- I'm in favor of increasing the speer limit.
- This has needed to happen for a long time. There is no reason that the speed limit should be 55 mph on these highways anymore.
- I think raising the limit to 65 makes great sense. Almost all of our County roads are flat, straight, and have relatively low user density. I whole heartedly support increasing the speed limit.
- I feel that the speed can be increased safely.
- 65 on a wide 2 lane is safe. ND is a wide open state and Cass Count is flat and straight.
- We use Hwy 15 and It's a very open, straight road that I think could easily move to 65 mph, thanks.
- Is it an option to consider Hwy 16 (from the Davenport intersection of Hwys 15 and 16) to I29 as a 65 mph highway as well? It doesn't appear from the map that it's an option but wanted to mention it in case it could be in the future
- These roads with moderate traffic & clear vision in most directions should have the speed limit raised to 65 mph
- Yes, the speed limit could be increased as the traffic is usually moderate & open visibility mostly
- Please increase County 17 from Horace to HWY 46 to 65 also
- Yes I am in favor of increasing the speed limit on select highways
- I live out in Argusville ND. I drive a route that covers alot of these roads.. I think 60-65 is an appropriate speed considering thats what most people do on these roads anyways.
- County Road 26 is not heavily traveled and is a good road. I see no reason why the speed limit should not be increased to 65.
- This will be great on those open stretches of flat roads!
- Yes please increase the speed limits
- I think that all of the paved 2-lane county roads/highways should have the same 65 mph speed limit
- I think an increase is ok as long as there is more patrolling before and after school and days when there are events like games, on roads like 11 that lead to Northern Cass.
- I travel all over the state of ND and there are very few paved 2 lane highways in our state that are still 55MPH. I live by Argusville and drive Highway 4 and 11 often. If nothing else it is very confusing to have the patchwork of 55 mph highways we have in the area. Often while driving I find myself trying to remember if the highway I'm on is 65 or 55. These highways are also heavily patrolled by the Cass County Sheriff's Dept and they are very unforgiving about speeding tickets for anything over 60, even if its obvious that you didn't realize the highway was 55, I have to believe that a large percent of speeders aren't even aware the highway they are on is 55 due to this being so uncommon for a paved ND highway in this day and age. I am for raising the speed limits on all of these highways to 65 to create more consistency and to do away with the patchwork approach that we have right now and can be obviously seen by the highlighted map provided for this conversation. Thank you



## Comments Not in Favor of Increase

- I am concerned with cass 26 going to 65. This has Northern cass school on it and many teen drivers. I feel it is too dangerous to raise the speed limit on that road. It would be nice if there was a separate vote for each road. There are others that I would have voted yes for.
- I live on Cass County 26 and people are already driving too fast on this road. There is a school on this road where children are loaded onto busses. I am against this road being raised to 65mph
- With all the farming equipment on those roads, I feel it would not be safe for farmers at the increase of speed. With many distractions while driving I could see many accidents on Cass 10 from Wheatland- Casselton and Cass 4
- Please remember that this is a farming area. Lots of equipment up and down the highways. More speed makes my job far more dangerous.
- Raising the speed limit is 65 On any of these County Road I do believe would increase our accidents with all the young drivers and Agricultural equipment. With the speed limit posted now at 55 they're driving already at 65 mph plus, you put the speed limit 65 people will be traveling 75 to 80 miles an hour, let's keep our people safe and leave it the way it is.
- The faster you allow vehicles to travel, the more accidents there will be. If you post it at 65, you know everyone will go at least 70. In the winter, we are constantly reminded to SLOW DOWN...why? Because you're less likely to be involved in accident. Living in rural ND, there are several times throughout the year where slow moving vehicles (farm equipment) are driving down the road. You will come up on them real quick if you're traveling 70mph and they are going 25mph. It's a recipe for disaster. Save lives. Slow down.
- This is still an agriculture state with farm equipment moving on these roads. Some people already speed on these roads and there is not sufficient enforcement. It will be like the state highways and interstate system where people push 5 to 10 over the posted speed limit. So in fact the will be going 70 to 75 mph and with the tiny fines ND has people will not care when they only pay small fees. I guess more will be dying on our highways if this goes thru. Speed kills prove me wrong
- Just tell those who want it raised to leave 5-10-or 15 minutes earlier. Isn't there enough speed out there without adding it to county roads????
- I live in Alice, right in town and we have people that don't slow down and go 25 through town and now if you raise it it will just continue to have issues with people who speed on 38
- Why not make it 60 mph instead?? Everyone is already doing 60 mph on 55 mph Highways. If you increase the speed limit to 60 mph then everyone is doing the speed limit you want them to do(65 mph). If you increase the speed limit to 65 mph everyone will be doing 70 mph. Which is what you do not want. Too Fast. Just ask Law Enforcement in Montana and South Dakota.
- I don't agree with making cass 15 65. We have wya to many tractors, semis hauling beets, school busses with students and that road is not good in the winter. People will just drive 70 instead of 65! I'd rather have them get a speeding ticket than increase the speed. We have speed limits for a reason.
- As a resident of Argusville, ND, I am not in favor of the speed limit increase. I would only support the increase if it was reduced 3 -5 miles west of the Richwood development
- I am in favor of having all county Roads at 60 mph speed limit. 65 is too fast especially during harvest season. In the last 35 years in our area fatal crashes occurred when the speed limit was raised to 65 mph. I knew of none in the area near us when it was 55. Raising speed limits leads to more car crashes on county roads.

## Neutral Comments

- I have no complaints about the speed limit changes. The only concern is on highway 26, there is a speed reduction for when school is going on. Keep the speed reduction at the school.
- My only concern is where there are shelter belts where deer are known to cross the road. Is it possible to lower speed in these areas?
- Only concern would be the speeding by the school (Northern Cass) on Cass 26. I know it gets pretty busy in the mornings and when school gets out. I know there's a 45 speed limit sign posted for the school zone but I fear that with the increase kids and other drivers might not slow down through that area. I just don't want an accident to occur.
- 55 at night :) 65 during the day!
- I am surprised 15 East of Davenport to the interstate 29 and 17 from 46 to Horace are not included. Why not? Most people drive them at 65 anyway. Looking forward to your reason
- I feel that people already travel at 65 most of the time on these roads
- Agree to all the changes except I would still keep it 55 mph on Cass 26, since there is a school on that road
- The wife and I where just talking about this as we where headed west of Kindred on hwy 46, where the limit is 65 mph. We commented on how there was virtually no shoulder in a lot of spots and in many spots there was a rather abrupt dropoff. Then we noticed how many of the 55 mph roads had nice wide shoulders, but where limited in speed. I think that that should be taken into consideration
- No rumble strips
- I voted yes but with a reservation or two. I was a Deputy Sheriff for almost 39 years and now I drive School Bus for Central Cass. As we know a 65 mph speed limit really means folks will drive 69 to 70. Let's all agree on that. A couple of the paved county roads should probably stay at 55 or only go up to 60. From Wheatland north and then west to the gravel should not be increased do to narrow road and curve. Also from Cass 10 to Absaraka, the highway is narrow, not much shoulder so 65 there would not be a good idea. Also Cass 4 from the Ayr corner to ND38 is also narrow with not much shoulder so 65 there would be too fast. If all paved County roads go to 65, I would really hope the Sheriff's office has a greater presence on these roads and keeps the speed from creeping up to that 70mph mark. Thanks for allowing input on this subject.
- the one thing that i am concerned about is 65 people will travel at 75. Higher fines for speeders



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 21, 2020  
**CONTACT:** Catlin Solum, [solumc@casscountynd.gov](mailto:solumc@casscountynd.gov), 701-241-5794

### **Cass County Seeking Public Input on 65 MPH Speed Limit Changes**

**CASS COUNTY, N.D.** – The Cass County Highway Department is seeking public input regarding potential speed limit changes to select county paved highways. Over the last several years, Cass County has received requests for various paved highways to have the speed limit increased to 65 miles per hour (mph). The North Dakota state law allows county paved highways to be have a maximum speed limit of 65 mph if posted at that speed. Many of the residents that use our county paved highways also use North Dakota Highways 18, 38, and 46 which are two-lane highways posted at 65 mph.

Since receiving these requests, Cass County has evaluated its two-lane paved road network to determine which highways were suitable candidates. Engineering guidelines suggest considering the following conditions when raising the speed limit:

1. Does the design meet 65 mph design standards to include horizontal and vertical curves, shoulders, 4:1 or flatter slopes, and proper sight distance?
2. Do pavement and road surface conditions allow for safe travel at 65 mph?
3. Are there concerns with the clear zone distance, intersections, and other roadside hazards?
4. Are there other safety concerns or serious crash history?

While many of our paved roads meet the above conditions, not all do. Based on this analysis, 134 miles of Cass County's highways were recommended as candidates for 65 mph speed limits. These roads include Cass 6 from ND18 to Cass 38, Cass 10 from Wheatland to Mapleton, Cass 4 from ND38 to Argusville, Cass 26 from Barnes County to I-29, Cass 38 from ND46 to I-94, Cass 11 from Mapleton to Cass 4, and Cass 15 from Kindred to I-94 (see map). Current speed limits will remain within the city limits at locations where these roads pass through cities.

While Cass County has taken numerous calls and comments on this issue in the past, we are interested in gathering additional public opinion prior to making any speed limit changes. Please consider taking the online poll and provide any comments on this issue as a whole or on specific highways at [www.casscountynd.gov/65mph](http://www.casscountynd.gov/65mph).

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