

Minneapolis and Saint Paul Evaluating Speed Limit Changes



To increase public safety on local streets, Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Works are collaborating to analyze appropriate local speed limits. Both cities anticipate lowering limits on many local streets. This will not include county and state roads. Most city-owned streets currently have a 30-mph speed limit.

New local authority

As of August 1, 2019, the Minnesota Legislature has granted cities the authority to set speed limits on streets the city owns if they choose. Any speed limit changes must be done “in a consistent and understandable manner... based on the city’s safety, engineering, and traffic analysis.” The legislation also requires “appropriate signs” and “methods to effectively communicate the change to the public.” Speed limits on county and state roads will continue to be set by the Commissioner of Transportation.

Lower speed limits can help save lives

The City of Minneapolis and City of Saint Paul are committed to eliminating traffic deaths and severe injuries on our streets. Reducing speed limits on many of our streets is an important step in reducing fatal and severe crashes.

Lower traffic speeds reduce the likelihood of a crash and make a crash less likely to lead to death or a life-changing injury. This is especially true for people walking (see graphic at right).

Evaluating speed limit changes

Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Works are each doing detailed technical analysis to determine appropriate speed limits for city-owned streets. Both cities are collaborating on the analysis and intend to coordinate on a larger communications plan. around speed limit changes.

The technical analysis will consider local policies, local traffic crash and speed studies, national research on safety and speed, national guidance on setting and communicating urban speed limits, and how to evaluate and monitor the results of changes. Staff will also connect with neighboring cities, Hennepin and Ramsey County, and MnDOT on the approach.

Implementation of speed limit changes is expected to begin in spring 2020 after technical analysis is complete.



Source: Brian C. Tefft. 2013. AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Impact speed and a pedestrian’s risk of severe injury or death.