

NS 23 CFR 625 available at:  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/directives/fapg/0625sup.htm>

*The Federal Aide Policy Guide (FAPG)*

*“Compatibility of Design Speed, Operating Speed and Posted Speed” (1995 - By FHWA and TXDOT)*

*ITE’s “Speed: Understanding Design, Operating and Posted Speed” (1997 - By Ray Krammes (FHWA) and Kay Fitzpatrick (TTI))*

*Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD, 2009 Edition)*

- *Note that the statutory speed limit is 55 mph for cars and 45 mph for trucks with the following exceptions: 25 mph in residence and business districts; 35 mph in cities and towns; 35 mph on Rural Rustic Roadways; 35 mph on nonsurface-treated highways. See the Code of Virginia (Speed Limits). As of July 1, 2014 nonsurface-treated highways speed limit shall be 35mph in accordance with the Code of Virginia §46.2-873.1.*

#### **SHOWING DESIGN SPEED ON TITLE SHEET**

*See the current version of Instructional and Informational Memorandum IIM-LD-204 for the method of showing design speed data on the plans.*

*An asterisk is to be shown adjacent to the Design Speed (Example - \* 60 MPH) on the title sheet and the following note shown:*

*\* See Plan and Profile Sheets for the horizontal and vertical curve design speeds.*

#### **OPERATING SPEED**

*Operating Speed is the speed at which drivers are observed operating their vehicles during free-flow conditions. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of the distribution of observed speeds is the most frequently used measure of the operating speed associated with a particular location or geometric feature of a highway, or highway segment.*

#### **POSTED SPEED**

*The Posted Speed for existing, new or reconstructed roadways should be determined by factors outlined in the MUTCD, Section 2B.13. The MUTCD requires that an engineering study be conducted in accordance with established engineering practice. VDOT has a standard study template for developing speed limit recommendations which incorporates the MUTCD, Section 2B.13 as well as other considerations pertaining to VDOT’s decision-making process for speed limit approvals, including enforcement consensus.*