

# Capitol Boulevard Speed Limit Revision

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Prepared: 12/18/2015

## Speed Study Summary

LOCATION: Capitol Boulevard South of O'Farrell								
DATE	DIRECTION	TRAFFIC VOLUME	85TH PERCENTILE SPEED (MPH)	AVERAGE SPEED (MPH)	MINIMUM SPEED (MPH)	MAXIMUM SPEED (MPH)	10 MPH PACE	% OF TOTAL IN 10 MPH PACE
<i>May 2013</i>	Northbound	5970	33.4	29.5	10.5	43.8	25-35	83
	Southbound	5381	33.3	29.5	10.5	44.7	25-35	81
<i>April 2015</i>	Northbound	6282	33.4	29.4	10.4	43.5	25-35	81
	Southbound	5779	33.6	29.4	10.2	44.7	25-35	79

## Accident History Summary

Staff reviewed the 3-year accident history, January 1, 2012 thru December 31, 2014, for Capitol Boulevard Road between Carlyon Avenue and the I-5 overpass.

- There were no accidents that indicated speed was a contributing factor. Accident history showed that the cause of each occurrence was driver judgment error:
  - Following to close
  - Driver fell asleep
- The primary type of accident occurrence between 2012 and 2014 was:
  - Rear End Collision - 1 accident
  - Hitting a fixed object - 1 accident

**01/01/2012 – 12/31/2014**

STREET NAME	STREET SECTION	NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS	PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT
Capitol Boulevard	at Carlyon Avenue	1	Rear End
Capitol Boulevard	between Governor Stevens Avenue and Eskridge Way	1	Fixed Object

Under 23 United States Code - Section 409, this data cannot be used in discovery or evidence at trial in any action for damages against the City of Olympia, or the jurisdictions involved in the data.

A physical review of accidents for 2015 showed none were reported for this location.

**Street Characteristics**

*Street and Driveway count:*

Capitol Boulevard between Carlyon Avenue and I-5 Overpass:

- Retail Driveways – Two (2) driveways. Both on the east side of the street, south of O’Farrell Avenue at a strip mall. There are no retail driveways on the west side of the street.
- Residential Driveways – Eight (8) driveways, all on the east side of the street. There are no residential driveways on the west side of the street.
- Intersecting Streets include:
  - Carlyon Avenue (east side of Capitol Boulevard, “T” intersection). Traffic Signal (City of Tumwater).
  - Governor Stevens Avenue (east side of Capitol Boulevard, “T” intersection). Stop Control.
  - Eskridge Way (east side of Capitol Boulevard, “T” intersection). Stop Control.
  - O’Farrell Avenue (east side of Capitol Boulevard, “T” intersection). Stop Control.
  - Adams Street (east side of Capitol Boulevard, “T” intersection). Stop Control.

*Street Geometrics/CrossSection:*

- Capitol Boulevard has a posted speed limit of 35 MPH from the Tumwater City limits at Carlyon Avenue and continues into the City of Olympia to the I-5 overpass. The posted speed limit from the I-5 overpass to the Farmers Market is 25 MPH.
- Capitol Boulevard between Carlyon Avenue and the I-5 overpass is a one-third (1/3) mile stretch of level grade four (4) lane arterial with southbound left turn channelization and a median Island with pedestrian refuge at O’Farrell Avenue.
- Capitol Boulevard between Carlyon Avenue and the I-5 overpass has landscape and sidewalk on the east side of the road with sidewalks on the west side of the road.

- Intercity bus stops are present both north and southbound between Eskridge Way and O'Farrell Avenue. Service routes include 12, 13 and 68.
- Streetlights staggered on both sides of Capitol Boulevard approximately 70 feet apart. Street lights recently converted to LED.

*Conclusion:*

Capitol Boulevard is classified as an Arterial with an average daily traffic (ADT) volume of over 11,000 vehicles. The current posted speed limit south of O'Farrell Avenue SE is 35 mph that extends from the southern city limit at Carlyon Avenue SE to the I-5 over pass. Here the speed limit is reduced to and remains 25 mph to the street end at the Farmers Market.

Staff made field observations, compiled traffic counts, gathered speed data, reviewed collision history and considered comments from residents. Information from our analysis includes:

- Traffic speeds are generally below the posted 35 mph speed limit in the vicinity of O'Farrell Avenue SE.
- From Tumwater traveling north, Capitol Boulevard transitions from commercial land uses to residential uses. Both pedestrian crossings and driveway frequency increases.
- Drivers negotiating the curve that is just south of O'Farrell Avenue SE may be distracted and not paying attention to pedestrians crossing at O'Farrell Avenue SE.
- Over the past three years between Carlyon Avenue and the I-5 over pass, two collisions have occurred on Capitol Boulevard; one rear-end collision and one collision involving a fixed object. No collisions involving bicyclists and pedestrians were reported.
- Activity at the Wildwood Building near O'Farrell Avenue has increased in the last several years leading to more people biking, people walking and motor vehicle movements at this destination.
- Capitol Boulevard is a high frequency transit route with bus stops along the segment considered for speed limit reduction.
- Capitol Boulevard includes sporadic shoulders of varying width which are used by people biking. No bike lanes are provided along the segment considered for speed limit reduction. There are no nearby parallel streets for people in this area.

Given the physical features of the street alignment, presence of residential driveways and people biking and people walking, a speed limit of 25 MPH throughout this section of Capitol Boulevard is appropriate. At a consistent speed limit of 25 mph through the entire Capitol Way and Capitol Boulevard corridor will give drivers, greater ability to respond to the actions of all other uses.