



TOWN OF HANOVER
SELECT BOARD
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Ms. Mary-Joe Perry, Director
District V Office
1000 County Street
Taunton, MA 02780

September 12, 2022

Re: Speed Limit Rte. 139 in Hanover

Dear Director Perry:

The Town of Hanover is requesting a revision to existing speed limits along the 3.6-mile-long section of Route 139 in Hanover from the Rockland town line to Columbia Road (Route 53). Vehicles traveling through Hanover along Route 139 are going much too fast and the safety of motorists, residents, and visitors is being greatly compromised.

The last speed zoning performed on this State Highway was in 1971. Since then the population and average daily traffic has increased significantly, as have collisions and other safety concerns. In 2020, the Old Colony Planning Council completed the Hanover Route 139 Corridor study to assess existing traffic and infrastructure conditions along the route. It is available for review here: [http://www.ocpcrpa.org/docs/projects/corridor/Hanover Route 139 Corridor Study.pdf](http://www.ocpcrpa.org/docs/projects/corridor/Hanover_Route_139_Corridor_Study.pdf)

The study covers many dangerous intersections along Route 139 that have led to both poor service levels, high rates of crashes, and dangerous conditions for pedestrians and bicycles that are exacerbated by high speeds. The study states "reducing the speed limit along the corridor to 30 miles per hour can have some significant impacts on vulnerable users [...] A speed limit of 30 miles per hour decreases the likelihood a vulnerable user will die from being hit by a car to 50%. With this information and safety in mind, the Town of Hanover should work with MassDOT to seek approval in lowering speed limits along Route 139."

Based on the study's recommendation, we are following the MassDOT requirements in "Procedures for Speed Zoning on State Highways and Municipal Roads" to request a MassDOT Traffic and Safety Section review of the speed limits of Route 139. We look forward to working with MassDOT to improve the safety of this road for citizens of Hanover and the citizens of the many surrounding towns that use this highway daily.

Sincerely,

Rhonda L. Nyman, Chair

Vanessa A. O'Connor, Vice-Chair

David R. Delaney

John C. Tuzik

Steven R. Louko

Cc: Sen. John F. Keenan
Rep. David DeCoste
Pamela Haznar, Mass DOT
Town of Hanover Rte. 139 Action Committee