



**MARICOPA COUNTY**  
*Department of Transportation*

**POLICY # T8301**

<b>Title:</b> Speed Limit Signage on Unpaved Roads	<b>Effective Date:</b> June 4, 2012	<b>Division:</b> Traffic Management
<b>Purpose:</b> Maintain a uniform policy direction for MCDOT: Refrain from posting a speed limit on an unpaved roadway except to meet air quality standards.	<b>Authorized Signature:</b>  <hr/> <b>John B. Hauskins, P.E.</b> <b>Transportation Director</b>	



**Policy Statement:**

Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will not post speed limit signage on unpaved roadways owned and operated by MCDOT, with the following exception: MCDOT may decrease the limit to not less than fifteen miles per hour on an unpaved street or road within any district in its jurisdiction if it is determined that the limits necessary to achieve or maintain national ambient air quality standards. This exception must be initiated and approved by the County Board of Supervisors prior to any work commencing.

**1. Background:**

MCDOT and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) have concluded that the constant changing conditions of an unpaved surface, such as: heavy rains/flooded roadway, infrequent maintenance/road grading makes a proper and realistic speed limit posting unfeasible. Therefore, due to the high potential for varying roadway conditions, unpaved roads should not be speed zoned.

A.R.S. Section 28-703 does allow a local government set a speed limit of not less than fifteen miles per hour on an unpaved street or road if the local government determines that the limit is necessary to achieve or maintain national ambient air quality standards. MCDOT has done so in limited instances, but this is not regarded as the department’s normal business practice.

**2. Responsibilities:**

The MCDOT Traffic Management Division, Traffic Studies Branch, or a designee, will respond to citizen and MCDOT requests to post speed limit signs on unpaved roads owned and operated by MCDOT.

### **3. Procedures:**

With respect to roadways owned and operated by MCDOT: If a citizen requests speed limit signage on an unpaved roadway or if a MCDOT employee requests the posting of speed limit signage on an unpaved roadway, the following procedures will be followed:

- A. Review accident files for roadway location;
- B. Conduct a site visit;
- C. Determine if “Residential Area Drive With Care” signs are warranted;
- D. Consult the Transportation Planning Division to determine if an air quality purpose needs to be addressed pursuant to A.R.S. Section 28-703; and
- E. Respond to the citizen or the MCDOT requestor.

### **Cross References:**

ADOT Traffic Engineering Policies, Guidelines, and Procedures 321.2 Unpaved Roads  
A.R.S. Section 28-703