



## Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Policies

**Category:** HIGHWAYS  
**Subcategory:** Traffic Control  
**Sub-Subcategory:** Speed Limits

### **SPEED LIMITS**

*Legislative actions pertaining to speed limits:*

- 1903 – 9 miles per hour.
- 1915 – 15 miles per hour.
- 1939 - “at a rate of speed so as not to endanger the property of another or the life or limb of any person, provided that a rate of speed in excess of 25 miles an hour for a distance of one-half mile shall be considered as evidence...of driving at a rate of speed which is not careful and prudent...”
- 1957 – 70 miles per hour on divided federal highways, when lighted lamps not required.  
65 miles per hour on all other highways when lighted lamps not required.  
65 miles per hour on undivided federal highways when lighted lamps are required)  
60 miles per hour on any other road or highway when lighted lamps are required.
- 1973 - Congress responded to oil shortages by mandating that federal highway funds be withheld from states that did not adopt a maximum speed limit of 55 miles per hour.
- 1995 - National Highway System Designation Act repealed the maximum 55 mile per hour speed limit, again allowing states to set their own limits.
- 1996 - Missouri enacted legislation that returned its speed limit on rural interstate and freeways to 70 miles per hour, rural expressways to 65 miles per hour, urban freeways and expressways to 60 miles per hour, and retained the 55 mile per hour speed limit on two-lane lettered routes. This legislation authorized the Highways and Transportation Commission to set speed limits higher or lower than the listed speed limits (within stated parameters) and allowed the Commission to void any ordinance if it found that such ordinance was (1) not primarily designed to expedite traffic flow, and (2) primarily designed to produce revenue for the city, town, or village which enacted such ordinance.