



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Support for HB 4014 of 2021

As the Chief of Police for the Township of Kalamazoo as well as providing police services for the City of Parchment, I am endorsing the changes being recommended to the poor legislation that currently reflects how speeds are established on our roadways. The new changes to legislation as proposed, provide an opportunity for common sense and necessary variables, such as school zones and engineering studies, to also be taken into account when determining speed limits on our local streets. As we have seen most recently, a rise in traffic speeds are often correlated with a rise in serious traffic related injuries and death.

The proposed language in HB 4014 will allow for the rounding to "within 5 mph" of the 85th percentile speed and do away with the requirement to round to the "nearest multiple of 5 mph" of the 85th percentile speed. Information from studies, traffic engineering handbooks and conversations with the Michigan State Police indicates that the intent of the 85th percentile approach is to set the speed limit at or below the 85th percentile. The "within 5 mph" of the 85th percentile language in this bill will allow for this to occur in all instances. With the language of "rounded to the nearest multiple of 5 mph" of the 85th percentile, there is a requirement to round up in many cases and go above the 85th percentile.

Additional language in HB 4014 assists greatly in clarifying what is needed to move speed limits to the 50th percentile. The current phrasing is confusing and restrictive. This new language provides some minimal flexibility for unique situations within each community by using an engineering study to help to protect areas with high pedestrian / bicyclist movement and other unique areas such as schools, parks and college campuses.

I encourage you to seek out the advice of your local law enforcement leaders in determining a resolution to our issues and appreciate your support in keeping our communities safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan N. Ergang
Chief of Police