



Town of New Fairfield

TRAFFIC AUTHORITY SPECIAL MEETING ZOOM MEETING

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91355435799>

Meeting ID: 913 5543 5799

Dial In: (929) 205-6099

Thursday, January 12, 2023

7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment & Participation
4. Discuss OSTA Requirements for Speed Limits
5. Discuss Speed Limits on Town Roads
6. Adjournment

Received by email on 01/11/2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
By Tricia Quinn, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield

Town Road Speed Limits

Local Traffic Authority

View/Print ["Application For Approval of Speed Limits" Form](#)

Pursuant to Section 14-218a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) is responsible for approving speed limits on all public roadways in this state. Except as noted below, speed limit certificates are issued by the OSTA to local municipalities desirous of establishing speed limits for individual town roads.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2021: Pursuant to Public Act 21-28, the Local Traffic Authority of any town, city or borough may establish, modify or maintain speed limits on all local streets, highways and bridges or in any parking area for ten cars or more or on any private road wholly within the municipality under its jurisdiction, without approval from the OSTA, subject to certain requirements. CGS 14-218a will eventually be revised to reflect the language in the public act. The full text of CGS 14-218a, as revised, will ultimately be available on the Connecticut General Assembly website.

The OSTA has developed the [Guidelines for Establishing Speed Limits in Connecticut](#), which outlines the process for municipalities who wish to accept the responsibility to establish and modify speed limits for all local roads (Chapter 5) and the provisions from CGS 14-218a, as revised, that they shall adhere to if they accept this responsibility (Chapter 2). [CGS 14-218a, as revised, requires municipalities to conduct an engineering study when establishing or modifying speed limits.](#) These guidelines also cover the engineering study that is conducted by the OSTA and other generally accepted engineering practices for municipalities to reference during their engineering study (Chapters 6 & 7).

CGS 14-218a, as revised, requires municipalities to inform the OSTA of their permission and intent to establish and modify speed limits for all local roads within their municipality. [Click here for sample notification letter to be sent to the OSTA.](#)

CGS 14-218a, as revised, also requires municipalities to inform the OSTA of every local road speed limit that is established or modified in an attempt to maintain a state wide record of all established speed limits.

Municipalities can keep the authority to establish and modify speed limits for local roads within the OSTA. No action is required from these municipalities. Refer to Chapter 5 of the Guidelines to Establish Speed Limits in Connecticut for information on the process to request a speed limit review by the OSTA.

CGS 14-218a, as revised, also allows municipalities to establish Pedestrian Safety Zones on local roads without OSTA approval in downtown districts or community centers where there is a high level of pedestrian activity. Such zones may also be established adjacent to hospital properties. Municipalities may establish Pedestrian Safety Zones on local roads without accepting the authority to establish and modify all speed limits on local roads. Additional information regarding Pedestrian Safety Zones can be found in Chapter 7 of the Guidelines to Establish Speed Limits in Connecticut.

OFFICIAL TOWN LETTERHEAD

Date

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Joseph P. Ouellette
Executive Director
Office of the State Traffic Administration
Connecticut Department of Transportation
DOT.OSTA@ct.gov
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131

Subject: Town (or City if applicable) of
Speed Limits on Municipal Roadways

This is to advise you that, in accordance with Section 14-218a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Local Traffic Authority is authorized to establish, modify, and maintain speed limits on roadways under its jurisdiction without the need for Office of the State Traffic Administration approval and intends to assume such responsibility and authority effective as of the date of this letter. This letter will also serve as confirmation that the speed limits will be established, modified, and maintained in accordance with the provisions noted in Section 14-218a.

Sincerely,

Local Traffic Authority Name
Local Traffic Authority Title



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 OFFICE OF THE STATE TRAFFIC ADMINISTRATION
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
 NEWINGTON, CT 06131-7546
 Email: DOT.OSTA@ct.gov



APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF SPEED LIMITS

Date: _____

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14-218a of the General Statutes, the Local Traffic Authority of _____ does hereby make application for approval of the following speed limits:

List in alphabetical order. All roads must be a minimum 500 feet in length and must be approved/accepted town roads. Gravel, dirt, or other unimproved roads will not be considered. Speed limits less than 25 mph are generally considered to be unrealistically low for public roads unless there are severe geometric conditions or unique roadway/roadside characteristics warranting consideration of a lower limit. Consequently, requests for speed limits lower than 25 mph must be accompanied by a detailed explanation of the special condition(s) that exist on the roadway and warrant consideration of a lower limit.

<u>Street Name/ *Parking Lot - From</u>	<u>Compass Direction</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Requested Speed Limit</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

*For parking lots, list address and number of parking spaces.

Signing will be erected as directed by the Office of the State Traffic Administration and in conformance with Regulations of the Office of the State Traffic Administration. Speed limit requests are reviewed and derived via a thorough engineering investigation.

Local Traffic Authority/Authorized Representative **Signature:**

Local Traffic Authority/Authorized Representative **Printed:** _____