

 **MSA** Memo

To: Village of Cottage Grove

From: Brian Huibregtse, PE, PTOE, MSA Professional Services, Inc.
Kevin Lord, PE, MSA Professional Services, Inc.

Subject: Vilas Road Speed Limit Study

Date: August 13, 2020

The village has asked MSA to review the proposed speed limit change from 45-mph to 25-mph along a portion of Vilas Road.

The state of Wisconsin maintains statutes on speed limits, including within community boundaries on local roads. However, the state does allow communities a threshold to adjust speed limits before approval from the Department of Transportation (DOT) is required. There is language within the state statutes that likely needs to be considered with this proposed speed limit change. The first is that town roads are statutorily 55-mph and can be reduced to 45 mph by the locals with an engineering study before DOT approval. The second is that the speed limits within an outlying district of a city or village is 35-mph, but allows the locals to reduce that speed limit to 25-mph. An “outlying district” is the most representative of this area of Vilas Road.

Based on the criteria of an outlying district, the existing terrain, and the geometry of the curve, the village is within their capacity to lower the speed limit to 35 mph to align with that statutes. However, the following justification could be considered by the village for further reduction to 25-mph, but only in the area within the village boundaries:

- The presence of an adjacent stretch of roadway presently posted at 25-mph to the north
- The roadway is adjacent to heavily used Bakken Park. With that addition of the Miracle Field and its intended users, safety needs to be a priority along the corridor.

The new speed limit sign would have to be placed within the village limits and maintaining the 45-mph signage on the stretch of Vilas Road, that is within the town’s jurisdiction, would likely cause confusion to drivers. If the reduced speed limit is introduced, working with the town to remove the 45-mph sign is recommended. It should also be noted that it will be difficult to enforce a 25-mph speed limit within the town limits based on the statutes. To encourage the reduction in speed within the town limits, the

MEMO

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village may want to consider the installation of a Park Entrance sign (or a non-WisDOT standard, Playground sign (W15-1)) with an Advisory Speed plaque of 15-mph. Recommended signage is shown on the exhibit below.

