



# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

680 Peverly Hill Road  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
(603) 427-1530

January 24, 2025

Due to significant resident demand for the installation of vehicle speed feedback signs (VSF), the City of Portsmouth Department of Public Works is proposing a Citywide policy to guide the installation and use of these devices.

The Department is proposing that prior to any VSF being installed on a City street, the following criteria must be met:

1. Vehicle 85<sup>th</sup> percentile travel speeds must be at least 7 MPH over the lowest legal New Hampshire posted speed limit of 25 MPH, as defined in NH RSA 265:62, or the posted speed limit, whichever is higher. The Department of Public Works shall conduct a stealth radar speed and volume study to determine actual vehicle travel speeds before the installation of any VSF.  
OR  
Five percent (5%) of vehicle travel speeds must be at least 10 MPH over the lowest legal New Hampshire posted speed limit of 25 MPH, as defined in NH RSA 265:62, or the posted speed limit, whichever is higher. This information shall be determined by the Department of Public Work's stealth radar study.  
OR  
Average vehicle speeds are greater or equal to 5 MPH over the lowest legal New Hampshire posted speed limit of 25 MPH, as defined in NH RSA 265:62, or the posted speed limit, whichever is higher. This information shall be determined by the Department of Public Work's stealth radar study.
2. The City street must have daily traffic volumes of at least 400 vehicles per day, as determined by the Department of Public Works speed and volume study.

When a VSF is installed on a City street, the Department of Public Works is proposing the following policies to ensure that the devices are able to be utilized in an equitable manner:

1. The VSF shall be installed for a period not to exceed 30 days. After 30 days, the VSF may be moved to another location on the same street or another street if the Department of Public Works determines that action to be prudent. On a state highway, NHDOT criteria will be followed, which allows for only a 2-week placement duration.
2. A sign will only be installed in the same location after 6 months or more have passed without the sign in place.
3. The VSF must be in a location where sight lines for the legal speed allow for adequate visibility and reaction time.
4. The VSF shall only illuminate to show vehicle travels speeds when vehicles are traveling 5 MPH or more above the posted speed limit. The sign shall stop displaying vehicle speeds when 15 MPH or greater than the posted speed limit to avoid reckless drivers racing by the sign trying to get a "high score".
5. The operation of the VSF shall comply with all Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards.

The Department of Public Works reserves the right, at their discretion on a case by case basis, to install one or more signs that do not meet the criteria outlined in this policy.