



10-4

A weekly Q&A
with local
law enforcement

Submit your question to news@owatonna.com or 444-2379

Q: What is the speed limit on the frontage road between Wal-Mart and 26th St. N.W.? A sign near Culver's lists 35 mph as the speed limit. Does this apply all the way to 26th St. N.W.?

A: The frontage road you are referring to is Steele County Road 23. The short answer is no. The roadway is posted 35 mph and that is the speed limit within the city limits. However, it is an interesting question because it is a county road that exits and enters the city limits. As you continue northbound on the frontage road and go past the Perkins Restaurant on the west side of the roadway, you will be leaving the city limits. When you enter the county at this point, nonspecified posted speed limits becomes 55 mph per state statute. As you approach 26th St. N.E., reduced speed is required with a yellow caution sign suggesting a safe speed limit of 35 mph. According to Minnesota State Statute 169.14 subd. 3, the driver of any vehicle shall drive at an appropriate reduced speed when approaching and going around a curve. As always, existing conditions also play a part in deciding what a reasonable and safe speed limit is.

Minnesota State Statute 169.14 states no person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions.

It should be noted that the City of Owatonna Engineering Department is working with the Steele County Engineers regarding this particular roadway. This will be a collaborative effort to assess and possibly sign the roadway due to the increase in traffic on the roadway.

Sergeant Tom Murphy
Owatonna Police Department