

March 29, 2021

Mr. Michael Czymbor
City of Hardeeville Manager
mzczymbor@hardeevillesc.gov

RE: S-442 (Argent Boulevard) Speed Study

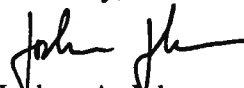
Dear Mr. Czymbor:

Thank you for the invitation to the City Council Workshop on March 9, 2021 to discuss the S-442 (Argent Boulevard) corridor. As discussed at that workshop, my office had already commenced a comprehensive speed study for the corridor, and this letter is to notify you of the results. The report including detailed information about the review is attached for your reference.

The findings from the study are consistent with prior reviews. In the 55 mph central segment, 51 percent of drivers surveyed were exceeding that speed limit. In the 45 mph northern and southern segments, 73 percent and 86 percent were exceeding that speed limit, respectively. Considering this information and the other roadway information used in the comprehensive review, no changes to the speed limits are recommended.

While the entire corridor was discussed at the workshop, the intersection of Argent Boulevard and Short Cut Road was a primary topic. As noted in the workshop, signing upgrades have been made at the intersection and potential geometric improvements are being planned by nearby developers. We will continue to work with the City on these reviews, including the possible corridor traffic study the City is considering undertaking. If you have any questions regarding this review or other topics, I may be reached at (843) 746-6719.

Sincerely,



Joshua A. Johnson, PE, PTOE
District Traffic Engineer

ec: Brana Snowden, City of Hardeeville Planning Director

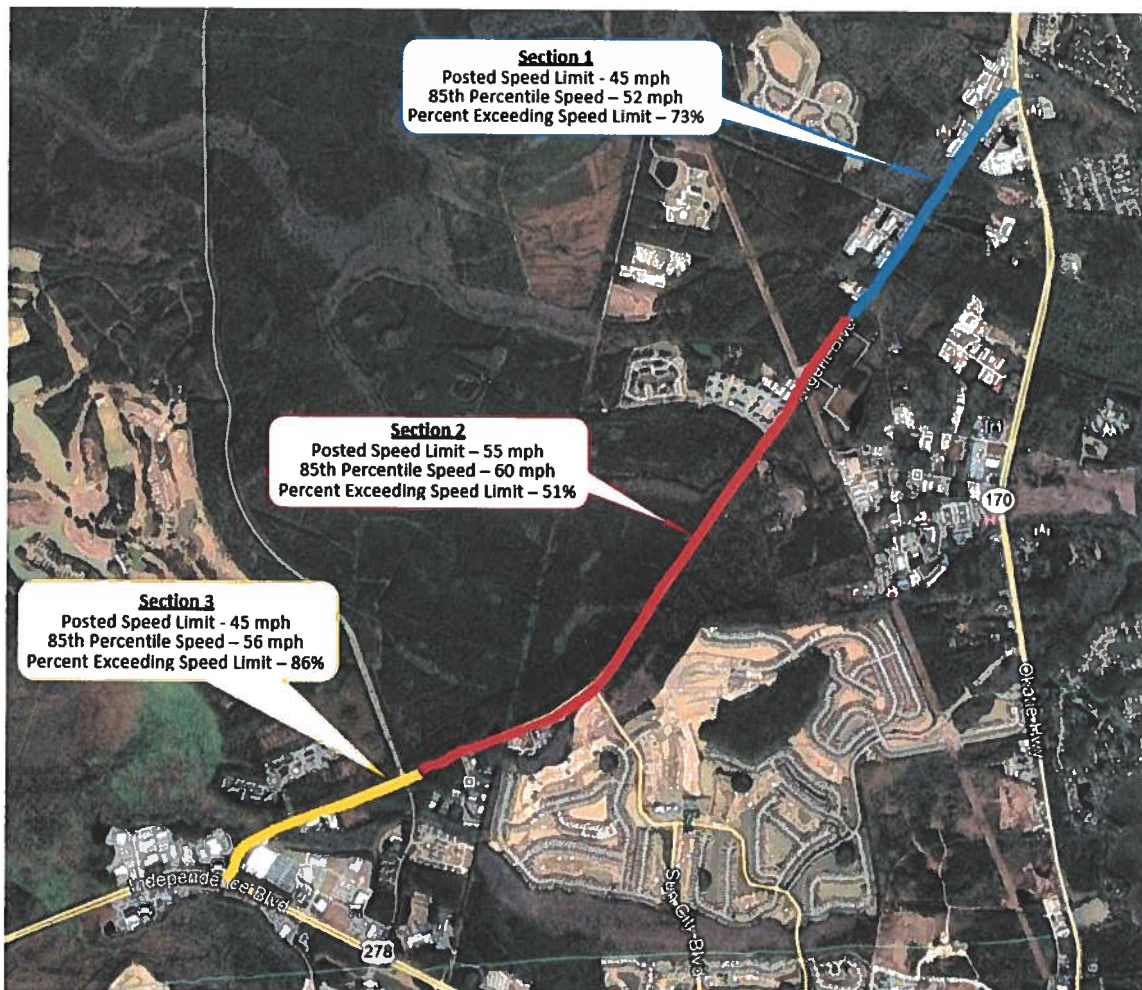
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S-442 (Argent Boulevard) – Speed Limit Review

Argent Boulevard from SC 170 (Okatie Highway) to US 278 (Independence Boulevard) was reviewed to determine if the posted speed limits are appropriate for this roadway. This study consisted of a review of the land use and development, the collision history analysis, and a radar sample of 100 vehicles in the three posted speed zones. These elements were reviewed and used in combination to provide a comprehensive overview to determine the appropriate speed limit, with guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) analysis program, USLIMITS2.

Argent Boulevard is approximately 3.8 miles in length and has 11-foot travel lanes in each direction. The average daily traffic volume is 6,000 vehicles. The posted speed limits on this roadway from Okatie Highways to Independence Boulevard are as follows: 45 mph in Section 1 (approximately 1.0 mile long), 55 mph in Section 2 (approximately 2.1 miles long), and 45 mph in Section 3 (approximately 0.74 mile long). A summary of the current speed limits, the 85th percentile speeds, and percent exceeding the posted speed limits along this roadways is shown in the table and graphic below.

Summary Speed Data				
Section	Driveways	Posted Speed Limit	85 th Percentile Speed	Percent Exceeding Speed Limit
Section 1	18	45 mph	52 mph	73%
Section 2	19	55 mph	60 mph	51%
Section 3	5	45 mph	56 mph	86%



A collision history analysis was performed from January 2017 to September 2020. The analysis revealed a total of 133 reported collisions within these three sections of Argent Boulevard. The table below provides a summary of the crashes by type and section during this period. Forty-nine of the sixty-four rear-end collisions and twenty of the forty angle collisions occurred on the approaches to the intersections at either end of Argent Boulevard.

Crash Data					
Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Rear End	20	15	16	13	64
Angle	6	13	15	6	40
Sideswipe	2	2	2	1	7
Head On	0	2	0	1	3
Run Off Road	2	2	4	1	9
Animal	1	1	4	0	6
Other	0	2	1	1	4
Total	31	37	42	23	133

Section	Total Crashes
Section 1	45
Section 2	31
Section 3	57
	133

Recommendations:

Based on the results of our study, roadside development, and guidance from USLIMITS2, it is recommended to retain the existing speed limits on Argent Boulevard. The posted speed limits are appropriate for existing development and roadway characteristics.

Smalls
Traffic Engineering

Reviewed by: AP 3/12/21

Checked by: JH 3/19/2021