

Arlington Special Speed Regulation (SSR) Summary of Transportation Advisory Committee Recommendations to Select Board

Want to Send a Clear Message That Arlington is a 25 MPH Town

The Special Speed Regulations (SSRs) recommendations represent an Arlington policy decision and provide a path to completion of the Townwide 25 adoption decision made in 2017. 2017 was a good start but the SSRs that were left in place cause motorist confusion.



Examples of Confusing Speed Signage		
Approach to Border	Signage at Border	Immediate - Contradiction
Pleasant St North	30 MPH Sign	Townwide Sign
Park Ave North	25 MPH Sign	Townwide Sign then a 35 MPH
Summer St East	Townwide (missing)	35 MPH
Mystic Valley / Summer West	30 MPH	No Townwide
Lake St	Townwide Sign	30 MPH
Mass Ave West	Townwide Sign	30 MPH

Motorists are unsure of Speed Limits:

- SSR signage changes/contradicts the Townwide Signs immediately
 - Which takes precedence?
- Major entry routes to Arlington change Speed Limits 2 to 5 times
 - What is the Speed Limit again?

Signs Installed At Borders

What Motorists See

The Confusion Caused

The SSRs were established in the 1970s and no longer align with the Connect Arlington Plan or Vision Zero goals for the town. The detailed recommendations to rescind all SSRs with Speed Limits above the Statutory Townwide 25 MPH Speed Limit and clearly display signage for 25 MPH, allow Arlington to:

- Show clearly that the entire town is a 25 MPH zone
 - With exceptions for 20 MPH School and Safety Zones
- Address issues systematically across town using one approach rather than individually by road
- Reduce / eliminate driver confusion over changing Speed Limits

Path Forward

Overall, Town Staff will be responsible for managing implementation of this task. They will be responsible to:

1. Work with the Select Board to draft a letter requesting rescission of the SSRs on Broadway and Park Ave
2. Work with MassDOT to obtain approval from them for the rescission and work to streamline the rescission process
Conduct a “before” speed study on both Park Ave and Broadway (completed by TAC)
3. Work with Town Staff to specify the following:
 - Location of all signs to be removed
 - Procurement / production of Thickly Settled 25 MPH District signs (placed every ¼ mile)
 - Scheduling of signage changes (removal and installation) to align with timing of MassDOT approval
 - Changes to the Arlington Traffic Rules and Orders if needed
4. Summarize the process used to rescind the SSRs for Park and Broadway
5. Conduct an “after” speed study on both Park Ave and Broadway (TAC funding)
6. Discuss findings with TAC and report back to Town Manager and Select Board on the results of the rescind process and provide a prioritized list for remaining streets for rescission