

Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council  
P.O. Box 101  
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October 5, 2010

Linda Dougherty ([admin.roads@kingcounty.gov](mailto:admin.roads@kingcounty.gov))  
Division Director  
King County Road Services Division  
201 S. Jackson St.  
Seattle, WA 98104

Ms. Dougherty,

The Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) requests a speed limit change of posting on the Landsburg Rd. in Ravensdale. There recently has been a 45 mph speed limit sign posted on Landsburg Rd. We question this considering the history of the "Landsburg Curve," where there have been a number of accidents. The history of this stretch of road includes a death at the intersection of Summit Landsburg Rd. and Landsburg Rd. SE involving an auto entering the road from a private drive.

There was a nasty accident involving a family member of the GMVUAC in March, 2008. **The problem is limited sight distance** of less than 300 ft in either the north or south direction. In addition, the common speeds on this stretch of road usually **exceed** 50 mph. For the past six years this has been one of the primary routes of travel for truck and trailers delivering gravel to various jobs in the county.

There is an inconsistency in the legal speed limits from each direction. Approaching from the south the posted limit is 30 mph, from the north, 40 mph (see the attached pictures). This makes very little sense as the sight distance is the same in either direction. The King County Road Standards (KCRS) provide no justification for the posted speeds. KCRS Table 2.1 shows requirements of 430-ft sight distance at 30 mph (design speed of traffic) and 555-ft sight distance at 40 mph. Again, this driveway has less than 300 ft in either direction (see attached drawing of private drives). The new posted limit of 45 mph takes place going northerly for a period of 1,000 ft, then slowing down to navigate the 25 mph curve at Summit Rd. and Landsburg Rd. **This is reckless.**

Presciently, KCRS paragraph 2.13 (C.) states: *"where a significant number of trucks will be using the approach road, the Engineer may increase the entering-sight distance requirements by up to 30% for single trucks and 70% for semi-trailer combinations."* Clearly, the latter condition applies in this case.

We suggest the following: (1) Change the new sign from 45 mph down to **35 mph** and (2) Post the road with a warning of **"Intersecting Driveways"** or something similar--you will notice there already exists a posting warning of deer crossings and this is a known path for elk crossings as well.

This request is respectfully submitted by the Greater Maple Valley Area Council for the protection of our citizens. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve Hiester ([hies\\_skel@hotmail.com](mailto:hies_skel@hotmail.com))  
Chairman, Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council

cc: King County Executive Dow Constantine [Dow.Constantine@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Dow.Constantine@kingcounty.gov), King County Councilman Reagan Dunn [reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov](mailto:reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov), King County DOT Director Harold Taniguchi [Harold.taniguchi@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Harold.taniguchi@kingcounty.gov)