

My name is Page Sikes and I live in the blind curves of M22. I am here to ask your support for legislative initiatives to help reduce the speed and increase safety to our community.

Facts bearing on the problem:

1. Michigan State Police Traffic Crash Unit provided data from 2018 thru present on this strip of road. Of note there was one fatality in 2018. The most recent report 3/22-7/23 revealed 22 crashes (12 on strip, and 10 on Main St, M22 in Leland proper).
2. There are 6 streets, and 44 access points along this strip of highway, with only 17 of those on the water. With the exception of the Whaleback Inn, all are residential and all must cross M22 at 55 MPH speed to access their waterfronts, putting themselves and drivers at risk.

There is a primary source of Legislation that could resolve our problem:

1. **House Bill 4012 (2023)** : House Bill 4012 on 6/13/23 was "reported with recommendation without amendment, and referred for a second reading." Legislative analysis dated 6/14/23 states this bill would amend Michigan Vehicle Code to change procedures for setting certain speed limits on Michigan Highways. Although legislative analysis states Section 628 is the section that would be amended giving MDOT, and county and local authorities ability to modify general speed limits to account for local circumstances, and set lower than the current 85th percentile speed requirement; the body of the bill states the decision will rest with state transportation department and police for trunkline highways (language carried from section 628-M22 is a trunkline highway)
1. **Michigan Vehicle Code Act 300 of 1949; Section 257.627, Speed Limitation and Section 257.628, Speed Limit Determination:** Section 627 of the code establishes Michigan's basic speed laws which require drivers to keep to a speed that will allow their vehicle to stop safely under current road conditions, which the sharp blind curves do not allow.

Community Recommendations (From comments neighbors and concerned citizens)

1. Designate pedestrian/bike lane in shoulder of road, or make new lane along M22
2. Flashing yellow lights on the signs with the 35 MPH suggested speed thru curves
3. Rumble strips in shoulder like M204 (MDOT verified currently is process to change how these strips can be utilized)
4. Road Commission to continue trimming areas in ease way, ensure all signage is visible, undercut limbs obstructing vision, and ensure shrubbery kept low in easement areas particularly the curves
5. Pedestrian crossing mechanism, example Grandview Parkway where only operates when needed
6. Local residents risk accidents each time they enter or exit their driveways. Although mirrors help , a reduced speed and designating blind driveways would increase the safety for residents and oncoming drivers
7. Require public mail notices to lane closures or road work
8. Speed enforcement rigid, we realize limited workforce, but maybe cameras could capture and tickets be mailed (currently not legal in the state of MI)

In closing,

I am asking for a resolution to support House Bill 4012 with a clarification of two key points and a possible amendment

Key Points:

1. This particular strip of highway MUST have a safety and engineering study to validate hazardous situations to public safety not reflected in a speed study (keep language in bill 4012)

2. M22 is a trunk line, therefore speed modifications must be done by state police and transportation department

Clarification/Amendment: Allow local communities to partner with MDOT to set the speed limits on portions of a trunkline that is within their jurisdiction to account for local circumstances, and allow MDOT to conduct a speed study/safety study if MSP are unable to provide

Although MI State Police were neutral on this bill, will they provide the speed study needed to determine setting new speed when requested by the county along with the engineering study (previously denied when MDOT requested after Leland Township and Road Commission asked)

I will be available after the meeting if questions. Thank you for your time and interest in making our community a safer place. I will be followed by two other community members.