Memorandum Date: 6/9/2023

Order Date: 6/27/2023

TO:	Board of County Commissioners
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
PRESENTED BY:	Peggy Keppler, County Engineer, Shashi Bajracharya, Interim Traffic Engineer
AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	ORDER/ In the Matter of Establishing Temporary Speed Limit Reductions on Territorial Highway and Suttle Road During the Oregon Country Fair Event

I. MOTION

Move approval of the Board Order establishing temporary speed limit reductions on Territorial Hwy (MP 18.740 to MP 19.360) and Suttle Rd (MP 2.14 to MP 3.802) from 45 MPH to 25 MPH during the Oregon County Fair each event year.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Background Analysis

Lane County Traffic Operations has been reducing speed limit temporarily on Suttle Rd during the Oregon Country Fair (OCF) events in the past. Board Order 19-06-11-06 approved the creation of a temporary speed reduction on Suttle Rd from existing 45 MPH speed to 25 MPH during the OCF event. The Board is being asked to approve similar treatment for Territorial Hwy MP 18.740 to MP 19.360 in response to the recent expansion of the fairground activity limits. The Far Side Campground is adjacent to Territorial Hwy which also has a designated speed of 45 MPH.

The OCF event attracts thousands of visitors and they access the campground and the fairground using the County roads. Suttle Road serves as a primary travel path for attendees that are camping at nearby properties. Camping activities are common at properties along Suttle Rd. The roadway is partially posted for a speed limit of 45 MPH for segment MP 3.117 to MP 3.802; the remaining segment is operated under the statutory speed limit of 55 MPH. Many campers and local attendees walk and bike to the Oregon Country Fair.

The Far Side Campground is accessed using Territorial Hwy where pedestrians,

bicyclists, and driveway access activities are also anticipated to be high. Vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic are expected to be sharing the County facilities. The Territorial Hwy segment adjacent to the Far Side Campground is posted for a speed limit of 45 MPH from MP 18.740 to MP 19.360. This speed limit does not incorporate the slower moving pedestrian and bike traffic speed.

The existing speed limits are set by the Oregon Department of Transportation as per applicable Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 811.105 provisions. ORS 810.180(8) authorizes a road authority to establish a temporary designated speed for highways in its jurisdiction that is lower than the statutory speed. ORS 810.180(9) further grants authority to local road authority to establish an emergency speed on any highway under the jurisdiction of the road authority that is different from the existing speed on the highway. The Board is being asked to exercise the authority to lower the speed limits on the impacted segments of the County Roads for a limited duration as permitted by the ORS provisions for a limited duration of maximum 14 days when the Oregon Country Fair is actively permitted.

ORS 810.180(8) A road authority may establish by ordinance or order a temporary designated speed for highways in its jurisdiction that is lower than the statutory speed. A temporary designated speed may be established under this subsection if, in the judgment of the road authority, the temporary designated speed is necessary to protect any portion of the highway from being unduly damaged, or to protect the safety of the public and workers when temporary conditions such as construction or maintenance activities constitute a danger. The following apply to the authority granted under this subsection:

(a) Statutory speeds may be overridden by a temporary designated speed only:

***(A)** For a specific period of time for all vehicles; or*

***(B)** For a specified period of time for a specific kind or class of vehicle that is causing identified damage to highways.*

***(b)**This subsection may not be used to establish a permanent designated speed.*

***(c)**The authority granted by this subsection may be exercised only if the ordinance or order that imposes the temporary designated speed:*

***(A)**Specifies the hazard, damage or other condition requiring the temporary designated speed; and*

***(B)**Is effective only for a specified time that corresponds to the hazard, damage or other condition specified.*

(d) A temporary designated speed imposed under this subsection must be imposed by a proper written ordinance or order. A sign giving notice of the temporary designated speed must be posted at each end of the portion of highway where the temporary designated speed is imposed and at such other places on the highway as may be necessary to inform the public. The temporary designated speed shall be

effective when signs giving notice of the temporary designated speed are posted.

ORS 810.180(9) A road authority may establish an emergency speed on any highway under the jurisdiction of the road authority that is different from the existing speed on the highway. The authority granted under this subsection is subject to all of the following:

(a) A speed established under this subsection is effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are posted upon the highway or portion of highway where the emergency speed is imposed. All signs posted under this subsection must comply with ORS 810.200 (Uniform standards for traffic control devices).

(b) The expense of posting any sign under this subsection shall be borne by the road authority having jurisdiction over the highway or portion of highway where the emergency speed is imposed.

(c) A speed established under this subsection may be effective for not more than 120 days.

B. Health Implications

The proposed temporary reduction in speed limits pertain to the health and safety of the general public attending OCF. A significant number of attendees are expected to arrive 2-3 days prior to the start of the fair staying in the temporary campground set up specifically for the fair. Pedestrian walking speed is significantly slower than the existing designated vehicular speed limits. In high speed environment frequency of crash and personal injuries with bicyclists and pedestrians are typically high; it is imperative that vehicular speed limit is reduced to serve multimodal transportation users during the fair.

The high pedestrian and vehicular traffic volumes impacts the roadside environment adversely affecting the attendees' health and wellbeing. Dust and noise issues are associated with speed in high traffic activity area can also be minimized by lowering the speed in the high activity areas.

In summary, a temporary lower speed limit of 25 MPH helps protect the health, safety, and environment while providing transportation alternatives for the attendees in and around the Oregon County Fairground and Campground.

III. RECOMMENDATION

Lane County Traffic Engineer is recommending establishment of designated speed limit of 25 MPH for the impacted sections of Territorial Hwy and Suttle Rd segments that are adjacent to the event site that have designated speed limit of 45 MPH or statutory speed limit each year the OCF is permitted. Approval of the proposed Board Order will enable the Lane County Traffic Engineer to implement the temporary speed reduction during the

Oregon Country Fair event annually.

Alternatives/Options

1. Approve the Board Order as presented
2. Modify the Board Order as desired by the Board
3. Do not approve the Board Order

IV. ATTACHMENTS

(1) Board Order
(2) Map showing Fairground and Camp Ground limits
(3) Existing designated speed limits

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 23-06-27-06	In the Matter of ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY SPEED LIMIT REDUCTIONS ON TERRITORIAL HIGHWAY AND SUTTLE ROAD DURING THE OREGON COUNTRY FAIR EVENT

WHEREAS, the Oregon Country Fair is held annually in July and the fairground and campgrounds are adjacent to Lane County maintained and operated roadways Territorial Highway (from MP 18.740 to 19.360) and Suttle Road (from MP 3.117 to MP 3.802) have a designated speed of 45 MPH established under the provisions of ORS 810.180 and OAR 734-020-0010; **and**

WHEREAS, Suttle Road (from MP 2.117 to MP 3.117) is not posted with a speed limit and is operated under the statutory speed limit of 55 MPH under the provisions of ORS 811.111; **and**

WHEREAS, the fair events attract significant pedestrian and bicycle activities on Territorial Highway and Suttle Road and pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic share the roadways that it presents a temporary traffic hazard to the public attending the annual Oregon Country Fair event; **and**

WHEREAS, a road authority may establish a temporary speed limit or an emergency speed on any roadway under the jurisdiction of the authority that is different from existing speed on the roadway under the provisions of ORS 810.180 (8) and (9); **and**

WHEREAS, the Lane County Traffic Engineer has determined that the speed designated for Territorial Highway and Suttle Road at this location for the regular traffic operations in accordance with ORS 810.180 and ORS 811.111 are excessive for the anticipated pedestrian activities during the fair event and a temporary emergency speed reduction is desirable to lessen the risk to the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. **That** Territorial Highway from MP 18.710 to MP 19.360 be temporarily reduced to 25 Mile Per Hour during the annual Oregon Country Fair events; **and**

2. **That** Suttle Road from MP 2.117 to MP 3.802 be temporarily reduced to 25 Mile Per Hour during the annual Oregon Country Fair events*;* **and**

3. **That** temporary reduced speed limit is effective only for a duration seven days prior and three days after the Oregon Country Fair in each event year in July; **and**

4. **That** the Lane County Traffic Engineer documents emergency speed operations with proper signage and notifications and reporting to the Oregon Department of Transportation.

ADOPTED this 27th day of June, 2023.

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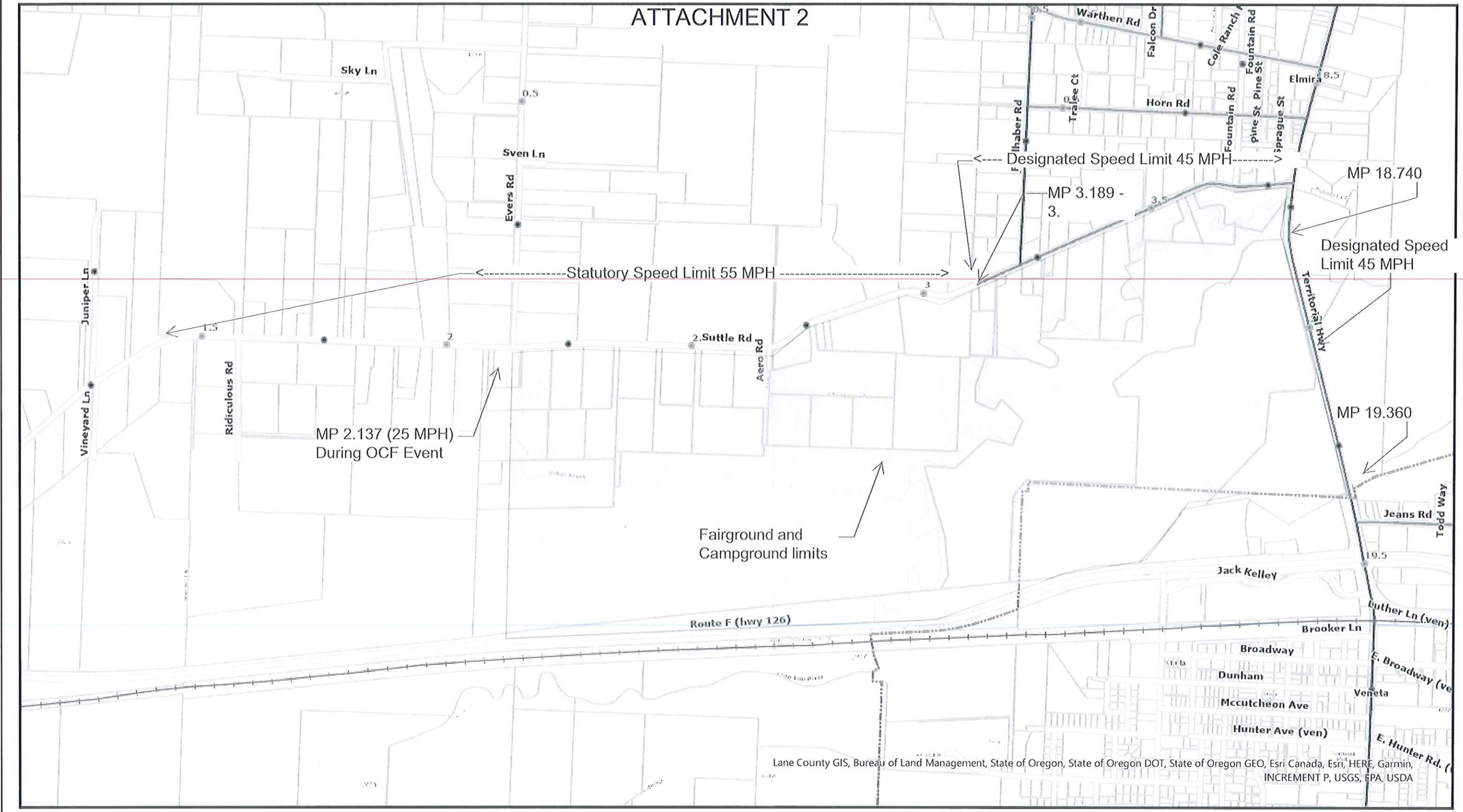
Pat Farr, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

ATTACHMENT 2



The information on this map was derived from digital databases on the Lane County regional geographic information system. Care was taken in the creation of this map, but is provided "as is". Lane County cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions or positional accuracy in the digital data or the underlying records. Current plan designation, zoning, etc., for specific parcels should be confirmed with the appropriate agency. There are no warranties, expressed or implied, accompanying this product. However, notification of any errors will be appreciated.

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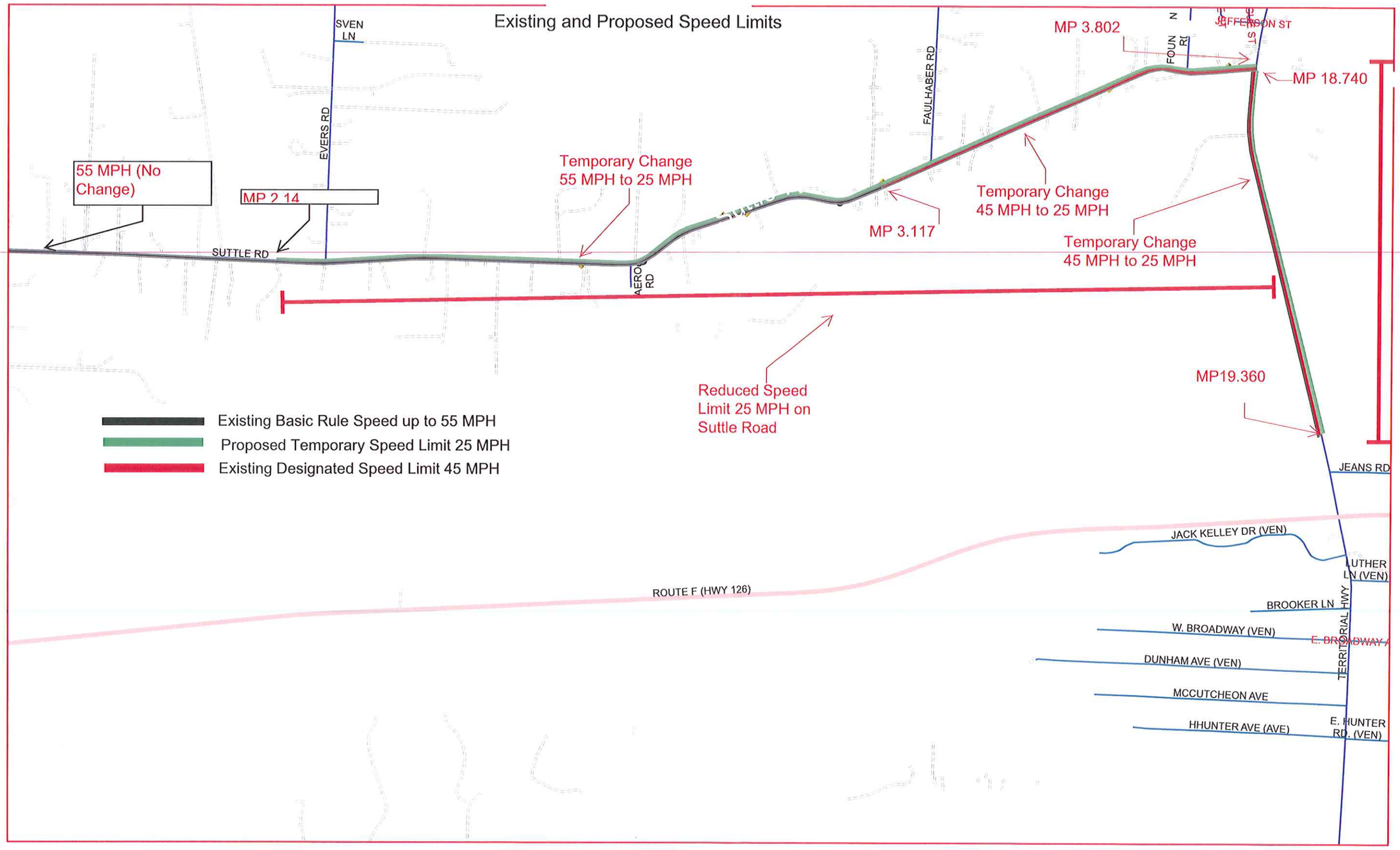
0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Lane County Transportation Map

Lane County, Oregon

EXISTING DESIGNATED SPEED LIMITS

Attachment 3