

City of West Lafayette

Northwestern Heights
Speed Report

Purpose of Study:

A concerned citizen in the Northwestern Heights neighborhood contacted the City with regards to the speed of the traffic in the neighborhood. This concern was passed along to the Engineering Department to investigate.

Speed Study:

The Engineering Department placed traffic counters on various road segments in the Northwestern Heights neighborhood to track vehicle speeds. The result of the speed studies are shown in the table below.

Speed Data Table:

Northwestern Heights Locations (see Page 3 of 5)	85 th Percentile Speed	Average Speed
A Summit Drive North of Oakhurst Drive	26	17
B Summit Drive North of Garden Street	25	17
C Hillcrest Road West of Summit Drive	26	18
D Hillcrest Road East of Edgemont Street	26	17

85th Percentile Speed is the speed that 85 percent of vehicles do not exceed. The 85th percentile is commonly used by Federal, State, and Local traffic officials to set speed limits. Besides using the 85th Percentile Speed to set the speed limit consideration needs to be taken regarding road design, roadside development, crashes and other factors when determining a speed limit.

History: Northwestern Heights is a well-established, quiet, residential neighborhood. Some of the streets in the neighborhood have been repaved over the summer of 2014. There are no sidewalks along the streets throughout the neighborhood.

Accident Reports: APC provided a brief summary of the crashes in the Northwestern Heights neighborhood from 2009 to 2013. Based off a review of the Corridor Crash Primary Factors, speed alone was not a primary factor.

Observations:

Besides vehicular traffic that use the street, joggers, cyclists and pedestrians use the street as well. Due to the fact that there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood, residents use the streets when walking, biking, etc. Although there are stop and yield signs there are no posted speed limits in the neighborhood.

Posted Speed Limits:

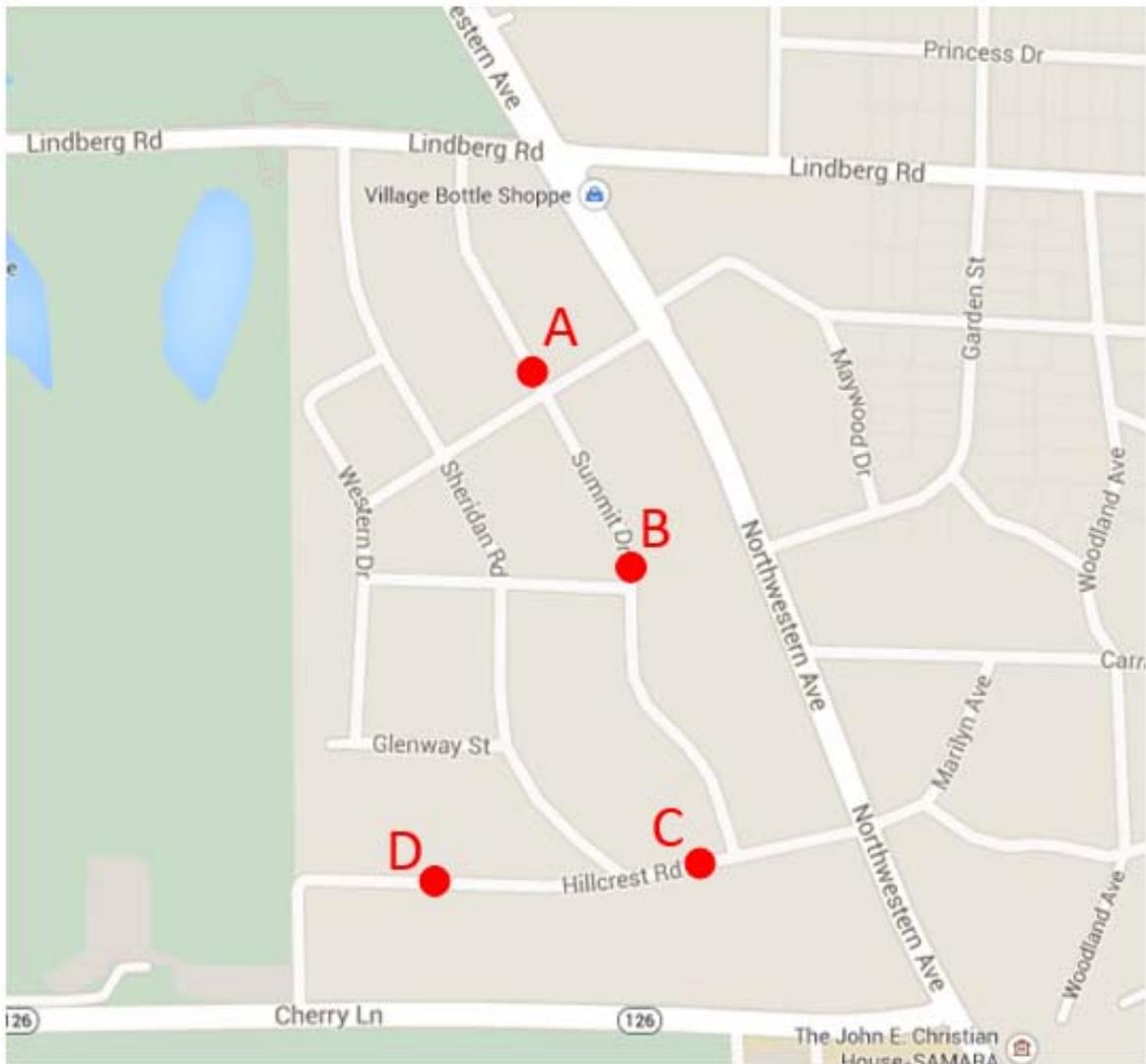
Northwestern Heights (entrance roads)	Existing Speed Limit (MPH)	Proposed Speed Limit (MPH)
Hillcrest Road	none	25
Summit Drive	none	25
Sheridan Road	none	25
Oakhurst Drive	none	25
Edgemont Street	none	25

*see page 4 and 5 for existing and proposed signage respectively

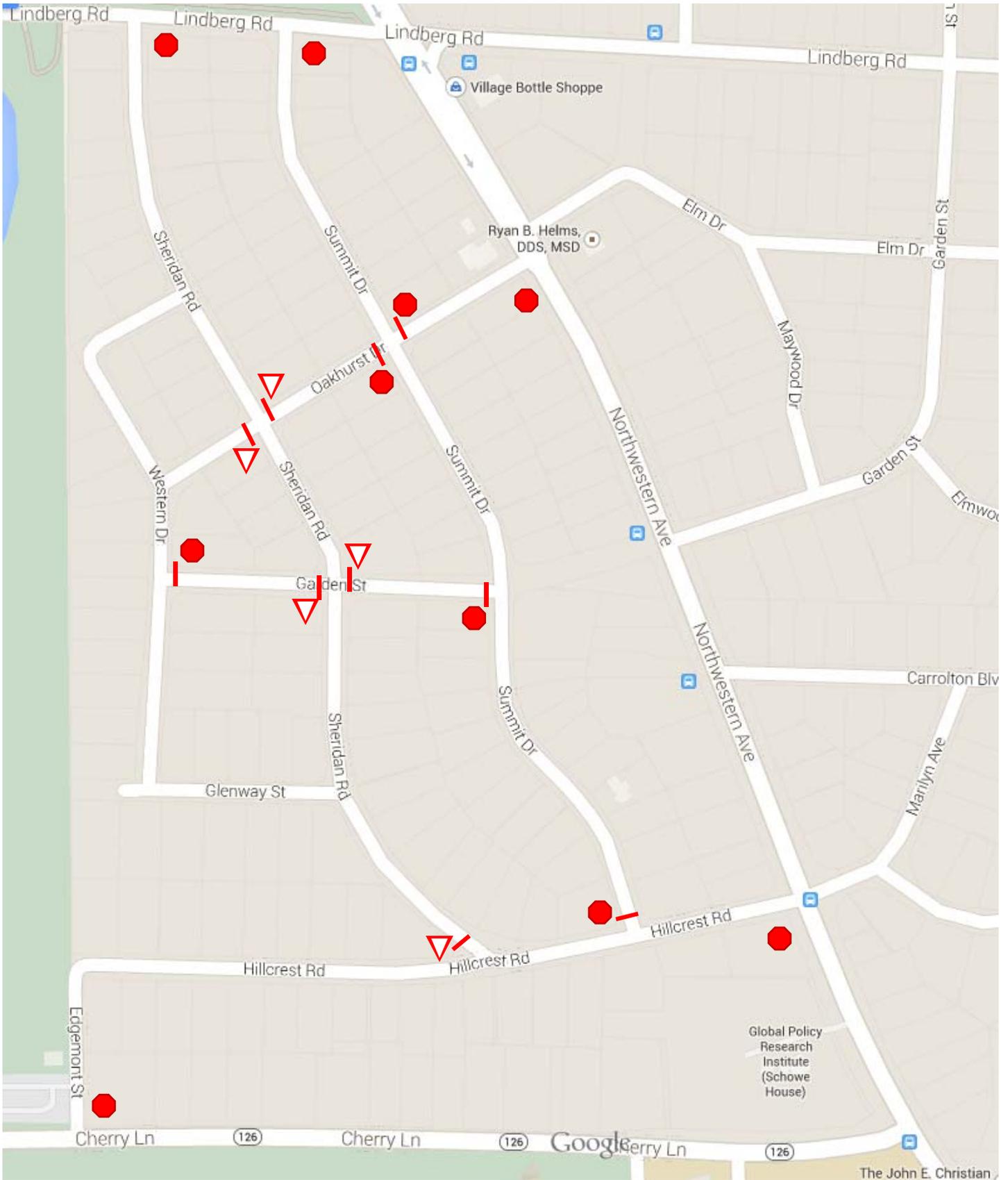
Recommendation:

Based on the 85th Percentile speeds and taking into consideration the other factors such as joggers, cyclists, and the resurfacing of many of the main roads in the neighborhood, the engineering staff is recommending that speed limits be posted in the neighborhood so that they can be better enforced.

Speed Count Locations

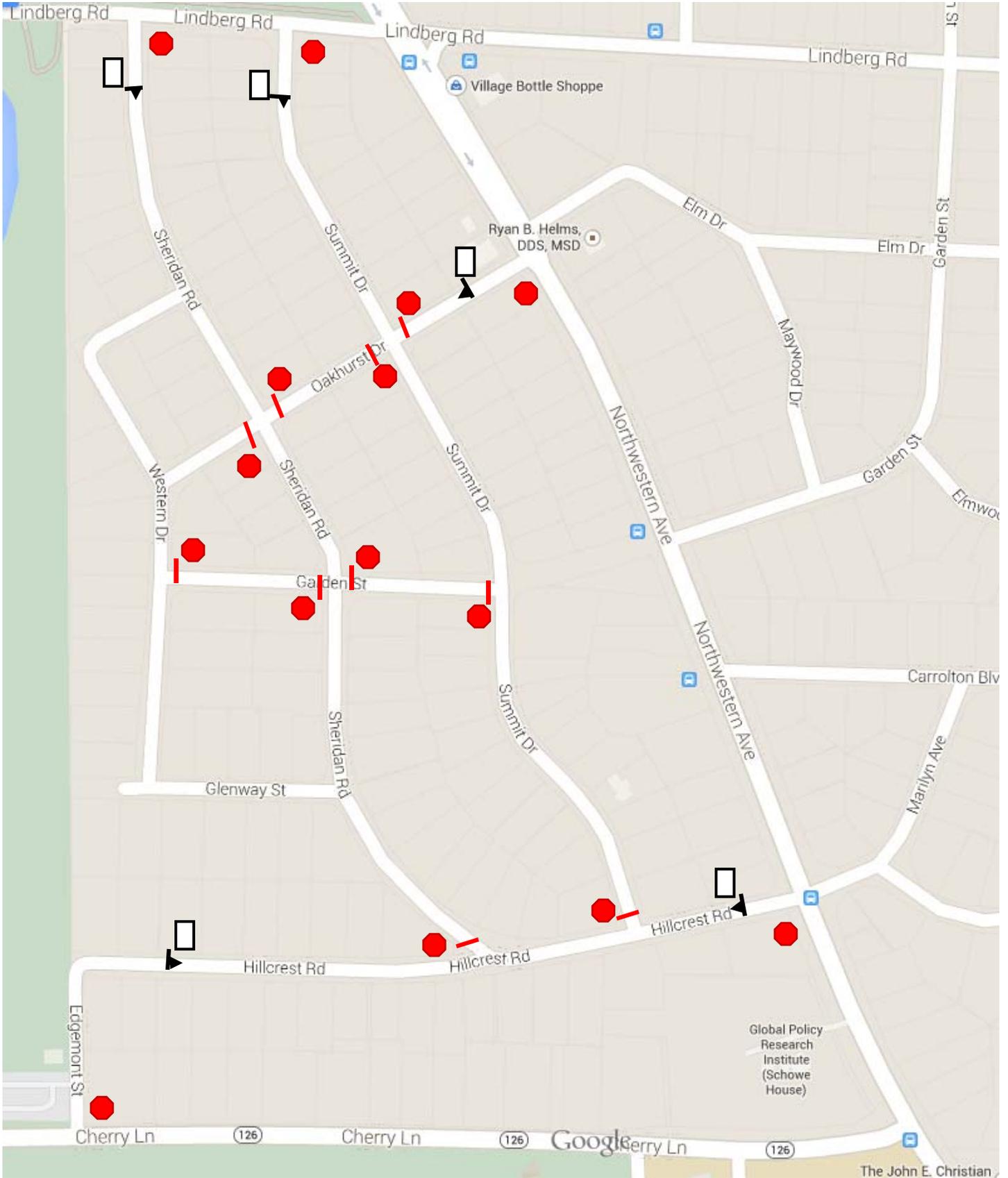


Existing Signs



Legend	- Stop	- Yield	No speed limit signs posted in neighborhood.
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Proposed Signs



Legend	- Stop	- Yield	- Speed limit (see Exhibit A)
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Exhibit A



To help enforce the speed limit throughout the neighborhood, it was determined to place the above sign at the entrances to the Northwestern Heights neighborhood. This is a combination of a 25 mph speed limit sign (R2-1) and a neighborhood plaque (R2-5bP) mounted above the speed limit sign.