



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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JOHN J. WILLIAMS
BOROUGH MAYOR

TO: Grace Merkes, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Ron Long, Assembly Member

DATE: February 28, 2008

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2008-06, Nonstandard Speed Limit Signs

KPB 12.02.020 provides a mechanism for residents to request a nonstandard speed limit sign from the RSA board. KPB 12.02.020(B) requires a request to be signed by at least 70 percent of property owners adjacent to the road for which the request is made. Under state law the RSA cannot post a nonstandard speed limit sign unless the deviation from standard limits is supported by an engineering and traffic investigation. These investigations can be expensive, and the RSA board has rarely if ever approved of committing RSA resources to the same. KPB 12.02.020 is potentially misleading to the public as it does not reference the need for an engineering and traffic investigation, and residents' expectations are not met when they present a request signed by at least 70 percent of adjacent landowners to the RSA board, and then a nonstandard sign is not placed on the street.

Additionally, allowing various neighborhoods to have nonstandard speed limits can lead to a confusing nonuniform network of local speed restrictions that has the potential to be difficult to enforce and easy to inadvertently disobey. If a truly unique situation is present on an individual road that warrants a nonstandard speed, the residents can still obtain the help of the RSA by working with the RSA director informally to bring the matter to the attention of the RSA board where a decision can be made to commission a traffic and engineering investigation. For the above-described reasons, it is recommended that KPB 12.02.020(B) be removed from borough code along with a reference to that section in KPB 12.02.020(A).