

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A TRAFFIC ORDINANCE FIXING THE MAXIMUM SPEED AT WHICH VEHICLES MAY BE OPERATED OVER CERTAIN ROADS IN LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON: DEFINING OFFENSES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF

RESOLUTION NO. 26-065

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to RCW 46.61.415, local authorities are authorized to determine the maximum speeds permitted on roadways based on an engineering and traffic investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, an engineering and traffic investigation that recommends adjusting the maximum speed limit of the following road has been prepared:

- 30 MPH, 24034 – Bunker Creek Road

**WHEREAS**, the engineering and traffic investigation, all related materials, and a proposed Traffic Ordinance have been reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and found appropriate for further proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, written comment may be submitted in person at the BOCC, 351 NW North Street, Room 210, Chehalis, WA 98532 or via email at [bocc@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:bocc@lewiscountywa.gov) beginning at 10:00 a.m. on March 3, 2026. Written comment must be clearly marked “Written comment for March 17, 2026 hearing” and must be received by 10 a.m. March 13, 2026.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 17th day of March, at or after the hour of 10 a.m., in the Commissioners' Hearing Room on the 2nd floor of the Historic Courthouse in Chehalis, Washington has been fixed by the BOCC as the time and place for the hearing on the proposed Traffic Ordinance, when and where all persons may appear and be heard, either for or against adoption of the proposed Traffic Ordinance; and that the Clerk of the Board is hereby instructed to proceed with all necessary notifications, posting and publication.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION this 3rd day of March, 2026.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Jonathan Meyer, Prosecuting Attorney

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

David Bailey  
By: David Bailey,  
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM  
Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Chair

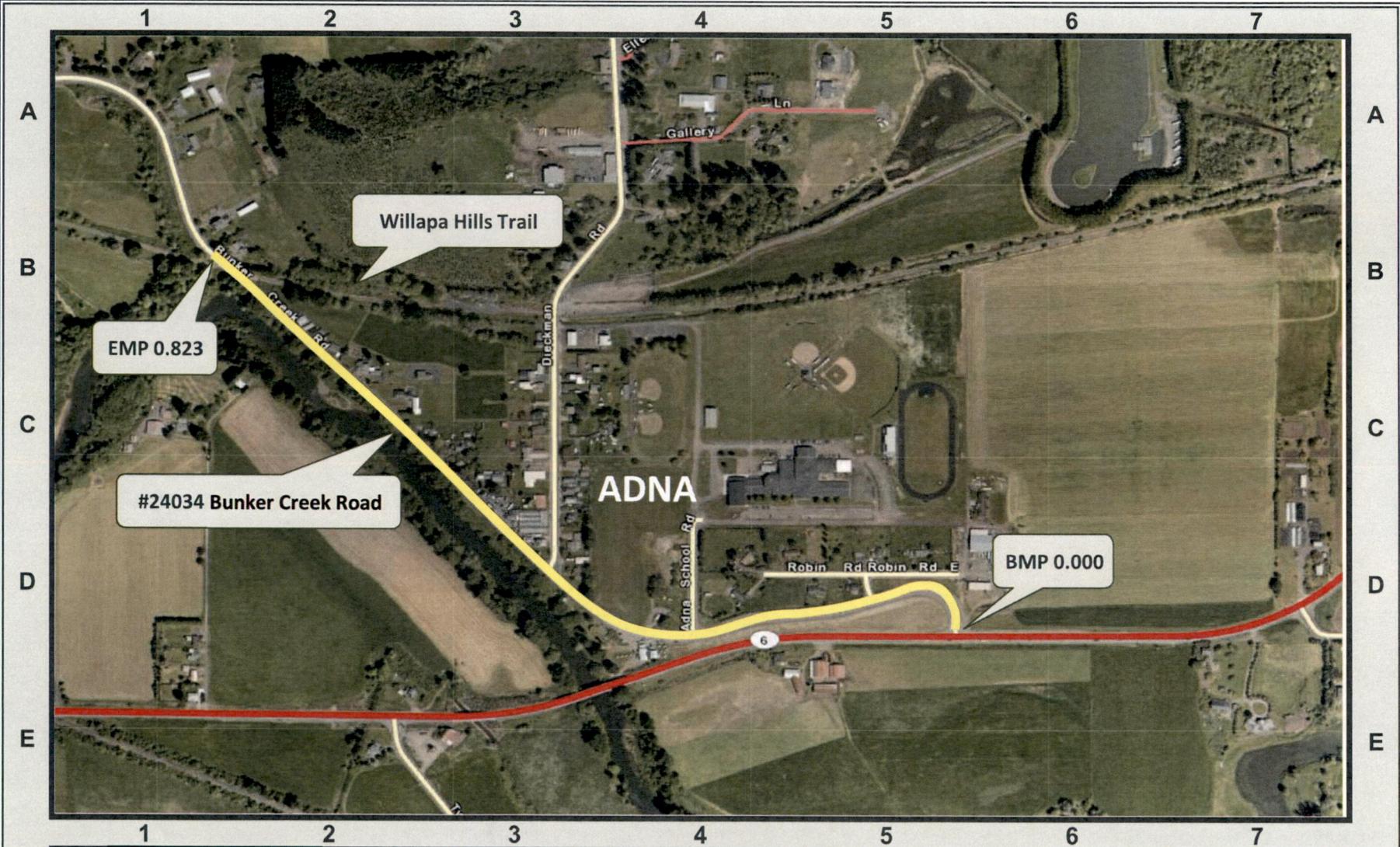
ATTEST:



Scott J. Brummer  
Scott J. Brummer, Vice Chair

Rieva Lester, CMC  
Rieva Lester, CMC,  
Clerk of the Lewis County Board of  
County Commissioners

Sean D. Swope  
Sean D. Swope, Commissioner



Vicinity Map  
 Lewis County, Washington  
 24034 - Bunker Creek Road  
 BMP 0.000 - EMP 0.823

**PROPOSED - TRAFFIC ORDINANCE NO. 225**

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE MAXIMUM SPEED AT WHICH VEHICLES MAY BE OPERATED OVER CERTAIN ROADS IN LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON: DEFINING OFFENSES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS THEREOF

**WHEREAS**, RCW 46.61.415 authorizes local authorities to determine the maximum speeds permitted on roadways based on an engineering and traffic investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, an engineering and traffic investigation of the following road has been prepared and the report thereon attached; and

**WHEREAS**, after consideration of the engineering and traffic investigation report and all other facts pertinent to this proposed traffic ordinance,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED:**

SECTION 1: The Bunker Creek Road portion of Traffic Ordinance No. 94 dated December 11, 1980, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 2: No person shall operate any vehicle over the following county road at a speed in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour:

Bunker Creek Road, No. 24034 – The portion of road from its intersection with SR-6 at milepost 0.000 to the Willapa Hills Trail at milepost 0.823, for a distance of 0.823 miles, or hereafter established. In Section 9, Township 13N, and Range 03W.

SECTION 3: The County Engineer is hereby directed to erect and maintain all necessary maximum speed limit signs on the above roads and upon erection of such signs, the provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective and shall remain in full force until such time as may be ordered by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

SECTION 4: Violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall be a traffic infraction and shall be subject to assessment of the monetary penalty set by RCW 46.63.110 – Monetary Penalties and Infraction Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (IRLJ) 6.2 – Monetary Penalty Schedule for Infractions, now or as hereafter amended.

This Ordinance will not be codified in the Lewis County Codes, but will remain on file with the Clerk of the BOCC.

# NOTICE OF HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Lewis County, Washington, proposes to adjust the maximum speed limit on the following road in Lewis County: 30 MPH – Bunker Creek Road from milepost 0.000 to 0.823

An Engineer’s Report has been prepared, and all related materials have been reviewed by the BOCC and found appropriate for further proceedings. A hearing on reducing maximum speed limits on certain roads in Lewis County will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at or after 10:00 a.m. at the Lewis County Historic Courthouse, County Commissioners Hearing Room, 351 NW North Street, Chehalis, Washington, at which time and place any person may appear to be heard, either for or against the adoption of the proposed traffic ordinance. Written comment may be submitted in person at the BOCC, 351 NW North Street, Room 210, Chehalis, WA 98532 or via email at [bocc@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:bocc@lewiscountywa.gov) beginning March 3, 2026. Written comment must be clearly marked “Written comment for March 17, 2026 hearing” and must be received by 10 a.m. March 13, 2026. A copy of proposed Ordinance 225 is available for inspection with the Clerk of the Board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Historic Courthouse in Chehalis, WA.

## Title VI Notice to Public

It is the policy of Lewis County that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its Federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protections have been violated may file a complaint with WSDOT’s Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our nondiscrimination obligations, please contact Lewis County’s Title VI Coordinator at 360-740-2612.

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DATED March 3, 2026

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Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Lewis County  
Board of County Commissioners

Publish: The Chronicle, March 5, 2026  
Lewis County Web Site: <http://lewiscountywa.gov/>



## LEWIS COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION REPORT

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**IN THE MATTER OF:** Evaluation of the existing speed limit on a portion of Bunker Creek Road, from Hwy-6 @ milepost 0.000 to the Willapa Hills Trail crossing @ milepost 0.823.

**REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:** Initiated by Public Works and a request from the Lewis County Sheriff.

**COUNTY ROAD:** 24034 – Bunker Creek Road

**TO:** BOCC and file

**FINDINGS:**

- a.) **Current Speed Limit:** 20 mph  
**85% Prevailing Vehicle Speed:** 26.8 mph @ 0.400, 33.2 mph @ 0.602  
**Average Daily Traffic:** 2,017 @ 0.400, 1,299 @ 0.602  
**Truck Percentage:** 25.2%
- b.) **Physical Features:** Bunker Creek Road is a Rural Minor Collector and the roadway has a width that varies between 29 and 56 feet, with a majority being 29 feet wide. The roadway is flat over the entire length, and has one minor horizontal curve near Adna Grocery and a horizontal turn where it intersects Hwy-6. The road is bordered by the unincorporated town of Adna to the north and east, and primarily by the Chehalis River to the south and west. Other than the Adna Grocery, there are no structures adjacent to the south and west of the roadway.
- c.) **Accidents/Characteristics:** The accident history shows that there was a property damage accident in 2023 and an injury accident in 2021 that were reported in the past five years within the study area of Bunker Creek Road.
- d.) **Remarks/Recommendations:** The current speed limit of 20 mph was established by Ordinance 94 in December of 1980. Currently, a speed limit of 20 mph would only be considered for a school zone and only during school hours in accordance with RCW 46.61.440.

Unrealistically low speed limits give those that live along the route the expectation that it will cause drivers to slow down and reduce accidents. Research conducted



throughout the country shows this to be untrue. The research shows that a driver's speed is influenced by the type of road and the current traffic condition, and not the posted speed limit. If an unreasonably low speed limit is posted, most drivers will ignore the signs, and some will try to stay within the posted speed limit. This causes real safety concerns because of the difference between faster and slower drivers. An unrealistically low speed limit also has the adverse effects of making violators out of reasonable and otherwise law-abiding citizens, and creates a difficult situation for law enforcement in controlling the speed limit and issuing citations that may not be upheld in court.

Lewis County uses an engineering approach to setting speed limits, and the Operating Speed Method is a nationally accepted method within the traffic engineering community and Federal Highway Administration. Speed limit setting is primarily based on the 85th percentile speed, which is the speed at which 85 percent of free-flowing traffic is traveling at or below. Setting a speed limit based on the 85th percentile speed is based on safety, and research has shown that traveling at or around the 85th percentile speed yields the lowest crash risk for drivers. The 85th percentile speed method is also attractive because it reflects the collective judgment of the vast majority of drivers as to a reasonable speed for given traffic and roadway conditions.

Based on this traffic investigation, accepted engineering practices, and all roadway factors considered; the recommended speed limit for this segment of Bunker Creek Road would be 30 mph

e.) **Attachments:** vicinity map

**Recommended by:**

Mike Kroll  
Transportation Planner

2/17/26

Date

**Approved by:**

Wes Anderson, P.E.  
County Engineer

2/17/26

Date

# BOCC AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

**Resolution:**

**BOCC Meeting Date:** March 3, 2026

**Suggested Wording for Agenda Item:**

**Agenda Type:** Legal Notice

Notice of Public Hearing for a Traffic Ordinance fixing the maximum speed at which vehicles may be operated over certain roads in Lewis County, Washington: defining offenses, and providing penalties for the violation thereof

**Contact:** Geoff Soderquist

**Phone:** 2711

**Department:** PW - Public Works

## Description:

This resolution is to give notice of a Public Hearing on Traffic Ordinance #225, adjusting the maximum speed limit on the following county road: 24034 - Bunker Creek Road.

Written comment may be submitted in person at the BOCC, 351 NW North Street, Room 210, Chehalis, WA 98532 or via email at [bocc@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:bocc@lewiscountywa.gov) beginning March 3, 2026. Written comment must be clearly marked "Written comment for March 17, 2026 hearing" and must be received by 10 a.m. March 13, 2026.

## Approvals:

User	Status
PA's Office	Pending

## Publication Requirements:

### Publications:

The Chronicle on March 5th

## Additional Copies:

Mike Kroll - PW, Geoff Soderquist - PW, Wes Anderson - PW, Vince Hall - PW, Zelma Hammer - PW

## Cover Letter To: