

Nev. transportation director against raising speed limit

By Richard N. Velotta, Las Vegas Review-Journal

You won't see members of the state Transportation Department's board of directors backing a bill to increase the speed limit on rural Nevada interstate highways to 85 mph.

Fearing that encouraging a study of where higher speed limits would be feasible sends the wrong message about safe driving, the department's director will lobby against Senate Bill 2, a measure introduced by state Sen. Don Gustavson, R-Sparks. The proposal would allow speed limits to be increased on portions of interstate highways from 75 mph.

Department director Rudy Malfabon told members of the state board on Monday that he was planning to address the Board of Examiners this week for funding to study which sections of highways would be best suited for higher speed limits.

But board members said they prefer Malfabon not conduct a study because that would leave the impression the board is considering or supports increasing the speed limit.

While the matter was not on Monday's Transportation Board agenda, individual members weighed in, most of them opposed to an increase.

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