

BEATLINE ROAD

TRAFFIC SAFETY OPERATIONS STUDY

September 2009

Final Report



Gulf Regional
Planning Commission

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INTRODUCTION

ABMB Engineers, Inc. was retained by the Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC) to perform a *Traffic Safety Operations Study* at two critical intersections; regarding Beatline Road @ Red Creek Rd. and Beatline Rd. @ 28th St., in Harrison County. The purpose of this study is to develop recommendations to improve intersection operations and increase safety at the two study intersections through the implementation of short term and/or long term improvements. Quantitative and qualitative performance measures were used to evaluate and compare the impacts of each of the proposed improvement alternatives.

SPOT SPEED STUDY

A spot speed study was conducted using radar to obtain an accurate distribution of speeds through the study area. Vehicle spot speed data was collected at a central location along Beatline Rd. between Red Creek Rd. and 28th St. for both northbound and southbound traffic on Tuesday September 15, 2009 from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM using a handheld directional radar gun. The posted speed limit on Beatline Rd. is currently 40 mph.

The spot speed study results show the 50th percentile or median speed along Beatline Rd. between Red Creek Rd. and 28th St. is 41.6 mph and the 85th percentile speed is 46.1 mph. The pace speed was determined to be between 38 mph and 47 mph. At least 35 % of the vehicles tested were in compliance with the posted speed limit. To increase the number of vehicles traveling at the posted speed limit, strict enforcement of the posted speed limit is recommended. A sample size of 123 random vehicles was recorded. Complete results from the spot speed study are provided in **Appendix A**. **Figure 1** shows the distribution of vehicle speeds recorded during the spot speed study.

Figure 1
Spot Speed Distribution

