



RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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In August of 2019 Rye police department launched a driver compliance plan for all roads in Rye as a result of Rye citizens' complaints to the Rye Select Board. The police command staff started around Central Road neighborhood.

Central Road Characteristics: Central Road is posted in the Rye Beach precinct 30 MPH.

N.H. RSA 265:60 Rules of the road, "Where no hazard exists that requires lower speed for compliance with RSA 265:60, I, the speed of any vehicle not in excess of the limit specified in this section or established as hereinafter authorized shall be prima facie lawful, but any speed in excess of the limit specified in this section or established as hereinafter authorized shall be prima facie evidence that the speed is not reasonable or prudent and that it is unlawful:

(b) 30 miles per hour in any business or urban residence district as defined in RSA 259:118;

An additional guide used is the 85th percentile speed of vehicles. The 85th percentile speed is the pace adopted by reasonable people, according to road environment. Most drivers are prudent while reaching their destination as consistent as possible. The 85th percentile or "operating speed" can be seen as the safe speed for traveling a certain location.

- Pavement: Central Road is a paved striped two lanes that runs from Washington Road, center of town to Ocean Blvd. Central Road is approximately 3.1 miles long with some curves and hills.
- Sidewalks along Central Road: Central at Cable Road one side curves onto Cable Road. Across from Perkins Road, one side to South Road except between 2 houses, 785 and 799 Central Road no side walk. Corner of Sea Road to Ocean Blvd.
- Activity: Pedestrians, bicyclists, parking, vehicles traveling along roadway.
- Signage: How many signs are posted for speed limit, reduce speed limit signs, or curve ahead signs, (8 speed limit signs, 24 various other roads signs giving information to public). All have been replaced.
- Sight: What are the distances for curves and hills. Signs are in place. (Example reduce speed limit warning signs).
- Structure Types: Private, country club, private businesses, church, government buildings. Two post offices, Saint Theresa Church, Abeniqui Country Club, Consolidated Communications, Rye Cemetery.
- Intersections: Approximately 11, Meadow Lane, Rye Cemetery, Locke Road, Cable Road, Love Lane, McLaughlin, Perkins Road, Red Mill Lane, Sea Road, South Road, Cause Way.

Rye police use the Jamar traffic counter to collect accurate speed data before and after enforcement of unreasonable speed of vehicles. The software also generates reports to help determine when and where

enforcement efforts are most needed. The data gives statistics what is the safe operating speed for traveling at the location, the 85th percentile.

- Traffic Counter statistics: at 650 central Road 08/13/2020 to 08/20/2020 8 days, 9,403 vehicles, average speed 33 MPH, 85th percentile speed 30 MPH.
- Traffic Counter statistics: at 650 Central Road 07/28/2021 to 08/15/2021 19 days, 33,789 vehicles, average speed 32 MPH, 85th percentile 30 MPH.
- 2018 accident reports for Central Road: 9 reported, Description of crashes, Vehicle vs mail box, slippery roads, vehicle backing out of parking space, vehicle vs deer. No serious bodily injury crashes. No serious bodily injury accidents.
- 2019 accident reports for Central Road: 9 reported, description of crashes, 3 vehicle vs deer, vehicle slid on snow covered road surface, vehicle vs pole, no injury, vehicle vs stone wall minor damage to vehicle, vehicle vs vehicle, minor damage no injury. No serious bodily injury accidents.
- 2020 accident reports for Central Road: 5 reported, description of crashes, non-reportable vehicle slid off roadway, vehicle colliding with stonewall, vehicle vs deer, 2 vehicles at intersection no personal injury. No serious bodily injury accidents.
- 2021 accident reports for Central Road: 6 reported, description of crashes, Amazon delivery truck collided with stonewall, vehicle vs vehicle under \$1,000.00 worth damage, vehicle vs fire hydrant, 2 vehicle vs deer, vehicle vs pole no injuries, over \$1,000.00 damage. No serious bodily injury accidents.
- 2022 accident reports for Central Road: 6 reported, description of crashes, vehicle vs pole DWI arrest, 3 vehicles vs deer, vehicle vs vehicle no injury, Vehicle vs vehicle rolled back into vehicle at stop sign.

Accident reports for the entire Town of Rye filed with the Department of Motor Vehicles, accident reports reported to be over \$1,000.00 worth of damage. It has been more than 5 years since Rye had a fatal accident.

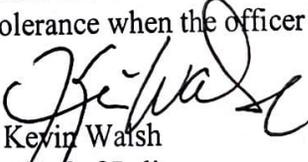
- Year 2018 – 104
- Year 2019 – 83
- Year 2020 – 76
- Year 2021 – 75
- Year 2022 – 67

The police officers continue to review the driver compliance plan on every road in Rye.

Education: Research to identify and clearly understand how, when, and where to reach and target high-risk drivers. Enforce with media campaign and N.H. Highway Safety-the goal is to deter poor motorist/driving behavior. Communicating with Hampton Police, Newington Police when different car clubs are at Hampton Beach and Newington Fox Run Mall, social media posts by car clubs, closing time of Hampton Beach parking areas, 10:00 PM understanding the cars may travel north towards Rye along Ocean Blvd or side roads.

Enforcement: Public education campaign that fosters public support with the goal to increase voluntary compliance. In 2019 community letter sent to Rye residence. In 2023 letter sent to Abeniqui Country Club. Influence driver behavior. Use statistic data, accident reports and Jamar Traffic Counter data. Enforcement and sanctions (tickets) for those who do not comply. Changing officer tolerance when the officer stops a vehicle for a violation.

Cc: Rye Select Board
Town Administrator Matt Scruton
Assistant Town Administrator Becky Bergeron
Rye Highway Director Jason Rucker


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