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Higher speed limits for roads in north-east

Caps raised to 60kmh or 70kmh for some stretches in latest review

By Alfred Siew

FROM Thursday, motorists travelling to Hougang, Sengkang and other areas in the north-east can go as fast as 70kmh on specified road sections.

This is the new speed limit on, among others, stretches of Bartley Road, Buangkok Drive and Hougang Avenue 3.

The top limit on several well-used roads has also been raised to 60kmh. They include Ang Mo Kio Ave 3, Buangkok Green and Hougang Ave 2. Similar leeway is given to Bishan Road, Sengkang East Road and Ubi Ave 2.

In all, 27 road sections have had their speed limits raised from 50kmh, said a statement from the [Traffic Police](#) and Land Transport Authority (LTA) yesterday. A full list of the roads affected is available at the LTA [website](#).

The changes are part of an ongoing review of speed limits by the Traffic Police and LTA. More are expected in other areas this year.

On June 1, the speed limits were raised at 16 stretches of roads in Woodlands, Sembawang and Yishun.

Speed limits are reviewed when there are changes in road network and traffic pattern, said the statement.

In making the changes, the authorities take into account changes in land use and traffic patterns brought about by developments such as the North-East MRT line and the Sengkang and Punggol new towns.

Motorists who live in the north-east, such as Mr Chia Min Chong, welcomed the higher speed limits.

Said the 30-year-old accountant who lives in Sengkang and travels on Ang Mo Kio Ave 5 to work in Orchard Road: 'Sometimes, cars are travelling at a snail's pace on an empty and straight road.'

The changes will not endanger pedestrians, he said, as long as motorists drive carefully.

MP for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC, Mr Charles Chong, is in favour of higher limits as he considers the current ones too low to be convenient.

'And those who are booked for driving at speeds above the authorised limits do not make for happy residents,' he said.

An LTA spokesman said recent advances in technology have improved the safety features of vehicles

and roads. Also, feedback from the public indicates that the speed limits on certain roads are too slow, she added.

The president of the Automobile Association of Singapore, Mr Gerard Ee, said speeds should not be 'artificially capped' at 50kmh if roads were broad enough to cope with the traffic.

'It's not just speeding but irresponsible driving that gets people into accidents,' he said, while noting that many accidents were the result of motorists travelling at excessive speed.

MP Ong Kian Min, who chairs the Government Parliamentary Committee on Transport, said he expects most motorists to drive sensibly despite the increased speed limits.

'If there's a five-lane road and you travel at 70kmh, it's still pretty safe,' he said.

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