



Nags Head Police Department

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J. Phillip Webster
Chief of Police

Perry L. Hale
Deputy Chief of Police

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cliff Ogburn

FROM: Phil Webster

DATE: February 28, 2020

RE: South Nags Head Speed Zone

South Nags Head is navigated by State Rd 1243 also known as Old Oregon Inlet Road. This stretch of roadway begins at Whalebone Junction and runs south for approximately 5 miles.

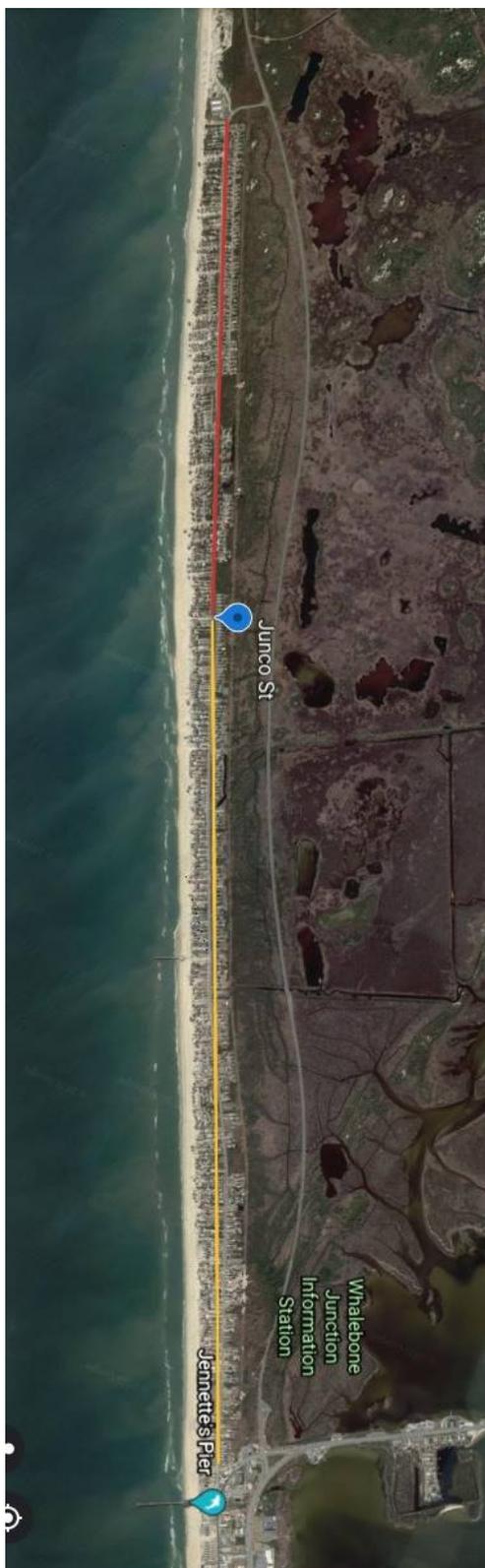
State Rd 1243 is an unlimited access road, traversing a heavily populated area. This area contains homes and cottages for both permanent residence and visitors. The roadway itself is crossed by several pedestrian crossings and entered by multiple private drives and streets.

The posted speed limit for State Rd 1243, beginning just south of Whalebone Junction, is 35 mph. This 35-mph zone continues south for approximately 3 miles ending at E Junco St. South of E Junco St. begins a 45-mph speed zone that runs south for approximately 2 miles to the south town limit. See figure A.

The access to State Rd 1243 does not materially change south of E Junco St. The road is still accessed by multiple private drives and roads.

We understand that a request has been made to lower the 45-mph zone to 35-mph. The department supports a request to lower speed limit to 35-mph. The department embraces a proactive approach to safety. Lowering the speed limit not only makes the road safer but also creates a uniform speed for the entire length. This single speed limit should lesson confusion over the posted speed zones and make citizen education easier.

Figure A



35 mph speed zone depicted in yellow, 45 mph speed zone depicted in red.