

Radar signs installed in school zone on Interocean

Written by Chris Lee

Most drivers in Holyoke are aware of the flashing yellow lights in the school zone along South Interocean Avenue/Highway 385. These lights operate in the morning and afternoon when children are going to and from a day of learning, notifying drivers to slow down.

Over the last week, drivers may have seen something else flashing at them. Two new radar signs have been placed along the same stretch of road.



Two new radar speed signs were installed and turned on last week, notifying drivers of their speed. The devices flash the phrase “slow down” if drivers are traveling too fast.

—Enterprise photos

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) employees put the finishing touches on two radar speed signs in Holyoke last week. The two signs notify drivers of their speed and warn them to slow down if they are driving too fast.

Holyoke city supt. Mark Brown said he worked with traffic engineer Larry Haas of CDOT Region 4 to get the signs installed. The City will have no control over the signs. All controlling will be done by CDOT, according to Brown.

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Holyoke City Council approved the purchase of one sign during the Oct. 18, 2011 regular meeting. Under the agreement, the city would purchase one sign, while the state purchased the other.

The signs became a topic of consideration after concerned citizens questioned speeds through the school zones.



At first, the state said they wouldn't put signs up and also wouldn't let City of Holyoke place signs along the stretch of highway. After consideration, the signs were installed last week.

The southbound sign is located in the 600 block of South Interoccean Avenue, while the northbound sign is located just south of East Johnson Street, across the street from the Regent Park/Carriage House parking lot.

Holyoke Police Department regularly patrols the school zones when students are going to or from school. Council members hope the new signs will only increase the awareness of drivers through the school zone.

Both signs will only be operating when the yellow lights are flashing before and after school.

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When flashing, the speed limit drops from 30 mph to 20 mph and fines are doubled.

Holyoke Enterprise February 23, 2012