Authority for speed zoning is covered in Arizona Revised Statutes as follows:

§28-701 Reasonable and prudent speed; prima facie evidence; exceptions
§28-701.02 Excessive speeds; classification
§28-702 State highway speed limits
§28-702.01 Urbanized areas; waste of a finite resource; civil penalties
§28-702.03 Maximum speed limit violation on interstate highway system in another state effect
§28-702.04 Maximum speed limit on interstate highways outside urbanized areas; definition
§28-703 Alteration of speed limits by local authority
§28-703.01 End of speed zone; signs required
§28-703.02 Establishing speed on multiple lane highways
§28-704 Minimum speed limits; requirement to turn off roadway
§28-705 Special speed limitations; motor driven cycles
§28-706 Special speed limitations
§28-707 Charging speed violations; burden of proof; findings
§28-708 Racing on highways; classifications; exception; definitions
§28-709 Maximum speed limit for large vehicles and vehicles with trailers
§28-710 State highway work zone safety; civil penalty; fund

Speed zoning, studies and installation, shall be in compliance with the current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (including Arizona supplement if applicable) as stated in Arizona Revised Statutes §28-641, §28-642, §28-643

Studies are to be performed or reviewed by the Regional Traffic Engineer for the applicable region of the state and approved by the Assistant State Engineer over the Operational Traffic and Safety Group as designated by the State Engineer regarding speed regulations. Pursuant to Title 28, Sections 363A.4, 701, 701.02, 702, 702.04, 703, 703.01, 703.02, 704, 706, 707, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended, and Departmental Directives, the Operational Traffic and Safety Group Manager, is empowered to determine on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that any maximum speed limit is greater or less than is reasonable and safe under the conditions found to exist on any part of a State Highway, and may determine and declare a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit or varying speed limits for the location.

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