

Traffic Safety Toolbox—Addressing Speeds

PROJECT TITLE

Traffic Safety Toolbox—
Addressing Speeds

STUDY TIMELINE

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INVESTIGATORS

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\$85,000

More information about the
VTrans Research Program,
including additional Fact
Sheets, can be found at:
<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research>

Introduction or Problem Statement

Speeding on lower speed and local roadways is a major contributor to speeding-related fatalities in Vermont. In 2018, over half of all fatal crashes occurring on local and collector roadways were classified as speeding-related. Vermont does not currently have a “toolbox” for engineers and local officials to help determine the most effective speeding countermeasures to improve safety on roads. While our engineers have experience using various tactics to improve road safety and

reduce speeds, compiling all our resources into a single location will help identify the correct measures to take and how to implement them. This project will help the Districts and Towns where the responsibility of addressing speeds and improving safety often falls to local engineers or DPW superintendents, many of whom have limited experience in transportation safety.



Methodology or Action Taken

This project will identify a collection of countermeasures (design features, treatment goals, documented measures of effectiveness and local case studies) that can be implemented by local towns to lower roadway speeds. For each countermeasure, the research team will create fact sheets that include design characteristics, appropriate applications, and local case studies. These fact sheets will be posted directly or compiled into a pdf document and then posted to an easily accessible website. The research team will also work with VTrans to determine the most effective way to share access to, and understanding of, this information with municipalities.

Conclusions or Next Steps

This project consists of 5 tasks:

1. Literature Review
2. Speed Countermeasures Profiles
3. Countermeasures Speed-Reduction Evaluations
4. Create Toolbox
5. Disseminate Toolbox

Research is still underway, with the first 2 tasks having been completed.

Potential Impacts and VTrans Benefits

By creating this resource, we will be improving VTrans’ workflow as well as providing access to a much-needed resource for our Districts and Towns to the most effective ways to reduce speeding and prevent future speeding-related fatalities on our roadways.